

**Speech of the National Focal Point of Kazakhstan to the Water Convention
at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water
Resources Management**

30 September – 2 October 2020, remotely

Agenda item 7 «Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels» (*from 14.00 till 16.00 Nur-Sultan time, Thursday, 1 October 2020*):

(a) Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative (*from 14.00 till 14.30 Nur-Sultan time*).

National Policy Dialogues (NPD) has been implemented in Kazakhstan since 2012. During this time, the NPD has become an effective platform for discussing issues on water resources management in Kazakhstan and developing recommendations to address them.

The NPD in Kazakhstan is conducted under the leadership of an Interministerial Coordination Council, which consists of the representatives of relevant government agencies, research institutes, the private sector and NGOs.

A number of projects has been implemented in Kazakhstan under the NPD. In particular, several phases of the Joint Kazakh-Russian Research on Transboundary Rivers such as the Ural, Kigach, Karaozen and Saryozen rivers were completed. The achieved results of these studies contributed to the cooperation between Kazakhstan and Russia in the field of joint use and protection of transboundary waters.

Another direction has been agreed at the NPD meetings: to initiate Kazakhstan's accession to the Protocol on Water and Health. For this reason, a feasibility analysis of Kazakhstan's accession as well as the national targets on Protocol were developed. Currently, the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan is conducting relevant internal procedures. We hope that they will be completed in the near future and Kazakhstan will become a party to this international Treaty.

We would like to highlight and appreciate methodological support of the UNECE for the finalization of the report on SDG 6.5.2 indicator on transboundary water cooperation of Kazakhstan.

Recommendations for the water supply and sanitation development in the villages and small towns of Kazakhstan, the use of sustainable models for financing hydraulic structures, etc. were carried out under the NPD in cooperation with the OECD.

We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the European Union and the Convention Secretariat for their support to Kazakhstan in conducting National dialogues on water policy, as well as for their assistance in developing

cooperation between the Republic and neighboring countries in the field of joint use and protection of water resources.

We hope that the third phase of the European Union's regional project WECOOP-III will continue work on the NPD's relevant thematic areas.

While COVID-19 situation in the world has made us to hold virtual meetings, we look forward to continuing the National Policy Dialogue process in the country and hold a physical meeting as soon as it will be possible.