



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

MINISTRY OF LAND RECLAMATION AND WATER RESOURCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

The National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Tajikistan

Memorandum of Understanding

between

the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the
Republic of Tajikistan

and

the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Dushanbe - Geneva,

March 2011

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Background information

National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (hereafter referred to as the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM) is conducted under the EECCA component of the EU Water Initiative and is the main operational tool in this initiative. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter referred to as the UNECE) acts as a strategic partner in EECCA countries to implement IWRM principles.

The UNECE is assisting the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan in the organization of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan.

Activity in the framework of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan in the period since 2010 is formally based on:

- a Decision of the 10th meeting of the Working Group on Water Initiative EECCA component of the European Union (Moscow, December 13, 2007);
- the Agreement on the contribution of the European Commission, which provides funding to the UNECE for the implementation of the *Dialogue on the National Policy on Integrated Water Resources Management in EECCA for the EU Water Initiative: Agreement number 21.0401/2007/485348/SUB/D2* (hereafter referred to as the EU agreement).

Overall objective

For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (Memorandum) the UNECE and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan (hereafter referred to as the "Partners") agree to cooperate towards the overall objective of the on IWRM in Tajikistan in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to water, primarily targets 9 and 10 of Goal 7, namely to:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes to reduce the loss of environmental resources (MDG 7 - Target 9); and
- Decrease by half by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (MDG 7 - Target 10).

Specific activities of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan with the process of improving the legal and administrative framework through the establishment of the country's priorities, identifying projects and capacity development in the country through dialogue, which will involve, in addition, other public authorities and civil society representatives.

Specific objectives

The National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan is a platform for the promotion and realization of comprehensive measures on Integrated Water Resources Management, including:

- sustainable use of water resources for the needs of all sectors of the economy, taking into account climate change;
- ensuring water quality posing no risk to human health;
- protection of aquatic ecosystems;
- prevention, control and reduction of diseases associated with water use/water-borne diseases;
- prevention and mitigation of natural disasters related to water.

To achieve these goals, the following tasks will be fulfilled:

- Design and implementation of a programme of water sector development (PWSD) based on the application of IWRM principles;
- Development and implementation of a programme on adaptation of sectors of the economy of the country to climate change made possible with the support of donor countries;

- Water sector reform based on the principle of basin management of water resources as a fundamental principle for the transition to IWRM;
- Further implementation of the Water Supply Programme for 2000-2015;
- Conducting cross-sectoral dialogue to identify the main directions of implementation of IWRM principles;
- Formulation and implementation of other plans and programmes to implement these activities.

To achieve the general and specific objectives, the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan will be coordinated with other ongoing projects in the water sector of Tajikistan. The results of past and current interventions by the UNECE on integrated water resources management in the EECCA region, as well as the joint UNECE / OSCE activities in the subject area of water will be fully taken into account.

Strategic Partners

As a strategic partner on issues related to integrated water resources management UNECE will draft a Roadmap for the process of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan, provide methodological support and contribute to the successful promotion of the dialogue process as envisaged in the EU agreement.

Responsible organization in Tajikistan

The Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan is the organization responsible for the process of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan.

Steering Committee

To oversee the implementation of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan, a Steering Committee comprising representatives of concerned organizations will be established. The composition of the Steering Committee is confirmed by an order of the Government of Tajikistan.

The Steering Committee Chairman will be the Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Steering Committee will:

- Coordinate the preparation of and adopt the Roadmap for the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM and monitor the implementation of the Roadmap.
- Provide overall guidance to the activities carried out under the National Policy Dialogue.
- Elaborate and suggest comprehensive activities and policy measures for IWRM and guide the implementation of these.
- Discuss and provide guidance on other relevant documents produced in the Dialogue.
- Adopt progress reports for submission to the Working Group of the EUWI EECCA.

The Steering Committee will meet when deemed necessary, at minimum annually.

Main actors

Key actors in Tajikistan, invited by the Chairman of the Steering Committee to participate in the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan, include representatives of ministries and departments, local and international governmental and non-governmental organizations operating in Tajikistan.

The Secretariat of the Steering Committee

Duties of the Secretariat of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan will be performed by the relevant department of the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Reporting

The Partners recognize the importance of reporting on the progress of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan for EUWI EECCA and other relevant meetings, including meetings of the UNECE Water Convention and the EU Water Initiative EECCA Working Group.

Funding of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan

The Partners will participate in the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Tajikistan on a voluntary basis, depending on the availability of adequate resources. This Memorandum does not entail any obligations on one Partner to fund the activities of the other, although such funding can be made available by mutual agreement.

Subject to availability of approved funds, UNECE may provide financial support to the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM process.

Amendments

Any amendment to the present Memorandum shall be made by mutual agreement by the Partners in the form of an exchange of letters. All amendments shall enter into force after approval by the Partners of the amendment to this Memorandum.

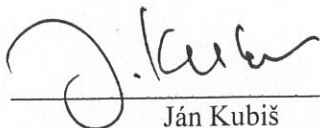
Settlement of disputes

The Partners shall make their best efforts to promptly settle, in good faith through direct negotiations, any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with the present Memorandum or any breach thereof.

Duration

This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of signature by the Partners and will initially be valid for a period of 2 years (2011-2012), unless one Partner notifies the other Partner in writing of its wish to terminate the Memorandum giving at least 3 months notice. Depending on the results and the willingness of the Partners to continue cooperation, the Memorandum can be prolonged on an annual basis. Signed in two copies, one in English and one in Russian, both texts being equally authentic.

For the United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe



Ján Kubiš
Executive Secretary

For the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water
Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan



Rahmat Bobokalonov
Minister

Date: _____

Date: _____