National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan Republic

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Water Policy and legislation

- The Republic of Azerbaijan is looking for an enhanced cooperation with the European Union.

- The priority areas for cooperation have been agreed by the Government of Azerbaijan and the European Commission in the country Strategy Paper for 2007-2013 under the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument.

- The mutually agreed EU/Azerbaijan Action Plan shows Azerbaijan’s commitment to implement jointly agreed priorities in compliance with the international and European norms and principles.

- The plan identified priority actions for key environmental sectors including water management.
Water Policy and legislation

- Water legislation and legislation on environment anticipates complex of legislative enactments and legal standards on protection of water resources and water objects (Water Code of the Azerbaijan Republic, Article 14, pages 81-95)
- In addition, the Government of the Republic approved a number of decisions, defining rules of state monitoring, exploitation, and protection of water objects.

Article 16 of Water Code is about main principles of the management in the use and protection of water objects

Accordingly management in the use and protection of water objects is based on the principles as follows:
- development of economy and environmental protection;
- provision of the population with qualitative water;
- combination of administrative - territorial and basin principles;
- differentiation of the functions on management in the use and protection of water objects, as well as functions of their economic utilization.

There is need to update Water Code according to international principles applying principles of IWRM and IRBM of adopt secondary legislation on ways of application of those principles
Among sector specific water legislation there are:

- Law on Safety of Hydro-technical Installations

These laws also need to be updated according to EU Directives

By support of EU EPIRB some attempts are done to support beneficiary organizations to harmonize national legislation according to principles of WFD, UWWTD, Floods Directive
UNECE support for Water Strategy (WS) Development

- The NPD on IWRM in Azerbaijan focuses on the development of a governmental strategy for management of water resources based on the principles outlined in the European Union Water Framework Directive (EU WFD) and the UNECE Water Convention and it’s Protocol on Water and Health, as well as other United Nations and EU instruments.

- As party to the Convention, Azerbaijan actively cooperates to implement requirements under the convention.

- The overall goal of the national water resources management strategy is: to enhance and promote all national efforts towards the efficient, equitable, and optimum utilization of the available water resources of Azerbaijan for significant socio-economic development on sustainable basis.
UNECE support for WS Development

In 2010, the UNECE launched the NPDs in Azerbaijan and in a number of other EECCA countries.

- The NPD IWRM in Azerbaijan started in April 2010 when a permission by the UNECE representative to Azerbaijan was held. This included meetings with the authorities and relevant national and international stakeholders.
- The NPD IWRM Steering Committee has been established and a Memorandum of Understanding on a NPD on IWRM was signed in September 2010.
- Steering Committee includes representatives of Ministry Of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES), Ministry of Health(MOH), Amelioration JSC, Azersu JSC, MFA, National Academy of Science(NAS), BSU, NGOs, other national agencies members.
UNECE support for WS Development

• International consultants from Finland supported implementation of the NPD IWRM in and worked with the National Experts

• The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place on 12 October 2010. Second and third NPD IWRM Steering Committee meetings had been organized in April and November 2011.

• In first meeting was discussed work on preparation of WS according to MoU between MoE and UNECE and in April 2011 was discussed main content of strategy.

• In third meeting was discussed draft strategy, and then was submitted to relevant agencies.
Content of WS (by UNECE)

1. FOREWORD
2. THE CURRENT STATE OF WATER RESOURCES AND THEIR USE
3. MAJOR CHALLENGES
4. POLICY PRINCIPLES
5. PRIORITIES FOR WATER STRATEGY
6. IMPROVEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES AND CAPACITY BUILDING
7. FACILITATION OF COOPERATION ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COURSES
8. PROMOTION OF WATER SAVING AND COST-RECOVERY
9. DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-OBJECTIVE INTEGRATED USE OF CONSTRUCTED WATER COURSES, RESERVOIRS AND IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE
10. DEVELOPMENT OF WATER MONITORING AND DATA SYSTEMS
11. DEVELOPMENT OF LEGISLATION
12. TARGETS FOR SURFACE AND GROUND WATER STATUS
13. GUARANTEE GOOD QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER
14. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT
15. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE STRATEGY
Main principles of WS (by UNECE)

The Water Resources Strategy intends to achieve short-medium- and long-term purposes, defined as follows:

- **Short-term (6-year) purpose:** Implementation of the comprehensive Water Strategy provides benefits to people. Quality and quantity of water supply is sufficient to address water demands of key sectors. Significant improvement in institutional capacity and legal basis supports interagency cooperation and stakeholder participation.

- **Medium-term (12-year) purpose:** The Water Resources Strategy is operationalized to provide substantial benefits to people for basic needs fulfillment as well as other increased benefits related to sustainable water use. Coordinated water management allows covering water needs of involved sectors. Environmental condition of water ecosystems is improved.

- **Long-term (18-year) purpose:** Benefits from water resources are maximized in Azerbaijan in a sustainable manner. Water supply is efficient. Water quality corresponds to water requirements of relevant sectors. Measures undertaken allow providing environmental requirements.
ADB support for WS (2014)

- **Goals and Objectives**

  - The goal of formulating a water strategy is to promote efficient water management and sustainable use in all sectors. Given the priority issues outlined above, our specific objectives for developing a water strategy are the following.
  
  - Improve access to good quality drinking water for all citizens and upgrade the wastewater treatment systems.
  
  - Maintain cooperation with neighbouring countries in the management of trans-boundary waters.
  
  - Modernize agriculture sector by:
    - Promoting efficient and productive irrigation water use through investments in infrastructure and better water management practices,
    - Increasing crop yields through better water management, and improving the availability of other inputs and technical assistance.
  
  - Increase capacity building in water administration and governance
    - Develop water monitoring and data system for surface and ground water
    - Promote adaptation to climate change and ability to manage risks due to exceptional water conditions.
ADB support for WS (2014)

Main actions

- Institutional reforms. Creation of National Water Authority to:
  - To set policy and related legislation,
  - Make water allocation decisions,
  - Resolve disputes among competing water uses, and
  - Regulate water use.

- Rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation infrastructure

- Improved irrigation water management

- Information – Data Collection, Analysis and Use in Decision-Making
EPIRB project support to finalize WS development

- Main structure of UNECE supported draft strategy document was kept by experts as basis
- Main recommendations of ADB supported draft WS, mostly in the sphere of water use by sectors and increasing of its efficiency was incorporated into new WS document
- In order to make water strategy actions to be in full relevance by ongoing State Programs relevant activities proposed in these programs have been included into WS and its annexes for main water use sectors
EPIRB project support to finalize WS development

- It was recommended by group of experts participating in finalizing of WS to develop WS action plan by active participation of specialist of different organizations and sectors on the basis of ongoing and planned State Programs and plans in the sphere of water resources and their use.

- Submit WS and WS Action Plan to government for adoption as National Water Plan for identified in final WS short, medium and long term periods.
Thank you!