**Call for input “Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of mitigation, adaptation, and financial actions to address climate change, with particular emphasis on loss and damage”**

Kyrgyzstan and the whole region of Central Asia, are vulnerable to climate change. One of the threats is global warming. According to the database of the environmental organization "MoveGreen”, over the past 43 years, there has been a widespread increase in the average annual air temperature in Kyrgyzstan[[1]](#footnote-1) — on average by 0.22 degrees Celsius every 10 years. And the summer of 2021 became the hottest in the history of Kyrgyzstan. This kind of global warming has negative consequences for every citizen.

In Kyrgyzstan, most of the country's economy depends on agricultural production. Our country delivers agricultural products to the market and also exports to neighboring countries of Central Asia. From January to October 2021, the gross agricultural output of Kyrgyzstan was produced in the amount of 287.9 billion soms[[2]](#footnote-2). The real growth rate compared to the same period in 2020 was 95.6% (in January-October 2020 – 101.0%).

Due to improper use of land and its degradation, as well as abnormal heat, drought, and lack of water for irrigation, farmers' crops are reduced or even lost. In this regard, farmers and citizens of Kyrgyzstan become vulnerable to hunger and poverty. In 2021, the abnormally high temperature in the summer of this year and the lack of irrigation water during the growing season caused a reduction in the yield of grain crops. At the same time, in the republic as a whole, the gross harvest of wheat decreased by 40.3%, barley - by 47.8%, potatoes - by 5.0%, melons - by 14.6%, fruit and berry crops - by 6.5%, and vegetables - by 1.6%, and a general decrease in crop production (by 9.6 %)[[3]](#footnote-3).

Another interrelated problem is the threat of the reduction of water resources in Central Asia. The Ministry of Emergency Situations reports that this is caused by the melting of glaciers, the disappearance of permafrost zones, and a decrease in snow cover[[4]](#footnote-4).

The rural lifestyle involves spending huge resources and time on hard housework, where in addition there is a need to collect water for drinking and watering the crop. Girls and boys devote all their time to housework, thereby losing the opportunity to realize the right to education[[5]](#footnote-5).

Also, the need for electricity for water supply exposes the population of Kyrgyzstan and, in particular, women and girls, children, and people with disabilities throughout the country to health, nutrition, protection, and future opportunities, and all this is exacerbated by climate change.

Any natural disasters caused by climate change, such as floods, landslides, mudslides, and avalanches, entail economic consequences for the entire population of Kyrgyzstan. An additional problem is the lack of development of an environmental monitoring system, this applies to water resources, emissions into the atmosphere, and other aspects.

According to the Ministry of Emergency Situations, almost 4 thousand families in Kyrgyzstan live in dangerous areas where mudslides and landslides are possible. Of these, more than half had previously received assistance from the state – land plots and loans. But despite warnings from the Ministry of Emergency Situations, local authorities and judicial decisions, residents do not leave their homes, risking their lives every day.

Also many LGBT+ people live on daily earnings without financial savings, especially in crises, and are vulnerable to homelessness as they are often forced to leave their homes due to conflict with the family, violence, or threats of violence or abuse. The most vulnerable in the LGBT+ community are trans\* people, who cannot change the gender marker, because of this they cannot continue their studies in schools and universities. Many trans\* women, in order to survive in Kyrgyzstan and earn money for housing, hormones, and food, are forced to engage in sex work. According to The Needs Assessment of trans\* people in Kyrgyzstan, which covered 36 people, 34% of them were left homeless due to their trans\* identity. A quarter indicated that they experienced significant difficulties with money due to barriers and social rejection of their trans\* identity[[6]](#footnote-6). The vast majority of LBQ+ women in regions/rural areas lack the right to education and work due to the closeness of local communities, and religious principles. Due to climate change, LGBT+ people are also losing their homes, and becoming financially vulnerable, as the state does not provide social protection for LGBT+ people. Also due to climate change and declining yields, products are becoming more expensive. And LGBT+ people have less and less opportunity to afford to buy products financially. Thus, LGBT+ people are also vulnerable to hunger and poverty due to climate change.

Kyrgyzstan has laws and programs regulating the vulnerable situation of the country and its citizens due to climate change[[7]](#footnote-7). The main documents of our country are the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Kyrgyz Republic 2018-2040 and the National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2026[[8]](#footnote-8). It is also important that Kyrgyzstan strives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, but still lacks resources, knowledge and mechanisms for economic activity that ensures poverty reduction, social progress, and environmental sustainability of natural ecosystems.

Recommendations for Kyrgyzstan:

* Promote sub-regional cooperation between Central Asian on disaster relief due to climate change;
* Ensure that education is accessible to students in rural areas, students with disabilities, LGBT+ students, students from poor families, and other groups, and make sure they are not segregated in schools.
* Regulation of the educational system: improving the level of education, monitoring school attendance by children;
* Adopt an anti-bullying policy in the educational system, which will include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics;
* Promote sexual and reproductive health and rights in schools, and ensure that young people have access to menstrual health and other reproductive health needs;
* Enabling unfettered access to unemployment insurance and other economic protection programs for all LGBT+ people and sex workers to leave no one behind in providing support in crisis situations to the vulnerable groups:
* Create favorable legislative conditions for changing the gender marker of trans\* people;
* Introduce drought-resistant agricultural crops;
* Introduction of new irrigation techniques: smart irrigation, drip irrigation;
* Improving the education of farmers: transfer farming and grazing techniques, breeding of pedigreed cattle;
* Development of educational materials on water resources for all residents of Kyrgyzstan;
* State participation in price policy regulation;
* Full implementation of waste recycling.

1. <http://data.movegreen.kg/indicator/11> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Som is the national currency of Kyrgyzstan. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://mineconom.gov.kg/ru/post/7408#:~:text=Сельское%20хозяйство.,года%20–%20101%2C0%20%25>). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://24.kg/obschestvo/197679_izmenenie_klimata_kak_globalnoe_poteplenie_razrushaet_kyirgyizstan/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/ru/node/336#:~:text=«Изменение%20климата%20имеет%20прямое%20влияние,C%20от%20сегодняшней%20средней%20температуры](https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/ru/node/336#:~:text=). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. PU “Kyrgyz Indigo”, Access to trans\* people not covered by preventive programs in the Kyrgyz Republic, 2020, p. 7, Russian Version, URL:<https://indigo.kg/uploads/File/2021/09/27/TG-PDI-KG-report-R2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://climatechange.kg/ky-rgy-zstan-i-izmenenie-klimata/zakonodatel-stvo/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <http://www.stat.kg/media/files/3d033353-7e05-42ec-a282-8722459f5c31.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)