



FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

of the signatory bodies of the Environmental Section negotiations within the frame

of the Forum for 21st Century

Water is, has been and for many years to come will be the leading source to preserve life on Earth. In the past the main target of environmental conferences and the treaty outcomes were targeted on questions concerning global warming, greenhouse gasses, sources of green power and many other. Questions such as water pollution, obtaining water in dry areas, reducing conflicts due to lack of water have come to notice and started playing a more significant role in maintaining the standards of living in the world today. It is not only about the economy, security or finding levels of communication between nations. The tendency that we can see today is the shift in understanding these questions and putting enough stress on them, so we would be able to make those necessary changes even by applying uncommon and rare methods of multilateral communication.

With the aim of addressing the above mentioned issues, the signatory bodies of the final communiqué came to agreement to support the establishment of an independent international body to support, with its own funding representation and agenda. This document represents the output of the multilateral negotiation process which was achieved as a common consensus of all negotiating parties

1. Name

The delegates agreed upon the name International Fund for Water Affairs (IFWA). This name has been chosen due to its environmental agenda and its concerns in the topic water.

2. Funding

For the purpose of creating a functional enforcing body a certain amount of finances is going to be needed. The main source of funding will be directed from members' contributions. The amount of sources allocated from each member will depend on the strength of their economy and the amount of sources they are willing to give annually for the execution of the IFWAs agenda. The exact amount of each contribution will be declared on the first meeting of the General Assembly since the negotiating parties couldn't reach a precise amount on the section held on 29 November 2011. The African union was granted a special status as a major recipient of finances.

The financial resources will be allocated to the IFWA as a means of financial support. The structure of the payments will be divided into the two parts. 40% of the resources from each member state will be mandatory. The rest 60% will be deductible in member states through



projects done by local governmental agencies or other means for dealing with water concerns. It is up to each signatory body how it will use its annual domestic water aid. By the end of each year the unused part will be relocated to the mandatory fund.

The budget of each year will be created the year before no later than by the end of November. By this time all questions and dealings must be closed and the budget approved. The budget will consist of three parts:

- a. of the amount of financial resources diverted to projects
- b. for the inner function of the IFWA
- c. as a reserve in case of a water related crises (oil spills, draughts, contaminated water, lack of clean sources of water after natural disasters)

3. Structure

3.1. General Assembly

The General Assembly will consist of representatives, appointed agencies dealing with water issues in the member states, which will be appointed to carry out tasks as contribution to the budget, voting of heads of departments and the correct policy of the IFWA. Each member state will have one seat at the General Assembly. The delegates agreed on providing the donor countries a possibility to opt-out of undesired projects. Each project passed on to the General Assembly by the Advisory Body of experts will require a 2/3 majority vote in order to be accepted. Priority projects will be set and the least attractive would get the least finances. Each project will have the assistance of the Fund, but the least successful will have to rely on voluntary donations of the private sector and other subjects.

3.2. Advisory Body of experts

The Advisory Body of the International Fund for Water Affairs (IFWA) will consist of the Head and Deputy Head of five different fields of expertise. The members will be elected by the General Assembly for a term of 5 years with the possibility to be elected again. Candidates can also be picked from third countries, and will have to be renounced experts in their own field of expertise, with the highest education and the most possible experience. The departments of the body are the following:

Legal department- Lawyers will secure the legal flow of the activities of the IFWA. They will play a significant advisory role in the implementation of the legislation improvements set by the Committee. This way, each project could have a correct legislative background that would not break any other bilateral or multilateral agreement.

Economic department- This department will play the main advisory role in the budgeting process. It will evaluate the sustainability of each project, and will present their financial



requirements. It will also be responsible for the documentation of the projects, in order to provide the Control Board with transparent information.

Water research & development department- The two main experts will decide, which innovation could increase the efficiency of the solution process the most. They will provide the Economic department with data, information, inputs and outputs, in order to set the common budget more easily and get a share for their research and development program.

Technical department- Engineering experts will comment each proposed project, set the required length of implementation and evaluate, if the given goal is achievable and economical with current technologies. The future environmental sustainability and maintenance planning of each project will be among the concerns of this department

Project planning department- The fifth department will take into consideration the results of the other departments and set an implementation plan for each project. It will complete the process of the advisory body, by setting the final recommendations for the General Assembly, so it can begin its negotiation processes.

Digital system department – the Digital system department will consist of a digital centre and forum portal for actions, proposals, monitoring and transparent data provision. Further it would be consultative, advisory and technician organ, as well as structural and organizational element. Open approach of IFWA means cooperation with various subjects (e.g. NGO, direct work with the people) and involvement in relevant projects. Its main purpose is to avoid overlapping agendas with other subjects dealing with water issues.

3.3. The Control Board

Independent members will be elected by the General Assembly for a term of 7.5 years. The 1/3 of the members of the board will be replaced every 2.5 years. Candidates can be picked from non-contracted countries as well. The main activity of the Control Board will be to promote the transparency of the funding and the entire process of the decision making. The Control Board will supervise the International Fund for Water Affairs, and assure that it is used for the correct purpose. 40% of each share will be put to use in the Common Fund, and 60% of the share of each country will be available for Domestic Aid for Water Solutions within the country. Annually the Control Board will monitor the domestic use of the 60% share, and will relocate the unused amount into the Common Fund

4. Agenda

The delegate members of the Environmental section by the Forum for 21st Century have recognized these following points as the leading goals of the International Fund for Water Affairs:



- a. The IFWA will be responsible for the close cooperation with NGOs, Governmental agencies and other partners which have water protection in their main objectives.
- b. Pipelines are considered to be an important issue in water distribution. The main goal is to build new pipelines and fund the reconstruction and modernization of the existing ones.
- c. The role of the Fund is to financial and technically support projects for reducing wastewater produced by all production sectors and households.
- d. Desalination is a means of obtaining water in regions where underground sources of water are insufficient and the only source is salt water
- e. IFWA will consist of experts in the field of environmental law. Its agenda will be to create legislation that will support environmental protection in member states. It will also create a force to prevent a water crisis. The competences of this agenda are covered by the legal department of the Advisory Body of Experts.
- f. The Fund will also carry out the decisions which regions will be considered as priorities to other due to the situation in the region.
- g. Support of research and development under the supervision of the Control Board. Various institutions will have the possibility of applying for a refundable financial grant.
- h. Justified security of stability of catchments and the health of river system, new large dams and irrigation projects, deforestation of catchments, creation of new wells, distribution water pipes and infrastructure, partly desalination projects, creation of new water resources, monitoring system, or innovation. The delegates further agreed upon on a community use of water resources which is a cooperative democratically controlled model of governance by the users of goods and services provided.
- i. The creation of a digital library in which all the materials needed for research, personal use, media, for the general public will be kept under one institution concerning water and its role in the world.

These points are considered to be the starting point of the process of establishing the International Fund for Water Affairs. This organization will be recognized by negotiations parties as the leading partner in water protection.

By signing this document, the signatory bodies agree to all the points that have been negotiated and comprised in this single document.

In Bratislava, 29 November 2011



The Model Conference Global Environmental Issues

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



Modelová konferencia Environmentálna sekcia

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