United Nations
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

India

By Annelie Anton

POSITION OF INDIA REGARDING WATER FLOW CRISES WORLDWIDE



General information

India faces a severe water-flow and storage crisis that is driven by weak monsoon rainfall, rising temperatures and groundwater depletion. Around 600 million people experience high to extreme water stress (That is around 40-45% of the Indian Population). India's major rivers are the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Indus, which provide water for drinking, agriculture and industry. They also support hydroelectric power generation. India's 178 major reservoirs are around 31% below their full capacity. Southern regions are especially affected. India also faces transboundary water tensions, particularly with Pakistan because of the Indus River and with Bangladesh over the Ganges. These disputes involve water allocation, dams and river management.

Position on the matter

India officially recognises the water scarcity as a major national crisis, where over 600 million people are facing high to extreme water stress. The government acknowledges that annual water availability per person has fallen below the internationally recognised water-stress threshold of 1,700 cubic metres.

India views groundwater depletion, the rising demand and insufficient water management all as major threats to its population but also agriculture and economic development.

Proposed solutions

India is expanding rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge through initiatives such as “Catch the Rain” and “Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari”, that promotes local water storages and the restoration of traditional water sources. Through the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), India promotes drip and sprinkler irrigation to reduce agricultural water consumption and improve water efficiency. India is also exploring several smart water-management technologies, including digital monitoring, smart meters and leak-detection systems, to reduce water losses and improve the distribution of freshwater

Potential Blocks

India could potentially cooperate with Germany and France because both have experience in water conservation, modern infrastructure and a more sustainable river management. Sharing technology and expertise could help India improve water efficiency and protect its water resources.

Cooperation with China and Pakistan would be more difficult to manage. There are several disagreements over upstream dams and river-data sharing that have created tensions with China. While disputes over the Indus River and India's suspension of the water treaty (the Indus Waters Treaty established in 1960) in April 2025

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complicated relations and cooperation with Pakistan.

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