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The post-2015 development agenda

Kazakhstan stakeholder perspectives on a water goal and its implementation



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1 Introduction

The round table "Role of water for sustainable development of Kazakhstan" was held on 4 April 2014 in Astana within the national consultations on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the National Program on Water Resources Development to Post-2015 Agenda in Kazakhstan.

The round table was organized by the Committee on Water Resources of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Public Fund "Water Partnership - Kazakhstan" (CWP-Kazakhstan).

The round table was attended by experts, and representatives of NGOs, research institutes, heads of the departments and committees of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning, the Ministry of Emergency Response, the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and the Ministry of Agriculture. (List of participants is attached - Annex 1).

The goal of the national consultation is to obtain the opinion of the decision makers and the public of Kazakhstan regarding the post-2015 development agenda for water and sustainable development.

National Consultation helps to ensure that water is adequately reflected in each post-2015 agenda and aims to mobilize stakeholders opinions in the wider consultations on national development, thus to influence global policy dialogue and contribute to shaping potential sustainable development goals after 2015.

2 Comments on recommended Millennium Goals and Tasks for sustainable development of water resources

2.1 Objectives of the national consultation in Kazakhstan:

- Raising awareness of decision-makers and public about SDGs development process and measures undertaken at the national and local level;
- Developing proposals on priorities at the national, regional and global level;
- Considering the National Program on Water Resources Management in Kazakhstan for 2014-2020;
- Working out a common understanding on national issues and proposals for strengthening water policy.

The round table agenda included the following issues:

- Crucial problems of Kazakhstan: sustainable water supply, water quality, environmentally sound water use;
- Ways of solving problems and selection of the approach to sustainable development and utilization of water resources;
- Water Sector Development Program for Sustainable Development in Kazakhstan;
- "Green Economy" for Water Sector in Kazakhstan;
- National Policy in Water Resources Management: institutional fundamentals, legal regulation, economical mechanism of water use and water resources protection;
- International cooperation in use and protection of Transboundary Rivers.

Kazakhstan's national policy for water resources development, as reflected in the State program of water management in Kazakhstan during 2014-2020 years in the program "Aqbylaq", in Kazakhstan-

2030 Strategy and the Strategic Plan of Development of Kazakhstan till 2020 aimed to designate the long-term development path sovereign republic, while transforming the country into one of the most secure, stable, sustainable countries in the world with a vibrant economy, is fully consistent with the MDGs and the five water goals proposed by the UN.

Water defines the environmental and economic policies. In the Republic of Kazakhstan a new draft National Program on Water Management was developed which at present was agreed by all the public authorities. The water analysis was made up to 2042; as a result the stated tasks shall prevent water deficit up to 2020. All proposals of local authorities were gathered, agreed and put on record and included in the Program. Program includes the irrigation systems modernization, construction of new dams (about 40), the program "Ak-Bulak", transboundary water allocation, national diversion of runoff, etc.

Program Goal: Water security of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Program tasks:

- Sustainable water supply of population and economy;
- Providing safe, reliable operation of existing and creation of new water management systems for water regulation;
- Inter-sectoral coordination on water management issues;
- Improving water legislation;
- Improving management of river basins;
- Maintaining a healthy environment of rivers and aquatic ecosystems;
- Improvement and development of inter-state cooperation on transboundary rivers;
- Training of young water professionals.

Problems emphasized by the participants:

- less than 1/5 of water resources volume will be available in 2030;
- Kazakhstan will meet water resources deficit at the basin level amounted 13 billion cubic meters at the cost of 2 billion dollars USA in 2030;
- water inflow from the neighboring countries is being reduced to 2-3% per year and this tendency will continue up to 2030;
- water contamination in Kazakhstan is significantly more than in the developed countries.

Main Staffing tasks of the RK water complex:

- Funding of modern water management staffing mechanisms and tools, aimed at satisfying the demand for young professionals;
- Review the existing state specialist training standards "Water resources and water use" in accordance with the modern water problems and concentrate these specialist training only in two institutions - the Kazakh National Agrarian University and the Kazakh National Technical University named after K.I. Satpaev (strictly in compliance with the established standard of Ministry of Education of RK in agreement with the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources as applicant of the request "Water resources and water use");
- Establishing a system of technologies to improve the professional competence of available personnel to provide the innovative development of the water sector;
- Modernization of the material-technical base of the Kazakh National Agrarian University and KSTU named after K.I. Satpaev; creation of incentives to attract young and talented teachers.

Funding the Program activities

- Funds should provide unconditional implementation of measures aimed at achieving the goals and objectives.
- Funding of Program activities shall be financed through the following:
 - National budget;
 - Budgets of local executive bodies;
 - Extra-budgetary sources.

Republican budget funds shall be directed to the following tasks:

- Development and implementation of the efficient water and water industry management;
- Development and improvement of the implementation of government water management agencies, interstate agencies on management of transboundary rivers, improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of coordination and basin councils for the river basins of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- Development of a system for monitoring of hydrological characteristics;
- Ensuring the safety of hydraulic structures, reconstruction and modernization of state-owned water management facilities to improve the reliability of their operation and conformation with the economic requirements;
- Construction of new republican water systems of major socio-economic importance, including water facilities for water supply and drainage systems;
- Provision of regulatory and legal framework for water relations and functions of state administration;
- Implementation of basic and applied research aimed at developing technologies for innovative development of water sector and restoration of aquatic ecosystems;
- Development of education and training system for young water professionals and establishment of training bases in one or two special universities - Kazakh National Agrarian University and the Kazakh National Technical University named after K.I. Satpaev in Almaty.

3 Key findings to meet the goals and objectives for the post-2015 period

The round table participants noted that work at the basin level that is poorly developed is needed to be strengthened drastically, including improving its status, competence and funding; strengthening the role of Basin Council as well as increasing role and participation of water users.

The round table participants noted the need to create the National Water Council at the President of Kazakhstan as MEWR is not capable to raise urgent issues on a timely manner and to required level and for which (National Council and MEWR) Basin Councils could also serve as basis and support.

Regarding transboundary issues it was noted that the amount of runoff must be fixed in the existing and future agreements with neighboring countries and these agreements must be implemented.

Participants criticized strongly a decision to create "Kazvodkhoz" organization and additional national companies, which in the opinions of provincial structures and experts will become unnecessary agents with inflated staff requiring finance; there will be little practical usefulness and whole work will still be implemented at the bottom of hierarchy – basin level – remained with no financial and other support.

4 Conclusions and recommendations:

Participants endorsed during the national consultation proposed water goals.

Round table participants after discussion noted that for Kazakhstan on SDGs the following issues are of highest priority:

- Save water by all the economy sectors through better governance and new technologies as well international trade;
- Protect water and water related ecosystems in the region (Aral, Balkhash, Caspian, etc.) as main sources of water for Economy, Nature and population;
- Solving transboundary problems with neighboring countries (CA, PR China, Russian Federation as well as Caspian bordering countries). Developing new mechanisms for cooperation including for Green Economy and the International Program "Green Bridge".
- The National Program on Water Resources Management in Kazakhstan for 2014-2020 was approved on 4 April 2014.

As other important issues to be addressed, participants highlighted a lack of coordination between natural resource agencies in the implementation of the Government of Kazakhstan adopted regulations and legal acts.

