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## **CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE NEARING THE EDGE OF SEVERE WATER SHORTAGES**

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The shortage of water resources in Central Asia has been growing rapidly since the 1990s, according to Eurasian Development Bank Chairman Nikolai Podguzov at the session "Efficient Water and Energy Use as the Basis for Prosperity in Central Asia" on the sidelines of the Second Eurasian Congress in Moscow on December 2.

Central Asian countries are nearing the edge of severe water shortages, Podguzov said.

"Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are the first to suffer. This decline corresponds to a decline in the energy exchange rate. Thus the energy exchange between the countries has collapsed," he said.

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