United Nations
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Republic of Tajikistan

By Ivan Chumakov

POSITION OF TAJIKISTAN REGARDING WATER FLOW CRISIS WORLDWIDE



General information

Tajikistan is a downstream nation with most of the fresh water except the Amu Darya river coming from Kyrgyzstan. Other important rivers are Vakhsh, Panj, and Syr Darya, which are central to national agriculture, municipal drinking supply, and hydroelectric energy. The Vakhsh River has the Nurek Dam and the Rogun Hydroelectric Power Plant, which are vulnerable to seasonal drought and Kyrgyz activities upstream. This poses a threat to cotton production and agriculture in general as well as reduces electricity generation and fresh water access to population. Tajikistan also faces a dispute with Kyrgyzstan over "Golovnoy" (Main) water intake facility in Northern Tajikistan.

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 water supply by Kyrgyzstan is the main water supply source for both countries. This instigated Kyrgyzstan 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 on both sides and the peace talks are currently ongoing. Tajikistan also holds Vorukz enclave where Isfara river begins, but flows through Kyrgyzstan before reentering Tajikistan and which both states consider as their national territory and vital interest.

Proposed solutions

As for most of its water supplies Tajikistan is a downstream nation, they will support frameworks that fairly divide fresh water among all the countries located on the basin of the cross border rivers, according to the needs of the particular nations. This means, construction of dams and water intake facilities will have to be done in coordination of all countries in the river basin and certain frameworks shall exist to prevent unjustified claims of other water intake infrastructures in the border area and such actions should be considered agression.

Potential Blocks

Russia as a de-facto regional mediator might support mutual kyrgyz-tajik. Uzbekistan as a regional ally dependent on similar river basins and Sudan and Egypt with upstream dependency also have a similar position.

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