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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC  
Shvetsariya taraqqiyot va hamkorlik Agentligi SDC

## FIRST TECHNICAL MEETING ON WASTEWATER STANDARDS IN UZBEKISTAN

### PROTOCOL

This meeting was held within the framework of the Water Sector Donors' Coordination in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and with the support of / within the framework of the project "Strengthening Action in Uzbekistan on Water and Sanitation and Protection of Water Resources from Accidental Pollution in the face of Climate Change ", which is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

The meeting agenda and list of meeting participants are in attached in annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

The **purpose of the meeting** was to discuss existing standards for wastewater treatment in Uzbekistan and agree on the further development of regulation on this topic.

#### Issues discussed during the meeting

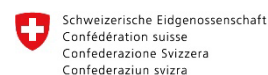
1. Requirements for the quality of water treatment in different countries are somewhat different, however, each national standard requires considering the condition of water bodies receiving wastewater (for example, taking into account the so-called sensitive zones or highlighting categories of water use).
2. The accuracy of calculations for wastewater quality affects the cost of capital and operating costs, especially in case of new wastewater treatment facilities. It is important to distinguish between the requirements for water quality of categories I and II in SanPiN No. 0318-2015 (applicable to areas used for drinking, domestic and recreational water use) and the requirements for wastewater treatment. The calculation of wastewater quality parameters should consider the average daily hourly flow of wastewater, the concentration of the pollutants, as well as the background water quality in receiving waterbody above the wastewater discharge and possible dilution to reach the background water quality in the natural waterbody downstream (up to 500 m).Modelling of the impact of the discharge of the wastewater treatment plants is essential to determine which level of treatment is needed for the WWTP and the maximum allowable discharge (according to the Resolution n°14 of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 21.01.2014).
3. Most of the municipal wastewater treatment plants in Uzbekistan were built in the 1960s-80s, thus many of them are worn-out which reduces the quality of wastewater treatment, and there are periodic emergency discharges. For this reason the standards should be set to incentive the creation of new wastewater treatment plants and the renewal of the majority of the 59 existing wastewater treatment plants built 40-60 years ago.
4. Industrial enterprises often discharge insufficiently treated water into the general collector system, and, given that WWTPs are not designed for the treatment of specific chemicals, industrial chemicals collapse biological treatment at the urban WWTP, and the pollutants penetrate to the of natural water bodies. The legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan allows termination of contracts with the industrial enterprises breaking these rules until the level of wastewater treatment is restored. As an integrated approach towards wastewater, monitoring of industrial discharges shall be reinforced and existing regulations enforced.

5. One of the issues to be addressed in Uzbekistan is whether the wastewater treatment standards should be adopted at / before the design stage or after it. The Ministry of Ecology explained that the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Nature Protection” / Art. 24. “State Environmental Expertise” states:
  - “State environmental assessment is a mandatory measure of environmental protection that precedes the adoption of an economic decision.”
 Also, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Environmental Expertise” states:
  - Art. 1. “The concept of environmental impact assessment” defines “Environmental impact assessment is understood as establishing the compliance of planned or ongoing economic and other activities with environmental requirements and determining the admissibility of implementing the object of environmental impact assessment”;
  - Art. 3. “Goals of environmental impact assessment”: Environmental impact assessment is carried out in order to determine: compliance with environmental requirements of the predicted economic and other activities at the stages preceding the decision on its implementation; the level of environmental hazard of planned or ongoing economic and other activities that may have or are having a negative impact on the state of the natural environment and the health of citizens; sufficiency and validity of the envisaged measures for environmental protection and rational use of natural resources”.
6. The Chirchik River experiences serious anthropogenic load (wastewater, water intake), so pilot modelling of the Chirchik River section, considering its water balance, quality of the waterbodies and quality of discharges, can significantly assist the calculations of maximum permissible discharges. There is enough data for such work; it was collected, particularly by UZHYDROMET, including within the framework of an ADB-funded project.
7. Kazakhstan has taken several actions on this issue, namely:
  - revised the unified system for classifying water quality in water bodies (Order of the Chairman of the Committee on Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 9, 2016, No. 151.2016, with amendments dated 20 March 2024 no 70),
  - developed the national standard “Regulatory purified wastewater, diverted from populated areas with a centralized drainage system” (ST RK 2748-2021),
  - A directory of best available technologies (BAT) is being developed, its publication is planned by the end of 2024, which is also a requirement of the Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan and includes economic incentive mechanisms.

### **Conclusions and decisions of the meeting**

1. The water quality indicators specified in SanPiN No. 0318-2015 should be distinguished from the requirements for wastewater at the point of discharge.
2. To clarify the application of the current national legislation, the Center for State Environmental Expertise of the Republic of Uzbekistan has developed a draft instruction - it will be finalized soon and shared with the meeting participants for comment.
3. For the same purpose, the possibility of mapping zones I and II categories specified in SanPiN No. 0318-2015 will be considered.
4. To develop a national standard for wastewater treatment, taking into account the experience of Kazakhstan. When developing the standard, standards for wastewater treatment for irrigation, re-use and underground water recharged could be others uses for the outlet water should be considered for inclusion.
5. To revise the classification of the quality of natural water bodies, considering the experience of the neighbouring countries.
6. To consider the possibility of the pilot modelling of the Chirchik River, taking into account its water balance, quality of the waterbodies and impact of discharges on a natural waterbody.

7. Work in this area will continue within the scope of the sectoral Working Group of the SDC . UNECE will provide support to the Republic of Uzbekistan in revising the wastewater quality standard, as well as the classification of the quality of natural water bodies - within the framework of the SDC project / its part of the Protocol on Water and Health. International financial organizations expressed their readiness to support the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in work in this area.
8. All meeting materials are available on the website of the Water Convention <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Water-Convention/events/388874>, as well as on the website of Water Sector Donors' Coordination in the Republic of Uzbekistan <https://iarc.uz/project/meetings>.



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## FIRST TECHNICAL MEETING ON WASTEWATER STANDARDS IN UZBEKISTAN

**Date:** March 15, 2024

**Venue:** Hilton Hotel, Tashkent

**Moderator:** Tamara Kutonova , UNECE, Program Manager for National Policy  
Dialogues on Water

March 15 , 2024 ( 14.00 – 18.00 )	
14:00 – 14:30	Registration of participants and coffee   Testing the remote connection
14:30 – 14:45	Greetings ( 5 min each ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan</li> <li>– Ministry of Water Resources Uzbekistan</li> </ul>
14:45 – 15:15	Views on current wastewater treatment standards in Uzbekistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Uzsuvtaminot ( 10 min )</li> <li>– Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan ( 10 min )</li> <li>– International financial organizations (joint presentation, 10 min)</li> </ul>
15:15 – 15:35	Experience of Kazakhstan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Revision of standards in Kazakhstan: process, results and lessons learned - Amangeldy Dzhumagulov, Director of Stroy DesignProject LLP ( 10 min )</li> <li>– Discussion ( 10 min )</li> </ul>
15:35 – 16:05	Discussion
16:05 – 16:35	Break
16:35 – 18:00	Continuing the discussion and agreeing on further actions
18:00	End of the meeting

**ПЕРВОЕ ТЕХНИЧЕСКОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ ПО СТАНДАРТАМ СТОЧНЫХ ВОД В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ /  
FIRST TECHNICAL MEETING ON WASTEWATER STANDARDS IN UZBEKISTAN**

**СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 15 March 2024 /Ташкент, Узбекистан, 15 марта 2024**

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