

INFORMATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN ON THE MEASURES OF NATURAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Dear Participants of the Meeting!

In conditions of impetuous scientific and technical progress, man-caused changes of environment and changes of the world geopolitical structure the problems of man and biosphere interaction, harmonious correlation between social progress and favorable environment preservation take on special significance.

Taking into account the geographic location and climatic conditions of the Central Asia it is necessary to note that earthquakes, flood, landslides, mudflow and snow slides are the characteristic natural emergencies. Central Asia as many other regions of the planet currently faces serious ecological problems. Improving the efficiency of interaction with the world community by means of clear definition of internal, external and trans-border ecological dangers is of urgent need.

The Emergency Situation Ministry (ESM) deals with the issues of emergencies in Uzbekistan. Its main tasks are the creation and management of state system of warning and activity in emergency situations;

- coordination of ministries', agencies' activity as well as the activity of Council of Ministers of the Karakalpakstan Republic, khokimiyats, oblasts, cities and regions on protection of population and national patrimony, prevention and elimination of emergencies caused by accidents, catastrophes and natural disaster;

- leadership of activity aimed at large-scale emergency liquidation, creation and preparedness maintenance of forces and facilities necessary for this purpose;

- development and implementation of relevant and scientific and technical programs aimed at emergency prevention, population and the country territory protection as well as the increasing of stable functioning of national economy assets in the case of emergency;

- management of emergency training for the population, officials and Emergency Situation State Council (ESSC) units;

- establishing of international cooperation in issues falling under the Ministry's competence.

The overall system approach is important for solving the problem of disaster risk reduction. As for other countries, Hyogo Framework for Action adopted in Kobe in 2005 has become one of the main guidelines for Uzbekistan. This Framework for Action provides the primary directions for system approach to natural disaster reduction in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In the course of this program implementation in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2006-2007 the essential consideration is given to the following issues:

Management Issues. In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of the Republic of Uzbekistan the national system of emergency situation prevention and liquidation was established in the Republic. The Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister administers this system. According to the directive documents adopted in Uzbekistan the superiors of all levels are entrusted with the tasks to control their departments in emergency situations, i.e. each superior is imposed with the emergency tasks. In this system the ESM is a special Authority.

Training Issues. Currently the analysis of this system activity shows that it is necessary to increase the level of Heads in emergency training. Security of many

people depends upon the knowledge of a Head. The ESM has taken a series of measures to increase the level of the Heads' (who are the superiors of civil protection) emergency training. The main attention is paid to theory and practice. The University professors are attracted to increase the level of theoretical knowledge. Population and managerial personnel training centers are located in the oblasts of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Institute of Civil Protection operates on the republican level. Special demonstration training exercises close to real situation were organized to increase practical skills of the Heads. According to the Resolution of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan oblast level Heads (khokimi and Heads of emergency situation departments) of the whole Republic participated at these training exercises as observers and the emergency actions of the selected oblast Heads of different levels were assessed.

Definition of Main Dangers and the Measures for their Decrease. Special services on watching and monitoring the environment process operate in the Republic of Uzbekistan ESSC on the permanent basis. These services (Uzbekistan hydrometeorology service, State Geology Committee, State Committee on Nature, Seismology Institute and others) develop forecast information on the basis of monitoring and observation analysis. Forecast information is forwarded to the ESM service of emergency situation monitoring and forecasting where it is summarized and draft resolutions on specific issues are developed for further submission to the authority. Based on these data the authority determines special measures for emergency situation prevention and liquidation.

At the beginning of this year the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan On the Measures Aimed at Prevention of Emergency Situations Associated with Floods, Mudflows, Snow Slides and Landslides and Liquidation of their Consequences was issued. This Resolution defines the main tasks and distributes them to the Ministries and agencies. Government Commission on ensuring safety bypass of flood waters and mudflows and decreasing of snow slide and landslide danger was established. The Commission is headed by the Prime Minister and it is composed of the Ministers and oblast khokims.

In the case of emergency of the republican level the Government Commission consisting of Ministries and agencies concerned conducts analysis of social and economic and ecological effects and losses. The analysis findings in the form of recommendations are forwarded to the agencies concerned for the implementation.

There is a national system of the Republic population centralized notification including regions by means of sirens, loud-speakers, television and radio broadcasting as well as local notification systems in the dangerous areas.

The ESM exercises the coordination and control over the preparation of the population to the basics of life safety. The ESM regularly conducts special exercises and training on population preparedness and emergency disasters reduction.

Within the program on emergency situation prevention the Red Crescent Society fulfils the projects (planting of seedlings on the landslide dangerous slopes) on community level (makhall, kishlak, village). Cleaning of drain systems in order to decrease the level of ground water, cleaning of river-beds, channels, gullies for bypassing of flood mudflows.

We should confess that a separate state and in majority the whole region does not have sufficient resources to decrease ecological threats including the prevention

and liquidation of emergency situations of natural and man-caused character threatening a state or a region.

As these problems have trans-border and transnational character they should be solved at the regional level, i.e. it is necessary to organize on-going groups of response to emergency situation, arrange more close ties between the services of different countries, develop cooperation and partnership relations with developed countries as well as deepen internal cooperation.

In this connection common policy in the sphere of liquidation of emergency situation consequences in the region grows in importance.

In this connection in the Republic of Uzbekistan major efforts are made to develop and implement the state policy in emergency forecasting, preventing and dealing with.

Formation of the perfect system of notification and adequate responding to emergency situation is organized on the basis of wide international experience, modern science and technology achievements and it is considered as one of the strategic components of national security.