WATER DIPLOMACY AS A TOOL FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND TRUST BUILDING

M.V. Seliverstova
Head of Federal Agency for Water Resources

SCARCITY OF WATER RESOURCES

If the wars of the last century were fought over oil, the wars of this century will be fought over water.
Ismail Serageldin, founder of the Global Water Partnership

Water crisis is a high priority hazard for humanity in terms of expected impact.
World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2015

Water resources determine:
- economic sustainability
- social and demographic development
- ensuring global, regional and national security

Factors aggravating deficit of the water resources:
- Global warming and climate change
- Non-rational water consumption
- Water quality deterioration
- Jobbery and politicization of water problems

Global water problems are threats for sustainable development and international security that require neutralization
GLOBAL WATER PROBLEMS: CLIMATE-RELATED

MITIGATION OF CLIMATE THREATS

- Adaptation measures
- Appropriate management policy based on observation data and research

GLOBAL WATER PROBLEMS: GEOGRAPHY-RELATED

Non-uniformity of surface water distribution in different regions of the world is one of the main causes of interstate conflicts

WATER AVAILABILITY IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>m³ per head per year</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1,000</th>
<th>1,700</th>
<th>15,000</th>
<th>50,000</th>
<th>60,500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

CONFLICTS AND CRISIS RELATED TO WATER DEFICIT

- 7.2 billion people (total population of the world)
- 2.7 billion people involved in conflicts and crises
- 46 countries
- 1.2 billion people in real danger of political instability
- 56 countries
- 3.3 billion people
GLOBAL WATER PROBLEMS:
MAN-MADE AND TECHNOLOGICAL

MAN-MADE AND TECHNOLOGICAL FACTORS
OF WATER RESOURCES DETERIORATION:
- Development of industry and agriculture
- Low level of technological development
- Population growth and urbanization
- Reduction of forest area and desertification
- Non-rational use of water resources
- Water pollution caused by untreated sewage

SOLUTIONS TO WATER PROBLEMS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
UN, UNECE, OSCE, UN WATER, UNESCO,
UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (IHP),
Institute for Water Education UNESCO-IHE,
World Water Council, regional integration formations CIS, EEU, etc.

SPECIAL UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL FOR WATER AND SANITATION

Goal 7
Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 7.c
Halve, by 2015, proportion of the population
without sustainable access to safe drinking water
and basic sanitation

The General Assembly declared 2005-2015 the International Decade of Action
“Water for Life”
ENSURING WATER STABILITY

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

(Helsinki, Finland, 17th March, 1992)
49 countries, including the Russian Federation

PROVISIONS OF THE WATER CONVENTION ARE SUPPLEMENTED AND SUPPORTED BY:
- The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Helsinki, Finland, 1992)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Brussels, Rio de Janeiro, 1992)
- The Ramsar Convention (formerly, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Iran, Ramsar, 2nd February 1971) and others

PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

- The commitment of prevention
- The commitment of restriction and reduction of considerable transboundary effect
- The principle of just and rational use
- The principle of sustainability
- The principle of collaboration
- The principle of pacific settlement of disputes

A special value of the Water Convention and other UN environmental protection conventions is the recommendations they provide to promote and develop the institutional structure for transboundary cooperation.
TRANSBoundary WATER BASINS OF THE WORLD

- 276 transboundary water basins join 145 countries
- These basins provide water for a half of the world land

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER BASIN MANAGEMENT

- 33% are governed by inter-state agreements
- 3% have inter-state regulation instruments that define modes of operation of reservoirs, volumes of ecological security drawdowns, rules of water distribution in the low water periods
- 64% are managed depending on a local situation thus forming certain instability in regional water security which can grow into a conflict

IMPROVEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WATER LAW PROVISIONS

International water law is a framework that does not provide clear recommendations for use and management of transboundary waterways.

The phenomenon of “hydroegoism”, observed both domestically and internationally, is evolving worldwide.

Today, a key objective is development of an ethical code for water use and management in the framework of the international water law.

Development of the principles of integrated water resources management and institutional bases of transboundary water cooperation.
MAJOR ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL WATER DIALOGUE

- Development of international water cooperation, its legal and institutional bases
- Geographic enlargement of authority of the international water law provisions and enlargement of its subject structure
- Scientific knowledge and innovation technology exchange, information interaction of the parties
- Principle of management of water resources within a hydrographic basin as a foundation of transboundary cooperation
- Interstate water basin cooperation in water-scarce regions
- Resource conservation and rational water use as a basis for national plans of water economy development
- Implementation of the international law provisions and best practices

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!