

The Benefits of the Water Convention (Kazakhstan)

Geneva, May 25, 2000

Why Kazakhstan has decided to accede to the Water Convention

- To adhere to international legislation
- To adhere to the principle of integrated water resources management not only at national, but also at international level
- To strengthen the existing trust between countries on the use of transboundary water resources
- To develop cooperation with neighboring countries on the use of water resources of transboundary rivers based on provisions of international legislation

Advantages of being a Party to the Convention (at the national level)

- It helps to improve the national legislation with introduction into it the recognized international legal principles and definitions (such as “Precautionary principle”, “Polluter pays”, “Best available technology”, “Environment quality objectives” and etc.
- It allows to take part in the decision making processes by the participation in the CoP, in meetings of the Bureau, WG and etc.
- It helps to strengthen the inter-sectoral collaboration in our country (NPD)
- Being a Part of the Convention Kazakhstan has some advantages in getting financial support from the donors
- It assists us with consultations and conducting workshops (Protocol Water and Health)
- It promotes us to allocate domestic financial resources for the purposes of the protection of water resources (groundwater)

Advantages of being a Party to the Convention (at the level of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation)

- Principles and approaches of the Convention can be used as the basis of international treaties because they are applicable in many cases (Agreement between Kazakhstan and Russia)
- Based on the provisions of the Convention and the Agreement between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic on the Use of Water Facilities of Inter-Governmental Use on the Chu and Talas Rivers (January, 2000) we established the Intergovernmental Commission
- The Convention helps countries to carry out research investigations (Development of the Regional Cooperation to Ensure Water Quality in Central Asia, Strengthening Water Management and Transboundary Water Cooperation in Central Asia, Dam Safety in Central Asia, The Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters - Central Asia Sub-Region and etc).

The challenges

At national level:

- To accede to the Protocol on Water and Health
- To hold additional training courses regarding the guidelines of the Water Convention

At the level of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation:

- To raise awareness of our neighboring countries about the Water Convention
- To strengthen our cooperation with Russia probably through the implementation of pilot projects

Thank you for your attention!