



Position of The Republic of India for the purpose of the conference held by Forum for 21st Century on 29 November 2011.

The Republic of India would like to thank the Forum for 21st Century for interest and activities in these issues. We want to express full support towards finding the best solution in the protection of water resources. After an in-depth analysis of the draft given by the Forum for 21st Century we want to put forward the position of India and also our suggestions to mentioned topics.

Notes

- ✿ It is a fact, that water was one of the basic elements for creating life on planet Earth. India is convinced of irreplaceable role of water. Without this source not just evolution would not have been possible, but also the life would not exist and we would never meet there.
- ✿ The Republic of India agrees with the Forum for 21st Century on the recommended reference daily intake, but we are worried, that daily there are more and more people, for whom it is difficult to find appropriate water resources.
- ✿ India strongly believes that Forum for 21st Century has identified rightly the access to safe water and the access to basic sanitation. With rapid growing population and improving living standards the pressure on our water resources is increasing and per capita availability of water resources is reducing day by day. Conservation is about reducing total water use, and water efficiency is about reducing wasteful water use.
- ✿ India welcomes the proposal to regulate outsourcing of international corporations. It is necessary to improve legislation in these issues, because of the environment protection. Severe water shortages have already led to a growing number of conflicts across the country. Some 90 percent of India's territory is drained by inter-state rivers. The lack of clear allocation rules, and uncertainty about what water each state has a right to, imposes high economic and environmental costs.
- ✿ The responsibility for the urban water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector in India is divided between the central government and state government. The central government is responsible for the regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river basins to the extent that such regulation is in the public interest. The central government also establishes the policy framework for the management of water resources and provides funds for WSS projects via the budgetary routes. Provision of sanitation facilities occurs even less often; 70% of Indian slums do not have access to sanitation. No Indian piped water supply serving either mega-cities or smaller towns distributes water more than a few hours per day; this occurs regardless of the quantity of water available for distribution.



Proposes

Funding

We would like to express our agreement with creation a Committee which would have this agenda in its description. India would benefit from establishing an independent central regulatory agency to design, control and coordinate national programs for water conservation. We would welcome the proposal to create a fund which could support this agency. But the question of financial support to this committee is really complicated. The proposal about financing, that 1,5% of the GDP shall be directed to the funds created by the committee by each signing member country, is not accepted for our budget. GDP of India is around 1,3 billion USD, but budget for water resources on the period 2011-2012 is 1222,73 crores of rupees- it is around 242,9 million USD. The budget on the period 2011-2012 is exactly divided into many sectors and we can not finance such a large amount of money. Also we need to know more facts and possible effectivity of financing.

Representation

In India is Central Water Commission, it was established in 1945. The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating and furthering in consultation of the State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country, for purpose of Flood Control, Irrigation, Navigation, Drinking Water Supply and Water Power Development. So we can share our experiences also in the Committee. One of the priority of India's foreign policy is the sovereign equality of all states, that's why we agree with the structure of the Committee and all the member countries should have one seat in stable representation. We are not sure, if the position of TNK is effective. There is no representative of TNK, so nobody can explain us their position. World Bank assisted India on many on-going projects and we welcome their support.

Agenda

We think, that it is necessary to solve these issues on governmental and also on nongovernmental level. So we would like to support also NGOs. The Water Project is partnered with Wells for Life to help bring clean water to the poorest communities in India. Local NGOs in India work on fresh water well projects, that will alleviate the suffering a lack of access to clean water causes. Many rural communities in India who are situated on the outskirts of urban sprawl also have little choice to drill wells to access groundwater sources.

The Republic of India believes, that the Committee should support a lot of project. Regardless of improvements to drinking water, many other water sources are contaminated with both bio and chemical pollutants, and over 21% of the country's diseases are water-related. Furthermore, only 33% of the country has access to traditional sanitation. Rapid



depletion, salinization and pollution related problems threaten regions with sustainable ground water balance, whose area is continuously shrinking. India has big problem with pollution, the major sources of pollution identified are domestic pollution from large cities, an industrial pollution from industries such as sugar industry, distilleries, tanneries, or fertilisers. Today, water pollution is the greatest problem which can easily cause harmful affect to the entire ecosystem. Thus, to stop such problems of water pollution in India, major steps and measures to control it must be taken quickly. Millions of Indians currently lack access to clean drinking water, and the situation is only getting worse. One of the priority is to lose problems with water infracture, much of India's existing infrastructure is crumbling, for example crumbling, rusting, leaking dams, canals and pipes. Very important is the implementation of the National River-Linking Project of India, that connects 30 big rivers and canals and generates 175 Tr liters of water by the interlinking of rivers. This is also an important step for goverment to take, because it will reduce regional disparities in water availability.

India agrees with Forum for 21 st Century, creation a form of legislation is really necessary step. National water policy should focus on each issue like drinking water, management of inter-state river waters and related disputes, erosion, and floods, water quality, depleting ground water, water use efficiency, maintenance of irrigation projects and other related issues may be taken up. Water is getting scarce and as a policy water should be nationalized. All the rivers should be nationalized. Wastage of water should be avoided and strict laws should be made in this regard. There should be penal provisions to deal with those who waste water. Access to water sources should be made fundamental right. All types of ponds and water bodies, both on public and private lands should be protected and preserved so that they are not sold, filled and used for commercial purposes.

Hereby, The Republic of India would like to express full effort in creating the advisory body. This advisory body should consist of many experts in these issues. It would help with many projects:

- Comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resource.
- Promotion of citizen and state actions for water conservation, augmentation and preservation. Promotion of basin level integrated water resources management
- Intensive rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.
- Development of guidelines for incentivizing for recycling of water, for incentives for water-neutral and water-positive technologies, for improving efficiency of urban water supply, for mandatory water audit including those for drinking water purpose.
- Review of financing policy and allocations.

The question of the budget is really difficult, thats why it should be discussed on almost each appointment of general assembly. In November should be clear, how much money and which projects will the Committee support.



The Model Conference Global Environmental Issues

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



Modelová konferencia Environmentálna sekcia

Fakulta medzinárodných vzťahov, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave

India in fact recognize the need to manage existing water reserves in order to avoid future water strain. However for a country of such vast geographical expanse the initiatives taken so far are too few and too spread out. We are ready to discuss these water issues and try to find the best solution.



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