

## **Global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins**

### **Water quality cooperation on the basis of a bilateral agreement: Kazakhstan-China Case**

**(December 5, 2019, Geneva, UN Palace of Nations)**

10.00 – 11.30      Session 4: Legal Basis and Institutional Framework for transboundary data and information exchange

**Dear Chairman!**

**Dear workshop participants!**

First of all, let me thank the UN Economic Commission for Europe for the opportunity to inform you about the work carried out in Kazakhstan under the bilateral agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and China in the field of water quality protection.

In 2011, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed an Agreement on the protection of water quality of transboundary rivers and an Agreement on cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

These Agreements oblige the two countries to ensure adequate water quality on the rivers on both sides, and also allow the Parties to regulate the protection, control and monitoring of water of transboundary rivers.

In addition, the Agreement on the protection of water quality for the first time includes norms for cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of pollution of transboundary rivers.

In order to implement these two intergovernmental documents, the Kazakhstani-Chinese Commission for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection has been created.

Two working groups have been created within the Commission:

- (i) on monitoring, analysis and assessment of water quality of transboundary rivers (Kara-Ertis, Ile, Tekes, Khorgos, Emel rivers) and

(ii) on emergency response and pollution prevention.

To date, 8 meetings of the Working Group on monitoring, analysis and assessment of water quality of transboundary rivers and 6 meetings of the Working Group on emergency response and pollution prevention have been held.

During the 8th meeting of the Working Group on monitoring, analysis and assessment of water quality of transboundary rivers on May 17-18, 2019 the Parties approved the Work Plan for 2019-2020 and signed the minutes of the meeting.

In accordance with the Agreement on the Protection of Water Quality of Transboundary Rivers, the Parties shall cooperate in the following areas:

1) conducting joint research activities to determine and agree on acceptable water quality standards for transboundary rivers for both states, monitoring rules and methods for their analysis;

2) monitoring, analysis and assessment of water quality of transboundary rivers;

3) development and adoption by each of the Parties of the necessary measures to prevent pollution of transboundary rivers, efforts to eliminate it in order to reduce transboundary impact to the lowest level;

4) by agreement, exchange of the Parties of the information on the results of monitoring, analysis and assessment of water quality of transboundary rivers and other.

Hydrochemical monitoring of transboundary rivers with China is carried out by the Republican State Enterprise "Kazhydromet". Monitoring is conducted at 7 stations on 6 rivers:

1. The East Kazakhstan Regional Branch of the "Kazhydromet" conducts observations on 2 rivers: Kara Ertis and Emel. Water quality on the Kara Ertis River is determined daily, every 10 days, every month, in the Emel River - every 10 days, every month. A total of 48 indicators are determined.

2. The Almaty regional branch of the "Kazhydromet" conducts observations on the rivers Ile, Tekes, Korgas in the village of Yntaly, Korgasin the village of Baskunshy, and Bayankol. Monitoring is conducted on 45 indicators on a daily, weekly and monthly basis, depending on the indicator.

On the transboundary rivers Kara Ertis, Emel, Ile, Tekes, radionuclides and micro-macro elements are monitored in water, bottom sediments, and soil 2 times a year (in April and August) as part of the Monitoring the transboundary transfer of toxic components activity. 30 macro-microelements in water and 44 macro-and microelements, and radionuclides in soil and bottom sediments are determined.

The Republic of Kazakhstan, as a party to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, is committed to international water law and adheres to transparency in the protection of water quality of transboundary rivers.

Thank you for your attention!