

United Nations
Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
(SPECA)

Protocol of the third session of the Project Working Group
on Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources of Central Asia
(PWG-Energo)

Bishkek, 18 – 19 November 1999

General comments

1. The third session of the PWG-Energo took place in Bishkek, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, from 18 –19 November 1999. Delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan took part in the session. Representatives of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan did not take part in the session. The list of participants is attached to this Protocol as Annex 1.
2. National Coordinator of SPECA in Kyrgyzstan, First Vice-Prime-Minister Mr. B. Silayev sent a message to the participants of the session. He noted fruitful discussion at the previous, second session of the PWG and expressed his satisfaction with the understanding that there is a need to concentrate joint efforts at working out economic mechanisms for managing transboundary water resources. He fully agreed with the conclusion that there was a need for working out well founded suggestions for establishing a sustainable and reliable parallel work of energy systems in the United energy system of the Central Asia and for forming a common market of energy, in line with the idea of rational and effective use of energy and water resources of Central Asia. He also supported the recommendation to work out a Concept of cooperation for joint use of water, fuel and energy resources of the region on the basis of forecasts for supply and demand for water and energy resources. Kyrgyzstan would like to have these suggestions reflected in the Programme of work of the PWG-Energo for the years 2000 – 2002.
3. According to Mr. Silayev, it would be worthwhile to use SPECA mechanisms for general coordination of all projects being implemented in the region in the areas of energy and water resources, irrespective of the aegis under which the projects were being implemented. In favor of such arrangement, as far as it concerned organizational side of the issue, was the fact that the countries were represented in the PWG at the ministerial level, and from the point of view of the substance – the fact that those representatives had at their disposal professional information on all the projects, whatever were their authors and sources of financing. Participation in the PWG of representatives of ECE, ESCAP and UNDP is a guarantee that the Group acts as an independent and highly professional body. Coordination under the aegis of PWG-Energo would allow mutual complementarity at a regional level of separate efforts in the areas of energy and water resources.
4. Mr. B. Silayev noted that the PWG had also a considerable potential as far as it concerned collecting and analyzing mutual grievances, concerns and wishes of the countries of the

region on the issues of energy and water resources. In view of a considerable political sensitivity of countries on this account, a neutral forum for considering mutual grievances could be of help in both solving and preventing conflict situations. Systematic analysis of such grievances and preparation of proposals on their complex settlement could become an important direction of activities of the PWG. In addition to that, the PWG could select prospective investment projects of regional scope. The PWG and SPECA could submit those projects to potential investors and international financing institutions.

5. The text of the statement of Mr. B. Silayev is reproduced in Annex 2 (in Russian).
6. The representative of ESCAP read out a message of Mr. A. Mooy, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, addressed to the participants of the session. The Executive Secretary expressed his appreciation to the Government of Kyrgyzstan for its leadership in the PWG-Energo. He noted with satisfaction the fact that ESCAP and were working within SPECA in support of the efforts of Central Asian states directed at rational and effective use of energy and water resources. In his view, it was only by combined efforts of the countries of the region that the optimal utilization of those resources could be realized. ESCAP will continue its support to those efforts within the limits of available resources.

Agenda

7. Participating in the session SPECA countries have not provided the Chair of the PWG with the national information on the issues of utilization of transborder waters and on fuel and energy resources of Central Asia. In the absence of those materials, and also for the reason of absence at the session of the representatives of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, it was decided to postpone consideration of all issues of the provisional Agenda to the next session of the PWG.
8. At the recommendation of the experts of ECE, and with sponsor assistance of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Fund for the protection of the Aral Sea and USAID, there was organised an international workshop on the subject "Experience of countries with limited resources of water within the framework of increasing the public awareness on the issues of water saving".

Discussion

9. A number of authoritative international experts attended the workshop. Professor T. Allen presented his report on "Water shortage and water rights in the economies in transition". Manager of the Programme EPIC of the USAID Dr. D. McKeeny spoke on "Project EPIC of the USAID on modeling water and energy regimes of work of the cascade of water storage reservoirs in the basin of the Syrdaria river". Director of Component A of the GEF Project Mr. M. Ospanov and the Manager of the national group of the Component B of the GEF Project Dr. V. Kasymova spoke on "The GEF project "Water resources and environment management in the basin of the Aral Sea" and "The programme of increasing public awareness of saving and rational utilization of water resources in the Aral Sea basin". International consultant from Kyrgyzstan of the Component C of the GEF Project Ms. G. Kasymova spoke on "Water dams safety and management of water storage reservoirs (on the regimes of work of the Naryn-Syrdaria cascade of hydro-technical units and water storage reservoirs)". ESCAP expert Mr. Y. Steklov spoke on the issues of "The experience of countries with limited water resources on the strategy for raising public awareness of water

saving issues”. Project manager of a project by TACIS Mr. G. Andersen presented his report on “Restructuring electrical energy sector in Kyrgyzstan. Problem issues of creating the Pool of energy resources and of its interaction with the hydro-power energy complex”. The discussion was professional and very well structured.

10. The participants of the workshop noted the practical importance of the issues discussed and the need for systemic interpretation and application of the conclusions and recommendations of the submitted reports. In this connection the participants regretted the absence at the workshop of the representatives from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. They requested the Chair of the PWG to bring this reaction of the participants of the workshop to the attention of the authorities of those countries.
11. The participants also requested the Chairman of the PWG to look into a possibility of working out specific scenarios of effective cooperation on water and energy issues among two or three interested SPECA countries. It was noted that there could be good prospects for cooperation with the programmes of external assistance to the countries of the region, for example with TACIS and GEF.
12. It was suggested that some of the issues on the agenda of the PWG should be discussed by experts in advance of the PWG sessions.
13. Representatives from ECE and ESCAP expressed their concern with the fact of non-submission by the participating countries of national information that was requested in the Protocol of the second session of the PWG-Energo. It was stated that slowing of the progress in the work of the PWG was contrary to the stated interests of the participating countries and therefore should not have happened.
14. In their turn, all participating states emphasized that the slip in the work of their delegations in the PWG was unfortunate and that it was largely for the reason of unfortunate set of circumstances. The representatives of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan will report the criticism to their respective authorities.
15. The Focal Point on SPECA in ECE informed the session on the state of submission of the joint ECE-ESCAP project on water and energy resources management in Central Asia. The details of the submission were in the process of agreeing with the UN Headquarters. It was expected that the final decision on the project would be taken by the UN General Assembly before the end of 1999.

The fourth session of the PWG-Energo

16. The fourth session of the PWG-Energo is scheduled for 24-25 February 2000.

Preliminary Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda.
- 2) Water resources issues – analysis of official data of national delegations on the issues of use of transborder water resources in Central Asia (to be submitted to the Chair before 15 January 2000).

- 3) Energy resources issues – analysis of official materials of national delegations on the issues of the use of fuel and energy resources in Central Asia (before 15 January 2000).
- 4) Regional database on fuel and energy and water resources (to be prepared by the Chair on the basis of national submissions of data).
- 5) Programme of work of the PWG-Energo for 2000 – 2002.
- 6) Adoption of the Protocol.

Chairman of the PWG-Energo,
Director of the State Energy Agency,
Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

U. Mateev

Bishkek, 19 November 1999