



High-Level International  
Conference on Glaciers'  
Preservation  
29-31 May, 2025,  
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

# FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

High-Level International  
Conference on  
Glaciers' Preservation

**29-31 May 2025,**  
Dushanbe, Tajikistan



## ORGANIZERS



The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation is the premiere event of the United Nations-declared International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025<sup>1</sup>. The Conference is organized in Dushanbe by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with the support of the United Nations, in particular UNESCO and WMO, the Asian Development Bank and other partners.



The ultimate responsibility for the preparation of the Conference rests with the National Organizing Committee established by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan under the leadership of the Prime Minister, with a Conference Secretariat reporting to the Committee.

## SECRETARIAT

Phone: +992 (37) 227-68-43

E-mail: [secretariaticgp2025@mfa.tj](mailto:secretariaticgp2025@mfa.tj)

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/158, adopted on 14 December 2022



## BACKGROUND

The melting of glaciers is one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Climate change has already destroyed about one-third of mountain ice, and this will continue without serious mitigation consistent with the lower 1.5°C Paris Agreement limit.

As glaciers shrink, they disrupt local and seasonal water supplies that billions of people depend on for drinking, irrigation, livelihoods, and energy production. This directly influences agricultural productivity, leading to food insecurity, especially in regions where glacier-fed rivers are vital for irrigation. Additionally, the loss of glaciers has devastating effects on hydropower generation, which many countries rely on. Reduced river water flow diminishes hydropower capacity, affecting energy security and economic development.

Economic inequalities in the face of glacier loss become more pronounced, particularly in developing regions where communities heavily depend on glacier-fed water resources. Vulnerable populations, often in mountainous or rural areas, experience worsened living conditions due to water scarcity, leading to increased poverty and migration. These changes are essentially irreversible for centuries to thousands of years.

The link between glaciers and climate change offers an opportunity to raise mitigation ambition at COP30, the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at which Parties will renew their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the next Paris commitment period. Even with urgent action however, some adaptation will be required to cope with glacier loss. Focus should be placed on water adaptation, resilience, and early warning systems with reliable, disaggregated data, especially for developing countries.



The year 2025 also marks the beginning of the United Nations-declared Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034.<sup>2</sup> Melting of large polar glaciers, as well as ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctica is also growing. This rapid ice loss is raising global sea levels, with serious consequences for small island developing states and coastal areas, home to hundreds of millions of people. Flooding caused by rising sea levels displaces human communities, destroys ecosystems and farmland, reduces biodiversity, and limits the effectiveness of nature-based solutions. Many residents of small island developing states have already been forced to leave their homes due to flooding.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution 78/321, adopted on 14 August 2024



## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF GLACIERS' PRESERVATION

In December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation<sup>3</sup> (IYGP) with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) charged with co-facilitating associated activities. The Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025-2034, adopted by the United Nations in August 2024, aims to address the challenges of cryosphere (glaciers, ice sheets, snowpack, permafrost, and sea ice) through scientific research and monitoring. Together, these initiatives aim to address glacier and cryosphere preservation through enhanced climate ambition, research and monitoring, and mobilizing financial resources while strengthening cooperation and partnerships at all levels.

Recognizing the pressing urgency of these climate issues and their profound socio-economic implications, the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation will be convened in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan to highlight the vital role of glaciers in maintaining vital water resources.

This High-Level event will spotlight the crucial connection between glaciers and sustainable socio-economic development, focusing on how glacier preservation is essential to safeguarding livelihoods, improving water availability, minimizing related hazards, recognizing the importance of Indigenous Peoples and knowledge, addressing gender inequalities and achieving long-term development goals for vulnerable regions and populations. Glacier preservation requires urgent climate ambition while increasing climate resilience and sustainability. This event aims to raise awareness and advocate for collective actions.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/158, adopted on 14 December 2022





## OBJECTIVES

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation aims to anchor the importance of glaciers and the urgency of stopping the accelerated melting, calving and retreating of glaciers on the Global Agenda, and advance global efforts in addressing glacier melt and its wide-ranging impacts through collaborative action, scientific innovation, and policy alignment. The Conference will support the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025 by mobilizing resources and fostering international cooperation. It seeks to strengthen global partnerships among governments, scientists, civil society, and other stakeholders, with a focus on enhancing transboundary collaboration to preserve glaciers and their socio-economic benefits.

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers Preservation will present a unique opportunity and will capitalize on momentum by contributing to the sequence of multilateral / global events and meetings, such as the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (France, June 2025), 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development (Spain, June 2025), High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, July 2025), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP15 (Zimbabwe, July 2025), UNFCCC COP30 (Brazil, November 2025, a key COP with renewal of Paris Agreement NDCs for the next commitment period) and the preparatory meetings for the UN 2026 Water Conference co-hosted by UAE and Senegal. The Dushanbe Glaciers High-Level Declaration will inform these forthcoming multilateral events, in particular climate ambition linked to COP30 in Brazil, and link the importance of glaciers writ large to the global sustainable development, environment and climate agendas.

Key additional objectives include advancing scientific research and monitoring to better understand glacier dynamics, addressing the socio-economic consequences of glacier retreat, and promoting integrated adaptation strategies such as early warning systems and disaster risk reduction. By raising the need for glacier preservation, the Conference aims to align glacier preservation efforts with global goals for water, energy, and food security. It will also raise awareness, mobilize resources, and leverage frameworks like The Pact for the Future, adopted at the Summit of the Future on 22 September 2024<sup>4</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>5</sup> to inspire transformative action, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of glacier-dependent communities and ecosystems.

In particular, the Conference will focus on:

- Making Clear the Need for Greater Climate Ambition to Preserve Glaciers;
- Promoting Scientific Research and Monitoring;
- Addressing Socio-Economic Impacts of Glacier Melt and Loss;
- Enhancing Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategies;
- Raising Awareness and Mobilizing Resources;
- Linking Water, Biodiversity, Desertification and Climate Agendas for Sustainable Development; and
- Catalyzing Actions through Key Frameworks and Partnerships.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution 79/1, adopted on 22 September 2024

<sup>5</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1, adopted on 25 September 2015





## OUTCOMES

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation will culminate in the following key outcome documents:

**The Dushanbe High-Level Declaration** with a call to actionable commitments, collaborative initiatives, and strategic recommendations to COP30 in Brazil and to implement the UN General Assembly resolution on the "International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025." This Declaration will serve as a global call to action to prevent glacier melt and address its wide-ranging impacts. It will also urge greater financing from multilateral development banks, the private sector, bilateral donors, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to announce pledges in support of glacier-related needs, and by joining Tajikistan's contribution to the IYGP Trust Fund coordinated by the Secretary-General to support glaciers' preservation activities.

**The Chair's Summary** will consolidate key messages, discussions, insights, and findings from the sessions, forums, providing a roadmap for advancing scientific research, promoting policy measures and sustainable funding, and fostering international cooperation for glacier preservation.

**The Dushanbe Appeal** will consolidate all inputs from Plenary Statements, Forums and Thematic Sessions in an integrated document available on the Conference web page.

These outcomes will be presented at appropriate venues in the course of 2025, such as the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), UNGA Climate Week and COP30.

## FORMAT AND PARTICIPATION

The Conference will adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, bringing together High-Level officials and other representatives from UN Member States, UN entities, international organizations, financial institutions, the private sector, academia, civil society, local governments, and communities.

## DATES AND VENUE

The Conference will be held from 29 to 31 May 2025. Pre-Conference events, including Forums and Side Events will take place on 29 May. The official Conference programme will take place on 30-31 May in "Kokhi Somon", Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.

## REGISTRATION

In order to ensure safety and timely resolution of logistical issues, and to avoid false registrations, a registration fee has been introduced for participation in the High-Level International Conference on Glacier Preservation.

The registration fee is 100 US\$. Participants who are unable to pay the registration fee may contact the Conference Secretariat by e-mail: [secretariatcgp2025@mfa.tj](mailto:secretariatcgp2025@mfa.tj). The Secretariat will consider the possibility of free registration for such participants, in case of a positive decision a special link for **free registration** will be sent to them within 10 days.

There is no registration fee for members of official delegations that are invited on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as members of the International Advisory Board and their alternates. A special link will be sent to them via official channels, following which they will be directed to the free registration page.

Citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan are also exempt from the registration fee and shall receive a registration confirmation from the Conference Secretariat.

In addition, there is no registration fee for representatives of the media. Registration of media representatives will be carried out based on their request and upon receiving confirmation from the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

Online registration is available on the website of the conference: <https://dushanbeicgp2025.com>.

The registration deadline is 10 May 2025.

## LANGUAGES

The working languages of the Conference are Tajik, English and Russian, with simultaneous translation provided.



## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

The Conference programme includes opening and closing ceremonies, Plenary sessions, Leaders' Round Tables, Pre-Conference Forums, and Thematic Sessions focusing on glaciers in relation to climate change mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage; research and monitoring needs, and solutions for mitigation, resilience and adaptation planning. The Pre-Conference Day (29 May) will include Forums, Side Events, and cultural activities, providing diverse opportunities for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and engagement.

## PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary sessions will provide an opportunity for the Heads of Delegation to make political statements. Guidelines to make statements consistent with the UN General Assembly resolution on the "International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025" and as interested, the "Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034" will be provided to Heads of Delegations through diplomatic channels, as appropriate. Time permitting, UN Observer Organizations will also be offered Plenary speaking slots; written statements (even if not delivered) will also be compiled and included in the comprehensive Dushanbe Appeal.

## LEADERS' ROUND TABLES

Leaders' Round Tables will take place on May 30 in a designated area identified by the Government of Tajikistan with ticketed admission for individual sessions. The Leaders' Round Tables will focus on Ambition Towards COP30 and Adaptation for both Glacier/Mountains and Downstream nations from the impacts of glacier melt, including extreme events such as flooding, drought with glacial loss, and sea-level rise.

## THEMATIC SESSIONS

The Conference will include Thematic Sessions on the following four thematic areas over the two conference days:

### Socio-economic Impacts of Glacier Melt:

- Strategic Actions for Glacial Management to Support Small Island Developing States (TS1)
- Glaciers and Water Availability in a Changing Climate: From Glaciers to Sea (TS2)
- Glacial Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction: "Early Warnings for All" (TS3)

### Cross-cutting issues: Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, Transboundary Cooperation:

- Partnership for Climate Change, Glaciers and Transboundary Cooperation in Central and West Asia Region (TS4)
- Global Initiatives for Glacier Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation (TS5)
- Bridging Indigenous Knowledge, Heritage and Community Action for Glacier Preservation (TS6)

### Glacier Science, Research and Monitoring:

- Glacier Monitoring Needs Worldwide (TS7)
- Glacier Projections and Emissions: How much can 1.5C Pathways Save? (TS8)
- Latest Glacier Science: focus on Early Career Researchers (TS9)

### Solutions: Achieving Resilience through Adaptation and Mitigation:

- Pact for the Future: How the Pact Can Inform Glacier Preservation. (TS10)
- Climate Finance and Investment for Glacier Preservation and Adaptation (TS11)
- Zero-Carbon Development: A Path Forward for Glacier Nations (TS12)

The outcomes of the Thematic Sessions will be presented at the Closing Plenary by the rapporteurs of each session and also be reflected in the Chair's Summary and the Dushanbe Appeal.





## PRE-CONFERENCE FORUMS AND SIDE EVENTS

The Conference will provide opportunities for interested delegations to organize Pre-Conference Forums, as well as Side Events on relevant issues on May 29. These may be on a wide-range of topics but will be subject to approval by the Secretariat based on consistency with the overall goals of the Conference.

Participants are free to organize such events at outside venues on their own initiative. The Terms of Reference for the Forums and Side Events will be prepared by the Conference Secretariat and will be available on the website of the Conference. More information about side events is available at: <https://dushanbeicgp2025.com/events/side-events/>

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

An International Exhibition will be organized at the sidelines of the Conference. Partners interested in organizing their thematic booth shall visit the Conference website at: <https://dushanbeicgp2025.com/exhibition/> or contact the Conference Secretariat for more information.

## FIELD TRIPS

Participants will be invited to participate in a tour/field trip on June 1, the day after the Conference to get acquainted with examples of glacier degradation, integrated water resources management and water-related sustainable development in Tajikistan. Registration for the tour/field trip will be available on the Conference website at: <https://dushanbeicgp2025.com/tours/>

Participants who plan to arrive before the Conference or stay longer and wish to visit other parts of Tajikistan are invited to contact the Secretariat for more information.





## ABOUT TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan, located in Central Asia, shares borders with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to the west and north, Afghanistan to the south, and China to the east. The country spans a total area of 142,600 km<sup>2</sup>. Tajikistan is characterized by its mountainous terrain, with elevations ranging from 300 to 7,495 meters. Mountains cover 93% of the country's land. The majority of Tajikistan's population and economic activities are concentrated in the remaining 7% of the territory, which consists of valleys. Tajikistan is home to the highest peak in Central Asia and Europe, peak Ismoil Somoni, which rises to 7,495 meters, as well as one of the largest continental glaciers in the world, the Vanj-Yakh Glacier (formerly known as the Fedchenko Glacier).

As of January 1, 2024, Tajikistan's population is estimated to be 10,3 million people. Of this population, 26.4% reside in urban areas, while 73.6% live in rural areas. The average annual population growth rate is approximately 2.5%.

In terms of water resources, Tajikistan ranks first among Central Asian countries. More than 80% of the Amu Darya river flow and 1% of the Syr Darya river flow originate within Tajikistan's borders. In total, Tajikistan contributes 64 km<sup>3</sup> per year or approximately 60% of the water resources in the Aral Sea basin.

Despite having very small oil and gas reserves and facing challenges in industrializing coal deposits, Tajikistan boasts vast and inexhaustible reserves of hydropower resources. Expert estimates suggest that these reserves amount to approximately 527 billion kWh of electricity annually. This potential is 2,5 times greater than the current electricity consumption of the entire Central Asian region. By effectively harnessing this potential, the region can benefit from affordable and environmentally friendly electricity.







<https://dushanbeicqp2025.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573516094918>



<https://www.instagram.com/glaciersconference/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/glaciers-conference/>



<https://x.com/Glaciers2025>

