United Nations
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Republic of Kyrgystan

By Ivan Chumakov

POSITION OF KYRGYZSTAN REGARDING WATER FLOW CRISIS WORLDWIDE



General information

Despite being located in an arid mountainous region, Kyrgyzstan receives over 45 billion m^3 of annual water supply. having sources of Naryn, Chui and Talas rivers. Vakhsh river, despite originating in China, as Koksu River passes through Kyrgyzstan into Tajikistan and is an important water source for Kyrgys agriculture and the main water source for Tajik agriculture with Nurek Dam creating a reservoir for irrigation, drinking water and the power plant. Vakshu is however very vulnerable to droughts and in periods of extreme draughts its levels fall to the point that it is unable to pass some rapids. Kyrgyzstan had recent military confrontations with Tajikistan over the river. The same applies to Chocha Bokirgan river

Position on the matter

Roughly 30% of Kyrgyz/Tajik border is unmarked and contested. Tajikistan has been complaining multiple times that Kyrgyzstan was violating the border or was overexploiting common water resources, endangering Tajik water security. The “Golovnoy” (Main) Water Intake in Northern Tajikistan is disputed by Kyrgyzstan as the main water supply source for both countries. This instigated Kyrgystan to start a border conflict in April of 2021 to take over the water intake. 2 countries agreed to a ceasefire and are still in process of negotiations over the water intake. However, in 2022 another border conflict erupted with over 200 casualties on both sides. over 40’000 people were displaced and the peace talks are currently ongoing.

Proposed solutions

Kyrgyzstan believes that in remote regions where a water source might be located in another country, water resources should be divided equally to account for the needs of the foreign isolated community. Furthermore, the status of disputed rivers like Isfara should also be clarified. Kyrgyzstan will also propose that conflicting documents, not only the pre-1991 Soviet documents but also globally like Nile Basin agreements, be reworked to modern needs of all the nations concerned.

Potential Blocks

Russia as de-facto regional mediator might support mutual kyrgyz-tajik propositions. Ethiopia shares a similar position regarding rights to upstream water resources.

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