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PROBLEMS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES IN CENTRAL ASIA

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Descriptions of Central Asia.

Central Asia is located in the center of the Eurasian continent - at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and covers an area of about 4 million. km². The region covers an area of five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

For more than 20 years, which took place after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the countries of the region have not been able to overcome the contradictions in the field of water allocation. Although at first countries in the region supported the principle of sharing of transboundary water resources, which was supported by a number of agreements. The most important political step was the initiative of the first persons of national water departments of Central Asia, adopted in October 1991 Tashkent statement. It was the starting point of the negotiation process between the Central Asian states in the use of transboundary water resources. It was about the sharing of water resources, taking into account the interests of all republics. Soon, however, it turned out that each of them pursues national interests, caring little about how they relate to the interests of the neighbors and the impact on the situation in the region as a whole. In 1993, Uzbekistan for the debts of Kyrgyzstan left without gas. In response to the actions of Tashkent Bishkek to reset from the Toktogul reservoir, citing the need to produce electricity in winter and its accumulation in the summer.

In addressing water energy problems countries in the region are trying to build a joint "front" in the promotion of new hydropower projects seeking support outside the country. In September 2014 the World Bank experts presented a report which actually took the side of one of the parties. In particular, the document was expressed a positive attitude towards the project of construction of Rogun and noted that the project is the most cost-effective solution to meet the demand for electricity in Tajikistan, than any alternative.

Solving Problems sharing water and energy resources in Central Asia is not only crucial economic, but also a huge environmental, political and

international importance. Despite the agreement, which the countries of the region periodically reach, increasing the number of international agreements, effective mechanisms for joint management of water resources is still there. National egoism generates the desire for unilateral action regarding the use of transboundary water resources in Central Asia. Given that water resources in these countries is one of the main factors determining the state of most sectors of the economy, and especially agriculture, are constantly growing water scarcity and declining quality of river flow increase contradictions between the countries of the region.

Formation and use of water resources in Central Asia.

Hydrographic the main territory of Central Asia occupies the Aral Sea basin, which covers apart from the above countries, as the northern part of Afghanistan, a minor part of China and Iran. The nature of the Aral Sea basin form the highest mountain ranges of the Pamir and Tien Shan mountains, vast deserts and steppes, large Asian rivers AmuDarya, SyrDarya, which flow into the Aral Sea. Basin area within Central Asia is more than 1.5 million. Km². The overwhelming majority of the basin is located in the arid zone, the main distinguishing feature of which - shortage of fresh water.

Table 1 - Formation of surface runoff in the Aral Sea Basin

Countries	AmuDarya	SyrDarya		Total	
	km ³	%	km ³	%	km ³
Kazakhstan	-	-	4,50	12,12	4,50
Kyrgyzstan	1,90	2,42	27,40	73,77	29,30
Tajikistan	62,90	80,17	1,10	2,96	64,00
Turkmenistan (with Iran)	2,78	3,54	-	-	2,78
Uzbekistan	4,70	5,99	4,14	11,15	8,84
Afghanistan	6,18	7,88	0,00	0,00	6,18
Total	78,46	100,00	37,14	100,00	115,60

The most full-flowing river in the region is the Amu Darya, the average annual flow of which is 78,46km³. More than 80% (62,90km³) flow of this river is formed on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan. On the territory of Uzbekistan formed 4,70km³ (6%), Kyrgyzstan - 1,90km³ (2.42%), Turkmenistan (Iran) - 2,79km³ (3.5%) and Afghanistan - 6,18km³ (7.9%) Amu Darya.

Average annual flow of the Syrdarya River is 37,14km³, of which 73.8% (27,40km³) is formed on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic. On the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan is formed only 1,1km³ (2.96%) of water resources of the Syr Darya river basin.

The current situation in the region, along with the Aral Sea tragedy is compounded by global climate change, which is due to intensive melting of glaciers and snowfields in the region, and increasing water demand associated with population growth and economic development of countries.

To address the issue actively joined the World Bank, which examines the economic feasibility of the project Rogun and evaluating its impact on the environment. At the same time retained a large proportion of doubt that, in the intransigence of the Presidents of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, they agree with the arguments and recommendations of the World Bank. They made it clear that will remain at their positions regardless of its conclusions.

In February 2012, the EU expressed its disapproval of the Russian loan of 1.7 billion. Dollars. To Kyrgyzstan for construction of Kambarata that could be interpreted as an attempt to prevent the strengthening of Russian influence in the region. The fact that the lower basin of the country looking for an ally in Russia, said at least the fact that Emomali Rahmon appealed to Vladimir Putin to take close to a conflict between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and help in his resolution, and Kyrgyzstan expects mainly Russian investment in the creation of its modern hydroelectric complex. Until recently, Russia was on the side of water issues in Central Asia. However, due to historical and geopolitical reasons Russia can not be out of the problem field in Central Asia. Of course, she is interested in resolving water conflicts that threaten its interests and national security. In addition, the need to participate in solving the problems of energy and water use in Central Asia is caused by increased activity of other international players (USA, EU, China, Iran), offering its mediation services and seeking to consolidate its position in the region, pushing Russia.

Today, Russia's interest in water resources in Central Asia is connected primarily with the use of their hydropower potential. However, this highly profitable activity fraught with considerable risks — Russia is in the center of the escalating rivalry between the countries of the region for the control of transboundary water resources. It would be naive to believe that the Russian leadership is not aware of the political risk of involvement in water conflicts. Back in 2009, when he first emerged theme of Russian

large loan to Kyrgyzstan in exchange for a 50% stake in the project, the Uzbek leadership did not hide his displeasure, but to go to an open confrontation with Russia is not stalo. Chto As for Russia, it initially avoided a collision with Uzbekistan. It is worth remembering that in the face of Russian private company Rosa supports the revision of the Rogun HPP in Tajikistan, given the possible consequences for those located in the lower basin countries. And during a visit to Tajikistan in October 2012 Vladimir Putin announced Russia's intention to invest in smaller hydropower projects, without threatening economic and environmental interests of neighboring countries.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan see a way to ensure the water itself through the use of water potential in Russia and the resuscitation of the water transfer project from Western Siberia. However, this kind of water supply will be just another manifestation of the already excessive dependence on raw materials in Russia and deprive it of the stimulus to the development of promising large profits markets modern resource-saving technologies. Russia is able to assist the Central Asian countries in overcoming their water crisis through the provision of financial and technical assistance in the transition to resource conservation. This will favor its further advance their market investments and equipment. At the political level, Russia's participation in the settlement of inter-state differences in character of transboundary waters should be directed to the conclusion of multilateral agreements on mutually acceptable mode of water, which is consistent with its position of investors and business partners in Central Asia. According to UNDP, the economic benefits of cooperation in the region in the field of water use is estimated at 5% of the regional GDP. However, since the prospect of an agreement between the two countries on the water is not expected, in a situation where major policy decisions in the Central Asian countries are taken at the highest level, much will depend on the performance of its mediation Russian diplomatic mission, including the talks between the heads of state. The problem of transboundary water resources goes beyond mere resource problems, and to a great extent politicized determined by the complex nature of relations between the countries of Central Asia and, above all, between their political elites and their unwillingness to make concessions, their national egoism, which, in turn, fueled by political rivalries in the conditions of instability of their political and economic systems. Nevertheless, a certain optimism about the water situation in Central Asia is

preserved - the fact that, as history shows, water conflicts are resolved sooner or later. And the way to it is through cooperation and economic integration.

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