



## RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS

### of the Second meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Turkmenistan (NPD)

Ashgabat

27 September 2012

The second meeting of the Steering Committee was attended by the representatives of Turkmenistan, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the European Commission, UNDP-Turkmenistan, and other international and donor organizations.

*See list of participants in Annex 1.*

#### **Participants approved the following agenda:**

Session 1. Progress in implementation of cooperation between UNECE and Turkmenistan under the Programme of National Policy Dialogues in the framework of EU Water Initiative

Session 2. IWRM implementation in Turkmenistan: achievements and opportunities

Session 3. Towards IWRM: water management and environmental projects and activities in Central Asia and in Turkmenistan

Session 4. Discussion of future work under the National Policy Dialogue, proposals and recommendations

*See agenda in Annex 2.*

#### **Participants adopted the following recommendations and proposals regarding the above items of the agenda:**

1. To approve the implementation of decisions of the First meeting of the Steering Committee on the establishment of Inter-ministerial working group of experts mandated to undertake the needs assessment for the development of legal and institutional frameworks in the context of implementation of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
2. To approve recommendations of the seminar "Integrated water resources management in Turkmenistan" (12 November 2011, Ashgabat) and adopt them as a basis for further planning of cooperation between Turkmenistan, UNECE, the European Union and other international organizations for the period 2012-2013.
3. To take note of the information and suggestions by DG Development and Cooperation about the development of the National Policy Dialogues in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and the proposals for the work plan for 2012-2013.
4. Considering high effectiveness of the Inter-ministerial working group of experts in 2011, to continue the work of the group with inclusion in the group of the authorized experts from the Ministry of Public Utilities and TurkmenGeology State Corporation (*Annex 3*). If necessary, representatives of interested international organizations, agencies and public associations can be invited to the meetings of the Inter-ministerial working group.
5. To include in the work plan of the Inter-ministerial working group of experts the item to discuss the proposals of Harry Liiv (UNECE consultant, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Estonia) on the



basin approach to water management in Turkmenistan and to request the consultant to continue the work on the report, taking into account the opinions of the national experts.

6. Based on the findings of the Inter-ministerial working group of experts contained in the needs assessment for the development of legal and institutional frameworks for water resources management in Turkmenistan, to continue the work of the group in the following areas:
  - Discussion and development of recommendations on improvement of water legislation of Turkmenistan in accordance with the provisions of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, taking into account the IWRM principles and tools;
  - Discussion and development of proposals for the enhancement of the institutional framework for water resources management taking into account the river basin approach.
7. Based on the recommendations of the national seminar on IWRM, held on 12 November 2011, to recommend the following priority activities for the period of 2012-2013:
  - Organization of meetings of the Inter-ministerial working group of experts on the above issues;
  - Development of a training course on IWRM for subsequent use of materials by the ministries and agencies of Turkmenistan.
8. Subject to the availability of resources, to propose to conduct in 2013-2014 the activities for the promotion of cooperation of Turkmenistan with international organizations in the following areas:
  - Support of the Information and Analytical Service of the Ministry of Water Resources of Turkmenistan;
  - Maintaining the web site of the National Committee on Hydrometeorology under the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan (the web site is currently under development);
  - Development of project proposal and implementation of the first phase of the national project "Afforestation of the area around Botendag plateau at the east of Sarykamysh Lake in Dashoguz region in order to reduce the negative impact of the Aral Sea problem" (organization of a reconnaissance survey, development of a concept of hydrological, hydrochemical and ecological monitoring, preparation of specifications of the necessary equipment and institutional interaction diagram);
  - Study by the Turkmenistan experts of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, as well as discussion by the Inter-ministerial working group of experts of these Conventions with regard to their conformity to the national interests of Turkmenistan.
9. To take note of the information of EU, EC IFAS, UNRCCA, UNECE, GIZ, UNDP and the FFEM-EECCA project on programs in the field of water resources management and climate change adaptation. To request the FFEM-EECCA project to present its materials in the field of information activities on water resources to the Inter-ministerial working group of experts in order to introduce this topic in the agenda of the Third meeting of the Steering Committee.
10. The members of the Steering Committee should ensure participation of appointed staff in the work of the Inter-ministerial working group of experts.
11. To welcome the proposal by GIZ on possible financial support for the NPD meeting taking into account the thematic focus on basin planning.
12. To hold the Third meeting of the Steering Committee in 2013 back-to-back with the National Celebration "Drop of water is a grain of gold".