

COP28 AIIB SESSION

Investing in Water Resilience in Central Asia

Time: Dec. 5, 2023, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. (GMT+4)

Venue: Blue Zone, AIIB Pavilion

Format: Hybrid

Session Context

Central Asian countries are facing severe water stress. This will likely worsen due to climate change and socioeconomic growth. The region confronts significant inefficiency challenges in terms of water usage. Currently, it is estimated that 30 to 60 percent of water allocated for irrigated agriculture is lost before reaching the fields. In the water supply and utility sector, non-revenue water losses range from 20 percent to 60 percent. These losses, resulting from both technical issues (such as leaks in outdated or underfunded infrastructure) and non-technical factors, greatly impede the ability of important water supply services to manage both short-term and long-term water shortages. Given the region's economic dependence on water-intensive activities, escalating investment in water efficiency is crucial to mitigate long-term water stress and support regional development.

Session Objective

The panel will explore the varying needs of countries in Central Asia concerning inefficiency in water resource management. It will examine the support available for enhanced water usage and how both state and non-state actors can contribute to increased water resilience in the region. The discussion will center around the following key topics:

- Identifying common priority investments in Central Asia that can promote water efficiency across the region.
- Examining the key challenges and opportunities faced by Central Asian countries in fortifying the resilience of their water sectors.
- Exploring how multilateral development banks, the private sector, and other organizations can support Central Asian countries in addressing these challenges.

Speakers

Opening remarks: Konstantin Limitovskiy, Vice President, Investment Operations (Region 2), AIIB

- **Gianpiero Nacci**, Director, Sustainable Business and Infrastructure, Climate Strategy and Delivery, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- **Syed Hussain Quadri**, Director, Resilience and Climate Action Department, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Representative from Government of Uzbekistan
- Representative from Government of Kazakhstan
- **Dr Rachael McDonnell**, Deputy Director General (Science), International Water Management Institute