

**Check against delivery**

*23<sup>rd</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental forum  
On a theme of “Water governance in the OSCE area –  
increasing security and stability through co-operation”*

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Prague, 15.09.2015*

***Good afternoon dear ladies and gentlemen!  
Dear friends!***

My greetings to all participants of 23<sup>rd</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. I would like to thank OSCE for great organization of Today's Forum which is very important annual event in second dimension.

I would like to mention that that this forum **will definitely make its contribution for** transition to 'green' economy, including Kazakhstan's in terms of rational and sustainable use of **water resources**.

As you know, water is the basis of life on Earth. And it is the base of ecological systems which is necessary condition of any social and economic processes.

We see that human being need in water resources is increasing **year by year**. It is not only in terms of population growth, but also in pressure power of anthropogenic factor on each cubic centimeter of the hydrosphere.

It was estimated by science that from the beginning of XX century, irretrievable water consumption is increased by 10 times in the world. This means, only a century of active anthropogenic human activity withdrew from natural turnover 10% of all atmospherical condensation falling on the land in forms of rain and snow.

As it is said **water is a great traveller**. And our goal is to find a place for humanity in its way without breaking the rules of nature.

Taking into account the increasing significance of water, as you know, **in 1993 General Assembly of UN declared March 22 as World Water Day**. This date is the best suited for the holiday of water. This feast is Nauryz. It is a “New Year Day” for Muslim countries and day of vernal equinox for others!

**Dear friends!**

Definitely, **shortage of water is not a new phenomenon for mankind**. However, last decade is known by **fast growth of population and economic**. In some regions the periods of drought is repeated again. So, the situation has worsened. Probably, with climate change, **the situation will worsen further, especially**, in regions where there is already a problem of water shortage. If we do not conserve water.

Definitely, problem of conserving and use of natural water mass is **not new for Kazakhstan as well**. Currently it is being solved **in the framework of five national reforms of our Leader of Nation Nazabayev N.A.** Good beginning was the **State management program of water resources for the period up to 2020** which was adopted last year.

**Mazhilis of Kazakhstan Republic Parliament do its work** taking into account above mentioned factors and developing the legal base of water issues management. Overall 20 ecological conventions were ratified, including the UN convention on the protection and use of international watercourses and lakes.

In terms of legislation degree, during the III and IV sessions in Mazhilis **next issues were considered**: support of renewable resources use, organization and holding the International specialized exhibition EXPO-2017 in Astana. **Moreover**, the issues of natural monopolies and regulated markets and issues about energy conservation and increase of energy efficiency, as well as water supply and wastewater disposal were discussed **as well**.

**During the consideration of, for example, legislation about water supply and water disposal** the concepts of “drinking water” and “drinking and household-drinking water supply” were concretized. The norm of “complexes of wastewater treatment constructions” was **specified**. New position of “artificial water objects designed for natural biological treatment of wastewater” **was introduced**.

During the consideration of legislation on water disposal and water supply, **deputies worked out the norms** about competence of state bodies as well. **New versions** which are about system of drinking water supply and water disposal of populated locality, technical water supply, organizations of water commercial assessment were given.

**In additions**, requirements to the quality of drinking water were regulated according to established sanitary rules and hygienic standards.

During the work Mazhilis **changed the name of legislation**. Newly it is called as *“making the amendments and additions to some legislative acts of Republic of Kazakhstan on the issues of water supply and water disposal, credit and subsidies of housing and utilities sector”*

**Let me explain the reason for changing the name of legislation**. The fact is that some amendments were made to Budget and Water codes and law “About the electricity industry” in order to implement the Address of Head of State “Nurly zhol – Way to the future”.

These amendments were supported by **the decision of Government** and introduce norms on subsidiary and credit the systems of water supply, water disposal and heat supply.

**Dear friends!**

Today, there is a legislation “About the amendments and additions to some legislative acts of Republic of Kazakhstan on the issues of Kazakhstan republic’s transition to **“green economy” within the boards of Mazhilis of Kazakhstan Republic Parliament**.

According to the Address of Head of State **‘Strategy “Kazakhstan – 2050”**: new political course of established country and **“Nurly zhol – way to the future”** clear guidelines for the construction of stable and efficient economic model based on the country's transition to a "green" way of development were set as well.

**Adoption of the law will let to modernize legislative basis in “green economy” sphere**. The legislation includes the solution of ecological problems and providing the high standard quality life for population which is defined by the transition to “green economy”.

**The project is designed for**: increasing the water use efficiency in production; clarifying the competences of stated bodies in water use sphere; sustainable use of water resources.

**Together with all these issues** some solutions of problems regarding the pollution of water resources is being considered. **It is supposed** to stimulate to the introduction of separate collection of household waste: phased implementation of principles of extended responsibility of producer in order to cover parts of expenses on collection and waste disposal.

**These are determined by law:** energy saving and rising of energy efficiency; development of renewable energy resources; setting the reserve funds in the field of renewable energy resources.

**It is planned to** regulate the development of agriculture and rural areas; reduction of air pollution; improving the mechanism for distribution of quotas to greenhouse of gas emissions.

**It should be added** that new legislation is considered in Mazhilis Committee for ecology and natural resources use in the frame of **Working group**.

**Dear forum participants!**

**And going further about legislative prospects.** Hydraulic engineering works in Kazakhstan are the most widespread water body.

**At the same time** there is no special legislation about the security of hydro technical utilities.

One of the principal issues is the state regulations on relations in security of HEW. In accidents causing large-scale social-economic consequences, naturally, there are inevitable legal conflicts which can be solved on the basis of law and regulations.

The main legal basis of Kazakhstan in water sector is Water codex.

However, we must recognize that Water code as well as the **Law of Republic of Kazakhstan “About civil protection”** have no direct norms which provide a solution of both legal and organization of HEW safe operation, emergency warning and liquidation in these sites.

Review of this legislation in different countries made it possible to emphasize common issues on HEW safety.

I am confident, that the adoption of the Law “About the hydraulic engineering works” in Republic of Kazakhstan will allow to regulate the legal relations and , first of all, in the field of HEW, to carry out works on the construction of new and rehabilitation of existing water sites, to attract investment including international financial institutions.

Moreover, such a Law will steadily **develop bilateral relations with neighbor countries on the regulation of water resources of transboundary rivers and water basin to keep the balance of water bodies.**

**Dear friends!**

**In each water basin in Kazakhstan there are hundreds of water users** who geographically related to several regions and districts. So, basin water management and Committee for water resources have a huge amount of different **functions**.

However, they do not have sufficient financial base and economic incentives to influence on water policy in the basin.

Kazakhstani program documents refer to the international experience of basin management. For example, in dozens of countries there are basin public and private corporations.

Today there are **there are important preconditions for the organization of basin corporations** in Kazakhstan. In my point of view, it is enough to conduct corporatization and consolidation of existing business entities and to expand their functions to the status of general water use. In each basin there will be **a single powerful economic entity**.

Later basin corporations can be transformed to **cross-border corporations**. Thereby they can strengthen the position of Kazakhstan in cross-border negotiations and implement reached agreements.

Due to the importance for all of us, **Water conference was held in Dushanbe in June of this year.** It was dedicated to the results of implementation of International decade for actions “Water for life”. As you know, this decade has been declared **the UN in 2003**.

Kazakhstan's delegation in this forum in Dushanbe took **the initiative to establish Central-Asian fund on implementation of water projects and Regional center for water safety.**

Necessity for such investment fund is a partnership in making the decisions on implementation of water and water energy projects. It seems that with foreign donors, the fund will accumulate and allocate funds for the construction and repair of capital hydraulic engineering works and cooperatively manage them. Center of water security is needed for joint prevention and liquidation of emergency situations and natural disaster related to water.

**Water can be a source of partnership as well.** Joint management of water can lead to better relations between states and communities, and also to improve the safety, well-being and level environmental protection.

In this regard, I would like to point out that **today's forum is demanded by time itself.**

**Dear friends!**

The fact of holding this forum shows the growth of environmental awareness.

Shortage of water, lack of access to water and pollution are **a kind of trigger for tensions and conflicts.**

**Even now water is a strategic resource** and essential element for national and regional security.

**So, it is time for every person on Earth** to participate in the process of good management of water resources.

**Dear colleagues!**

According to the program of our Forum, adopted laws by Mazhilis provide legislative regulations of basic topics of the conference.

**Today the main task is to find answer to the question: how to make enough water for everyone?** Mainly it depends on willingness of people to work together. **As Chinese philosopher Lao Tzy said** "to be strong we must be like water...because of its compliance it is mostly needed than others.

In my opinion, the vectors of our Water Forum accurately reflect all the key issues that require **rethinking.**

Definitely, **there are different ways** of solving water problems. And I am confident that today's forum will help to highlight the most appropriate ones.

**I wish a fruitful work to all of you!**

*Thanks for your attention!*