

**NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED WATER
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN TAJIKISTAN UNDER EU WATER INITIATIVE**

FOURTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

15 November 2012
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

DRAFT MINUTES¹

Venue: Conference Hall, Kohi Vahdat, 107 Rudaki Avenue, Dushanbe
Languages: Russian and English with simultaneous translation

1. Opening of the meeting

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, Eduard Auer, Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Tajikistan, and Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser on Environment, greeted the participants of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Rahmat Bobokalonov, Chairman of the Steering Committee, presented the draft of the agenda to the members of the Steering Committee and to other invited participants. There were no additional remarks and suggestions from the participants.

The Chairman of the meeting invited the representatives of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan to intervene before noon. The proposal was supported by all participants. Therefore, a revised agenda was adopted by consensus.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Steering Committee were also submitted to the participants. There were no additional remarks and proposals from the participants. Therefore, the minutes of the third meeting of the Steering Committee were adopted by consensus.

3. Thematic session on “The hydropower development in Tajikistan”

Timur Valamat-Zade, Senior Specialist of the Department of Electric Power Industry of the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan in his speech presented to the participants the information on the prospects for development of hydropower in Tajikistan.

Hamid Arifov, Head of the Hydraulic Department, SUE “Barki Tojik”, commented upon the energy sector reform process in Tajikistan and the link of this reform with the reform in the water sector.

Mavlon Kazakov, Representative of Tajikistan at EC IFAS, recalled the history of the Rogun hydroelectric construction project from the perspective of the integrated use of the

¹ The minutes will be approved at the next meeting of the Steering Committee



Vakhsh River, as designed by “Sredazgidroproekt” in 1959, and its importance for the integrated water resource management in Tajikistan as well as for the whole Central Asia.

Salohiddin Mirzoyev, deputy chief of the General Office on State Supervision over the Safe Conduction of Works in Industry and Mining under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, presented the information about the functions of the General Office and about the safety of hydro-technical structures in Tajikistan.

Daler Holmatov, Engineer of the PMU “Tajikhyprovoshoz”, presented the information on the implementation of the project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: capacity building and regional cooperation” on the national level.

Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser on the Environment, completed the presentation of the previous rapporteur on “Dam Safety in Central Asia: capacity building and regional cooperation” where there will be new opportunities for support to Tajikistan during the implementation of the third phase of the project.

After the presentations of the speakers, there were some comments, questions and answers, from the participants which highlighted: the relevance of the hydropower development for Tajikistan as well as for the region in general and also the place of the hydropower in the integrated water resource management; the sustainability of dams, the safety technical inspection of dams in Tajikistan according to the law on the safety of hydro-technical structures and other regulations; the need to cooperate with donors on the dam safety assessment and the sustainable functioning of small hydropower plants after putting them into service.

The Steering Committee took note of the presented information.

4. National policy dialogues on integrated water resource management in the countries of EECCA

Sahib Hasanzade, Head of Sector of Hydro-Technical Structures, State Agency for Water under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan, presented the current status, outcomes and further development of the NPD IWRM in Azerbaijan.

Serik Akhmetov, National Coordinator, NPD IWRM of the Republic of Kazakhstan, presented the start-up of the NPD IWRM in his country.

The Steering Committee took note of the presented information. The Steering Committee will take into account positive examples of other countries when developing the NPD IWRM in Tajikistan.

5. Setting targets for water and health

This and the following sessions were moderated by Sulton Rahimov, First Deputy Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Bo Libert introduced the goals and objectives of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Kholmahmad Nazarov, Deputy Head of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Service, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Harsha Ratnaweera, professor of Norwegian University of Life Sciences, outlined the project on the target setting in the context of

the Protocol on Water and Health in Tajikistan. During the presentation the participants were invited to stay after the meeting to continue the work at a special working meeting on target setting in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health in Tajikistan.

Sami Kamolov, associate professor of Tajik Technical University in Dushanbe, in his presentation of the status and needs in the target setting areas in Tajikistan, invited the participants to prioritize the most important areas for target setting by using distributed questionnaires.

The Steering Committee took note of the presentations and decided on a list of main priority areas according to the information gathered through the questionnaire. The list of priority areas for target setting can be found in Annex 5-2.

6. Development of the water sector reform process

Jelle Beekma, Consultant of Landell Mills and Anvar Kamolidinov, Senior Research Fellow, Tajik Branch of SIC ICWC, presented the Revised Water Sector Reforms Strategy Plan.

Rustam Latipov, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan, in the context of the launching of a Task Force on the Revision of the Water Code of the Republic of Tajikistan presented the draft Terms of Reference for the Task Force.

Tatiana Efimova, Project Manager of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), delivered a presentation on “Financing IWRM and support by OECD to the NPD on IWRM”.

After the presentations the participants made some additional comments about the draft Strategy Plan. The Chair noted that the process of the preparation of the Strategy is moving closer to the final stage. Thereafter, the Strategy will be forwarded for the consultation to the Government and to the Donor Steering Committee (DSC). In this context, if the participants have additional remarks or proposals, it is important to submit them as soon as possible to the Working Group on the finalisation of the Strategy.

Moreover, the Steering Committee took note of the draft Terms of Reference of the Task Force on Water Code. The representatives of the General Office of Geology at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and of the public were invited to become members of the Task Force.

In addition, the meeting discussed support by OECD to the water sector reform process. The transition to the IWRM principles involves the implementation of measures for the development of economic mechanisms for effective water distribution, management of water demand and the reform of economic instruments. In the context of Tajikistan, the existing infrastructure and the need for its funding for proper maintenance, use and rehabilitation should stay at the center of the reform of economic instruments and mechanisms of interaction between all sectors (pricing, provision of adequate incentives for efficient water distribution and water use). In this regard, it was decided to prepare the OECD proposals on further cooperation with Tajikistan.

7. Activities of different working groups and task forces active in the water sector

Brian Wettlaufer, Project Manager “Tajikistan Water Supply and Sanitation” (TajWSS), Oxfam, discussed the current status, achieved results and further development of the Network of Stakeholders on Water Supply and Sanitation in Tajikistan (TajWSS).

Paul Haener, Head of the Information division of the International Office for Water and Technical Coordinator of the FFEM Project, presented the first conclusions and recommendations of the conceptual analysis of the National Water Information System.

During the discussion, a representative of UNDP in Tajikistan in his speech reminded that TajWSS produced proposals to the government about water taxation, however feedback from the government has not yet been received.

The representatives of FAO and GIZ shared the information on the activities which they have carried on the development of information systems and databases (IS and DB) on water resources in Tajikistan. It was proposed to build synergies between IS and DB created under specific projects. The Steering Committee took note of the presented information.

8. Closing of the meeting

Sulton Rahimov, First Deputy Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, summarized the outcomes of the meeting and thanked the participants for their active participation.

The fifth meeting of the Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled for May 2013. For the next meeting of the Steering Committee the following thematic focuses were suggested: irrigation and drainage, transboundary cooperation and river basin planning.

The draft minutes of the meeting will be produced in the coming days and submitted to the participants for consideration.

ANNEXES

2-1 Draft Agenda and the Minutes of the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in the Republic of Tajikistan

3-1 The prospect of the development of hydropower in Tajikistan (background)

4-1 Information Note on the areas for setting targets on water and health issues, and the main results of a preliminary study

5-1 Second Revised Water Sector Reforms Strategy Plan

5-2 Review and conclusion on the comments and suggestions of the working group to the draft of the revised version of the Strategic Plan for the reform of the water sector

5-3 The implementation and investments plan for the irrigation and water supply in rural areas

5-4 The terms of reference for the NPD IWRM Working Group on the improvement of the water legislation, including regulations