Memorandum of Understanding
On the National Policy Dialogue in the Republic of Kazakhstan between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties"),

Recalling that

the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), as well as on Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS), is the main mechanism for the implementation of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

under National Policy Dialogues, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) leads the work on IWRM, while the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) leads the work on WSS;

in 2011, Kazakhstan was included in the list of countries participating in the second phase of EUWI, the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) took place and several activities have been implemented thereafter,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Objectives

The objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding on NPDs between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the UNECE (hereinafter "Memorandum") are:

to develop the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the UNECE in implementation of the NPD;

to assist Kazakhstan in implementing the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, done in Helsinki (Finland) on 17 March 1992 (hereinafter "Convention") and, as relevant, its Protocol on Water and Health, done in London (United Kingdom) on 17 June 1999. Activities under the NPD would also help Kazakhstan in achieving Sustainable Development Goals related to IWRM and WSS;

to provide a platform for developing and implementing policy packages on IWRM and WSS, focused on solving the following objectives:

sustainable use of water resources taking into account the challenges of climate change;

rehabilitation and development of water management systems for reliable access to water for inhabitants, agriculture, industrial and other users and reducing the harmful effects of water;

strengthening bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries on the use of transboundary watercourses and on the protection of the quality of transboundary waters;

support to basin administrations and basin councils;

development of a joint plan to identify possible sources of pollution of transboundary character;

development and implementation of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention;

conducting training courses in the area of water resources management, as well as in controlling and monitoring of pollution of transboundary waters.

These objectives will be achieved through conducting different research activities and assessments and by the preparation of projects and proposals in the above-mentioned areas.

Article 2
Methods of work

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the responsible organization involved in the NPD process. For all institutions taking part in NPD activities, the Ministry will be the main contact organization in Kazakhstan. UNECE will act as a strategic partner, providing methodological support and promoting the NPD process in Kazakhstan.

Coordination and oversight of the NPD process in Kazakhstan will be provided by the NPD Steering Committee (hereinafter "SC"). The SC is established by the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The SC is an advisory and consultative body with regard to conducting NPD in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The SC will coordinate the overall progress of the NPD process and discuss its annual workplan and documents developed in the framework of NPD.

The SC is being chaired by the Vice-Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan who is in charge of the water resources management.

The Department for the transboundary rivers at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan will implement secretarial duties of the SC.

Article 3
Financing of NPD work

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the UNECE participate in NPD on a voluntary basis and subject to the availability of adequate resources. Implementation of the provisions of the current Memorandum does not require additional funds from the national budget. The present Memorandum entails no financial obligations for UNECE with regard to the financing of activities by the Republic of Kazakhstan in the framework of NPD, although such financing could take place on the basis of separate international agreements.

This Memorandum does not create legally binding obligations (including, inter alia, those of a financial or administrative nature) between the parties, nor does it prevent the parties from pursuing the objectives set forth in this Memorandum on their own or with other third parties.

Article 4
Settlement of Disputes

Disputes between Parties arising out of the implementation or interpretation of the provisions of this Memorandum shall be resolved through good faith consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

Article 5
Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in or related to this Memorandum may be construed as a waiver, explicit or implicit, of the privileges or immunities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe under the 1946 Convention on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

Article 6
Final Provisions

This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of signature and is valid for 3 (three) years. If within six months period before the expiration of the

Memorandum, neither Party has notified the other in a written form through the diplomatic channels of its desire not to renew this Memorandum, it shall be automatically extended for successive period of three years. Either of the Parties can terminate the Memorandum by giving a prior written notification 1 (one) month before the envisaged date of this Memorandum termination through diplomatic channels to the other Party without any reimbursement claim.

This Memorandum may be amended on the basis of a mutual consent of the Parties. Amendments constitute an integral part of the Memorandum and are made in form of separate protocols.

The parties agree that they will settle by good faith negotiations any disagreements or disputes arising out of the implementation or interpretation of the present Agreement.

Done in Geneva (Switzerland) on «30» May 2017 in two versions, each in Russian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of disputes on the interpretation of the provisions of this Memorandum, the Parties will refer to the text in English.

For the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Yerlan Nysanbaev
Vice-Minister

For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Christian Friis Bach
Executive Secretary