Student Competition

dedicated to the environmental issues of the Caspian Sea

1. The Caspian Sea, the world’s largest enclosed inland water body, plays a vital role in the ecological, economic, and social development of the five littoral states: Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Turkmenistan. Rich in biodiversity and natural resources, the Caspian Sea is facing increasing environmental pressures driven by climate change, unsustainable development, pollution from land-based and offshore sources, declining biodiversity, and fluctuating sea levels. These challenges are compounded by declining freshwater inflow, habitat degradation, and the growing impact of marine litter. Addressing these issues requires coordinated research, informed policy responses, and active engagement of young scientists and students across the region.

2. The objective of the Student Competition dedicated to the environmental issues of the Caspian Sea (*hereinafter – Competition*) is to promote awareness and engagement among students in addressing environmental challenges in the Caspian region.

3. The Competition is organized in the context of the Scientific Conference “Changes in the Caspian Sea level: causes, modeling, adaptation strategies” tentatively scheduled to take place in May 2026 in hybrid format.

4. The Competition is open to Bachelor’s, Specialist’s and Master’s degree students currently enrolled in higher education institutions of the Caspian littoral States: Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan.

5. Each paper must focus on a specific environmental issue affecting the Caspian Sea and present an original analysis of its causes, impacts, and potential solutions, supported by scientific evidence and/or socio-economic reasoning.

Students from both natural sciences (such as ecology, hydrology, marine biology, climate studies, and geography) and socio-economic disciplines (including environmental law, economics, and sustainable development) are encouraged to participate.

6. Participants must submit an original research paper of no more than 3,000 words (excluding the title, references, footnotes, and annexes). Each paper must include a title and a complete list of references, citing all sources mentioned in the text. The paper can be submitted in English or Russian language.

All papers must be formatted on A4-sized pages (8.5 x 11 inches), using Times New Roman font, 12-point size. The Organizer reserves the right to reformat any paper that does not comply with these formatting requirements.

7. Each application must include: (1) the research paper formatted in accordance with Paragraph 6 of these Terms, and (2) a completed registration form with all mandatory fields filled in. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Participation in the Competition is free of charge at all stages.

8. Applications will be accepted until 10 January 2026 (inclusive). Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. The winner and laureates will be notified of the results by the Organizer no later than 28 February 2026. The results will also be published on the Tehran Convention website: <https://tehranconvention.org>.

9. The winning student will be invited to participate in the Scientific Conference “Changes in the Caspian Sea Level: Causes, Modeling, Adaptation Strategies”, tentatively scheduled to take place in May 2026 in hybrid format. The Jury may also award certificates of honor and memorable gifts to laureates whose papers demonstrate outstanding quality.

10. Papers will be accepted only from their original authors. If false authorship/plagiarism is discovered, the submission will be disqualified, and the participant will be deprived of the right to participate in the Competition.