



NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN TAJIKISTAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF EU WATER INITIATIVE

THE FIFTEENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

28 June 2019, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

MINUTES

The fifteenth Steering Committee Meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) was held on June 28, 2019 in Dushanbe and chaired by the Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Jamshed Shoimzoda. Members of the Steering Committee, representatives of international organizations, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, as well as other development partners took part in the meeting. The list of participants is attached (Annex 1).

The meeting participants adopted the following agenda:

1. Implementation status of the water sector reform in the Republic of Tajikistan;
2. About Public-private partnership in the water sector of Tajikistan;
3. About Industrial Water Use;
4. Participation of international and other organizations in the implementation of IWRM in the Republic of Tajikistan;
5. Wrapping up session, including decisions on future work.

The agenda of the meeting is attached (Annex 2).

Following discussions on the agenda items, the following decisions were taken by the participants:

On the first item:

1. To take into account the information presented on the status of implementation of the water sector reform in the Republic of Tajikistan.
2. To note the progress achieved in the water sector reforms and to express appreciation to the development partners for their valuable contribution to this process. Also, to note the necessity for stepping up and acceleration of work planned for the coming years under the Water Sector Reform Program and the importance of support by the development partners for the successful implementation of the goals and objectives of the reform.

3. To request the Working Group on Support to the Implementation of the Water Sector Reform Program to intensify work on the matters related to the official establishment of basin organizations from January 1, 2020.

4. To take note of the information provided on the development of the National Water Strategy of Tajikistan for the period until 2030.

5. To note that, the National Water Strategy is aimed at achieving the strategic goals and priorities of the water sector of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as integrated water resources management in the long-term perspective with the overall goal of achieving sustainable development.

6. To underline the importance of including to the draft Strategy the aspects of climate change and its possible impacts on the achievement of the goals and objectives outlined in the Strategy.

7. To request the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan to submit the draft of the “National Water Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period until 2030” for consideration to the relevant Ministries and national entities for its further improvement and subsequent submission to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

On the second item:

1. To take note of the information provided on the status of Public-private partnership (PPP) in the water sector of Tajikistan, on the UNECE work on PPP in the field of water supply and sanitation, on the experience of Armenia, as well as on the activities of international organizations in this field.

2. To express gratitude to the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan, UNECE, USAID, SDC/International Secretariat for Water and other partners for their support on PPPs work in the water sector of Tajikistan. Also, to express gratitude to the representative of the company Veolia Djur (Veolia Group) for the information provided about the company's successful experience regarding the management and provision of drinking water supply and sanitation in Armenia.

3. To note that, PPP is a tool, which allows attracting resources jointly with the public sector, and is able to stimulate the development of technology, providing alternative sources of income, taking into account the interests of the maximum number of stakeholders in all economic sectors of the country. In this regard, it is necessary to pay adequate attention to the comprehensive examination of the PPP mechanism, the development and strengthening of the application of the PPP approach, based on the experience of other countries and taking into account the conditions of Tajikistan, which is one of the ways to address the existing difficulties related to the water sector of the Republic of Tajikistan in the context of achieving the SDGs.

4. To request the ministries and governmental entities to intensify work on attracting the interest of private sector through the PPP mechanism in the water sector, especially for the purpose of improving water supply in the rural areas.

On the third item:

1. To take into account the information provided on i) industrial water use, including problems and prospects in this field in with the light of the draft National Water Strategy; ii) the development of the draft “Program for the rehabilitation and development of water supply infrastructure for industrial enterprises and equipping them with modern water meters”.

2. To note that the “National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan until 2030” envisages the transformation of Tajikistan into an industrial-agrarian country, and that the President of the Republic of Tajikistan declared the industrialization of the country as the fourth strategic objective of the Government of the country. This would, respectively, lead to an accelerated pace of industrial development, which in turn would require an increase in the water intake of this sector.

3. To request the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan to speed up the consideration of the draft “Program for the rehabilitation and development of water supply infrastructure for industrial enterprises and equipping them with modern water meters” by the relevant ministries and governmental entities and submit it to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for consideration.

On the fourth item:

1. To take note of the information provided on the projects being implemented by Helvetas, Lendell Mills, PMU "Water Management in the Fergana Valley" and Lahmayer for the development of the river basin management plans and the establishment of the working groups, which would gradually be transformed into theriver basin organizations.

2. To express appreciation to the development partners, including . the European Union, SDC, World Bank, FAO, Government of Finland, OSCE, JICA, UNECE and ADB for their continuous valuable contribution to addressing problems in the water sector, supporting the water sector reform and implementing the IWRM principles in Tajikistan.

3. To encourage international organizations and donors to make a special focus on rural water supply and to provide further support to the reform and development of the water sector.

On the fifth item:

1. To express gratitude to Landell Mills and the EU funded WECOOP2 project in providing financial support for the organization of this 15th Steering Committee meeting.

2. To tentatively schedule the next sixteenth meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM for November-December 2019.

3. To finalize the date and agenda of the next meeting in working order.

4. To request the UNECE and other development partners to consider the possibility of supporting the permanent secretariat for the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM to ensure its more comprehensive work.