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Legal mechanisms of cooperation to manage transboundary watercourses in Central Asia

Sustainable management of transboundary watercourses is a condition sine qua non for viability of whole socio-economic and political systems of states' in Central Asia. It is not a purely technical issue, but requires an integrated approach to use of water in such areas like agriculture, natural sciences and technology. In order to synchronize all these fields in frame of sustainable water management proper instruments for international legal cooperation are required.

To establish well functioning transboundary water governance in Central Asia we shall apply instruments deriving from water resources law. First of all I will need to refer to principles of law governing the management of all waters, which the legal instruments shall remain in accordance with. One of them is sustainability principle. To fulfill the legal obligation to sustainably utilize transboundary water resources we need to address certain mechanisms, especially states' cooperation. One of them is effective prior notification of states likely to be adversely affected by a proposed use of shared waters. Effective notification shall be conducted by use of central procedural mechanisms, which is environment impact assessment. It is a procedure for evaluating the likely impact on the environment of a proposed activity related to water management.

Water law facilitates creation of a proper water management strategy for every transboundary water basin. Management of transboundary waters of Central Asia requires clear and comprehensive rules, which are flexible enough to accommodate current and future challenges. Maintaining the basic legal standards for transboundary water management is the way for securing regional stability, development and mutual international cooperation.

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