



BACK TO OFFICE REPORT
MEETING OF THE EU WATER INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP
“NATIONAL WATER POLICY DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED WATER
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN AZERBAIJAN”

Date: June 16 – 17, 2011

Place: Landmark 3, Cronus Conference Room, 96 Nizami St., Baku AZ1010, Azerbaijan

Objectives of the meeting:

- *Carrying out National Policy Dialogue on introduction of IWRM principles into Water Strategy of Azerbaijan together with key Ministries;*
- *Clearing examples of IWRM principles introduction into National Policy Documents from EU and Central Asian regions;*
- *Presenting of proposed structure and timeline for preparation of the governmental water resources management strategy;*

Target group: Representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic (MENR), Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan Republic (MoE), Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Farm OJSC and others. Also other active Donors and International Organizations such as: EU, OSCE, UNECE, OECD, UNDP, IWMI-CAC and others.

DETAILS OF FIRST DAY, June 16, 2011.

Substantive questions of the agenda:

- a) Information on the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on IWRM. IWRM principles and their implementation.
- b) Implementation of IWRM principles on the national level in Azerbaijan.
- c) Management of water supply and sanitation systems as a part of integrated approach in Azerbaijan.
- d) UNECE multilateral conventions as a framework for promoting IWRM and transboundary cooperation.
- e) Practices exchange and coordination of technical assistance projects in water management in Azerbaijan.

The meeting has been chaired by Mr. Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Head of Section, MENR. In the opening speech Mr. Abdulhasanov gave a short overview on the NPD on IWRM process launching in the Republic, pointed out importance UNECE role as an initiator of the whole process. The Government of Azerbaijan paid a lot of attention to IWRM principles implementation on the national level. With the special Decree of President a separate Agency for Water Resources Management in the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan Republic there has been created aiming on the whole Strategic Governance of Water Resources of the Republic responsibilities delegation to a separate entity. The charter of the new Agency is under finalization. It was also noted that the outcome of NPD on IWRM will bring to development of Water Strategy for Azerbaijan Republic which will be the followed and implemented by created new Agency.

Afterwards, Mrs. Gulnara Roll, UNECE, gave short information on EUWI drawing attention to the importance of NPD process for each country and region and providing relevant examples. In particular, Mrs. Roll pointed out the water legislation, drinking water quality, climate change management and adaptation in water sector issues addressed by the EUWI NPDs IWRM and stressed on the importance of intersectoral cooperation on water resources management and advantages of



Azerbaijan's acceptance of UNECE conventions. She also mentioned the Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Astana, Kazakhstan on September 21-22, 2011.

The next speaker, Ms. Tatyana Efimova, OECD, told that OECD has water programme in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region, mainly directed towards improvement of water supply and sanitation. OECD has long term experience in monitoring the performance of drinking water supply and sanitation in these countries and for the moment focuses on the project on Financial Dimension of Water Resources Management aiming on the development of financial strategy for Water Management Organizations.

Mr. Jan Olsson, OSCE, indicated importance of establishing State Agency responsible for national water governance in Azerbaijan and explained OSCE interest in improvement of water resources in Azerbaijan in the framework of overall country security. OSCE is interested in increasing public participation in such governance as well as in integration of its principles in the country's Water Strategy.

UNDP representatives gave a brief overview on new project on Kura River transboundary cooperation between Georgia and Azerbaijan funded by GEF.

EU representative provided information on EU presence in Azerbaijan. EU is interested in development of the national Water Strategy responding to all accepted standards.

Following presentations on the agenda:

- a) UNECE multilateral conventions as instruments for implementation of IWRM principles - Mrs. Gulnara Roll, UNECE (Promotion of IWRM principles implementation through the UNECE conventions);
- b) Status of water utilities in Azerbaijan: analysis of technical and financial performance - Ms. Tatiana Efimova, OECD and Mr. Vafadar Ismayilov, National Expert from Azerbaijan (Focus on the current status of water utilities of Azerbaijan);
- c) Azerbaijan Government policies to implement the UNECE Water Convention and promote the transboundary water cooperation with Georgia – Ms. Matanat Avazova, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and Mr. Rafiq Verdiyev, National Expert from Azerbaijan;
- d) Application of IWRM Principles in Management of Irrigation Canals – Mr. Mohan Reddy Junna, Head of International Water Management Institute Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia and Caucasus;
- e) Institutional and economic aspects of IWRM: examples from Ferghana Valley – Mr. Oytur Anarbekov, Senior Research Officer, IWMI Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia and Caucasus.

In particular, Mr. Mohan Reddy Junna focused on problems of irrigated agriculture in Azerbaijan, accepted world-wide IWRM principles and improved water practices, performance of irrigation systems' indicators.

Mr. Oytur Anarbekov pointed out that IWMI was involved in the region with regard to introduction IWRM economical (institutional) principles. In particular, he focused on general information about IWRM principles widely implemented in Central Asia, managing authorities on different levels of water hierarchy in Central Asia and practical examples of public participation in the governance process. The speaker gave examples of good practices in the regional (e.g. Fergana valley) and draw attention to economic aspects of IWRM implementation. According to Mr. Anarbekov the major problems of efficient water use rise from the absence of economic incentives. Thus it is important to set correct pricing structures within WUA and Main canal levels. He also explained advantages and



disadvantages of two-part tariff on an example of one of the WUAs in Kyrgyz Republic with overall conclusion on sustainability of irrigation reform.

DETAILS OF SECOND DAY, June 17, 2011.

The second day mainly focused on discussion of the content of future Water Strategy for Azerbaijan in the working groups based on examples from the other countries and regions. A proposed structure of the strategic document and agreed the time-line for preparation of the governmental strategy for management of water resources was approved. By October, 2011 an agreement with all key ministries on the content of future strategy should be reached and first draft version of the document taking into consideration inputs has to be prepared.

There was separate meeting of UNECE, OSCE and IWMI where potential research on current situation of water resources management in the country was discussed: the main problems and future directions on improvement irrigation that could be integrated into future Water Strategy document.

DETAILS OF THIRD DAY, June 18, 2011.

Due to absence of the main organization responsible for O&M irrigation and drainage system of the country “Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Farm OJSC (AAWF OJSC)” in the working group meeting and based on established cooperation between IWMI and AAWF OJSC, representatives of IWMI contacted and appointed meeting with the head of OJSC, Dr. Mammad Asadov, Head of Science, Design, Construction and Foreign Relations Department. During the discussion, Dr. Mohan and Mr. Oytur Anarbekov informed about NPDs and IWMI’s interest in working in Azerbaijan. IWMI has also informed about interest in starting carrying out small research with possible funding from OSCE or other Donor to discover the main constraints of current irrigation and drainage systems, on-farm water management practices, specific task requiring more attention, objectives and activities in the framework of future Water Strategy of the country. Dr. Mammad Asadov supported idea and informed of a possibility of issuing a special support letter from their Agency aiming on supporting such activities.



Annex №1.

Working Group meeting of the EU Water Initiative National Water Policy Dialogue on integrated water resource management in Azerbaijan

Date: 16 – 17 June 2011
Location: Landmark Cronos Room, Baku, Azerbaijan
Languages: Azeri and English with simultaneous translation

Provisional Agenda for 16 June 2011

- 09:30 Registration, coffee**
- 10.00 – 10.40 Introduction and objectives of the Working Group meeting**
- 10.00 – 10.20 Meeting objectives, adoption of the meeting agenda – *Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Head of Section, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and Chair of the NPD IWRM Steering Committee*
- 10.20-10.50 Welcoming speech
- Gulnara Roll, EUWI Coordinator at UNECE*
Tatiana Efimova, OECD Environmental Directorate
Jan Olsson, Head, Economic and Environmental Unit, OSCE office in Azerbaijan
- 10.50 – 12.00 Session One: Information on the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on IWRM. IWRM principles and their implementation**
- 10.50 – 11.05 IWRM principles. Information on the implementation of the EU Water Initiative NPDs on IWRM in EECCA countries – *Gulnara Roll, Regional Coordinator of the EU Water Initiative, UNECE*
- 11.05 – 11.20 IWRM financing: concept, major principles and examples - *Tatiana Efimova, OECD*
- 11.20 – 11.30 Questions and comments, discussion
- 11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break**
- 12.00 – 13.00 Session Two: Implementation of IWRM principles at the national level in Azerbaijan**
- 12.00 – 12.20 A proposal for the governmental strategy for management of water resources based on the principles outlined in the EU Water Framework Directive, UN ECE Water Convention - *Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Head of Section, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources; and Rafiq Verdiyev, NPD National Expert*
- 12.20 – 13.00 Reflections on the proposal by experts
- *Ministry of Economic Development*
 - *Water Agency, Ministry of Emergency*
 - *Mohan Reddy Junna, Head of International Water Management Institute Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia and Caucasus*
- 13.00 – 14.00 Session Three: Management of the water supply and sanitation systems as a part of integrated approach in Azerbaijan**



- 13.00 – 13.30 Status of water utilities in Azerbaijan: analysis of technical and financial performance - *Tatiana Efimova, OECD, and Vafadar Ismayilov, National expert*
- 13.30 – 14.00 Questions and comments

14.00 – 15.00 Lunch

15.00 – 16.00 Session Four: UNECE conventions as a framework for promoting IWRM and transboundary cooperation

- 15.00 – 15.20 UNECE Water Convention; instruments under the Water Convention: UNECE-WHO Protocol on Water and Health; Guidance on the water sector adaptation under climate change – *Gulnara Roll, Regional Coordinator of the EU Water Initiative, UNECE*
- 15.20 – 15.40 Azerbaijan Government policies to implement the UNECE Water Convention and promote the transboundary water cooperation with Georgia – *Ms. Matanat Avazova, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and Mr. Rafiq Verdiyev, National Expert from Azerbaijan*
- 15.40 – 16.00 Questions and comments, discussion

16.00 – 17.00 Session Five: Cross-fertilization and coordination of technical assistance projects in water management in Azerbaijan

Presentation of ongoing activities by and international organizations and donors on water management and best practices in water management in Caucasus and Central Asia. The presentations shall highlight objectives, tasks of their projects and their possible support to the further development and implementation of the draft governmental Water Strategy

- ENVSEC project – *Jan Olsson, OSCE*
- Preparations for the Astana “Environment for Europe” Conference – *Gulnara Roll, UNECE*
- Application of IWRM Principles in Management of Irrigation Canals - *Mohan Reddy Junna, Head of International Water Management Institute Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia and Caucasus*
- Institutional and economic aspects of IWRM: examples from Ferghana Valley – *Oytur Anarbekov, Project Manager, IWMI CA*

17.00 – 17.30 Coffee break

17.30 – 18.30 Session Five: Conclusions and recommendations

Next steps under the NPD IWRM; a proposal for a date of the Second SC meeting.

The SC Chair will moderate this session and specify the decisions taken under the previous agenda items.

- 19.00** Participants are most welcome to a reception after the meeting.

17 June 2011

The Working Group meeting will take place between 09.00 – 16.00 at Landmark Building and it will focus on preparation of the water sector strategy.



Annex №2.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING
OF THE EU WATER INITIATIVE “NATIONAL WATER POLICY DIALOGUE
ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN AZERBAIJAN”**

№	NAME	POSITION/ORGANIZATION
Key Ministries		
1)	Mutallim Abdulhasanov	Head of Division, Environmental Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic
2)	Matanat Avazova	Deputy Head of National Environmental Monitoring Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic
3)	Elnar Sultanov	Head of Division, National Hydrometeorology Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic
4)	Kamala Huseynli	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5)	Vugar Azizov	MOED
6)	Leylakhanim Taghizade	Head of Environmental Sanitation Division. Republican Centre of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Ministry of Health
7)	Aga Hajiyeu	MOIE
8)	Rasim Sattar-zada	Head of Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan
9)	Husniyya Mammadova	Head of UN and Global Economic organisations Division, Dept of Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
10)	Mammadhuseyn Muslimov	Director of the National Environmental Monitoring Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan
11)	Asif Verdiyev	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
12)	Yusif Zamanov	Deputy Head of the Infrastructure Development Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations
13)	Hamlet Maylov	Chief Adviser, Emergency Situations Warning Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations
14)	Lala Mustafazade	Chief Adviser, Protocol Unit, International Relations Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations
15)	Sultan Baylarov	Chief Adviser, Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Emergency Situations
16)	Shahin Allahverdiyev	Chief Adviser, Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Emergency Situations



17	Kemale Huseynli	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
From other stakeholders		
18	Ahmed Mammadov	AZERSU
19	Mammad Asadov	Amelioration and Water Farm JSC, GWP
20	Yusif Israfilov	NAS
21	Rena Gashgay	NAS
22	Shamil Huseynov	NPA, Milli Majlis Parliament
23	Farda Imanov	NGO IHP
24	Rafiq Verdiyev	Consultant on NPD, Western Governance in the Western EECCA
25	Yalchin Mammadov	Deputy Director, Water Engineered Technologies
26	Isa Aliyev	REC
27	Oksana Jabina	Consultant
Participated from International Organizations		
28	Gulnara Roll	Water Convention Secretariat, Environment Division, UNECE, Geneva
29	Tatyana Efimova	Programme Manager, OECD Environmental Directorate
30	Jan Olsson	Head, Economic and Environmental Unit, OSCE Office in Azerbaijan
31	Mohan Reddy Junna	Head of IWMI Subregional Office for Central Asia and Caucasus
32	Oytur Anarbekov	Senior Research Officer, IWMI Subregional Office for Central Asia and Caucasus
33	Chingiz Mammadov	Senior Programme Advisor, UNDP Caspian Environmental Programme
34	Stephen Stork	EU. Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Azerbaijan
35	Parviz Yusifov	EU. Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Azerbaijan
36	Khoshbakht Ismailova	OSCE