



SC (16) SI 17 E
Original: English

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM

DRAFT RESOLUTION

ON

**“DRINKING WATER: FOSTERING CO-OPERATION TO
PROTECT A SCARCE RESOURCE ADVERSELY AFFECTED
BY CLIMATE CHANGE”**

**PRINCIPAL SPONSOR
Mr. Godfrey Farrugia
Malta**

TBILISI, 1 – 5 JULY 2016

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Drinking Water: Fostering Co-operation to Protect a Scarce Resource Adversely Affected by Climate Change

Principal Sponsor: Mr. Godfrey Farrugia (Malta)

1. Recognizing that only 2.5 per cent of the world's water can be used for drinking as the remaining 97.5 per cent is salt water from oceans and seas,
2. Stressing that water is an essential life-sustaining world heritage resource which is indispensable for our survival and well-being, and as such, its protection and management is a shared responsibility between all States,
3. Envisaging that by 2050 the world's population will increase to 9.6 billion people and that this will result both in a higher demand for and consumption of water,
4. Noting that trans-boundary water includes rivers and lakes, groundwater and atmospheric water which cross States' borders, thus requiring co-operation between States to protect and manage them,
5. Noting that there are 276 trans-boundary river basins across the globe and that 200 trans-boundary aquifers have been identified,
6. Stressing that trans-boundary water co-operation has the potential to generate many significant benefits for co-operating countries, including accelerated economic growth, increased human well-being, enhanced environmental sustainability, and increased political stability,
7. Noting that there are both developed and developing countries and regions worldwide which fall under the absolute water scarcity category,
8. Accepting that water quality and quantity are adversely affected by urbanization and the persistent economic inequalities worldwide, both in cities and between urban and rural areas, where people with low incomes have less access to good quality water, leaving them vulnerable to poor sanitation, which is linked to the transmission of diseases,
9. Recognizing that water is a global focal point between sustainable environment and sustainable development and that a nation's economic prosperity also depends on the availability and affordability of safe drinking water,
10. Accepting that water has hugely important multiple uses in the domestic, agricultural, fisheries, and industrial sectors, as well as being indispensable for both macro- and micro-ecosystems,
11. Considering the number of environmental challenges that our world is currently facing as a result of climate change, which in itself causes extreme weather conditions, such as droughts, scarcity, and flooding, which negatively impact human security,

12. Recalling the 1992 United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention),
13. Recalling the 1997 UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses,
14. Recalling the 1994 UN Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,
15. Recalling the UN General Assembly's Resolution on the Law of Trans-boundary Aquifers,
16. Recalling the UN General Assembly's explicit recognition in 2010 of the human right to water and sanitation,
17. Recalling the seventh UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG), the aim of which was to halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015, and noting that the world has met the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water five years ahead of schedule, but despite the progress made in improving adequate sanitation, 2.4 billion people are still using unimproved sanitation facilities,
18. Remembering that the Water Framework Directive aims to protect ground and surface waters and the achievement of good ecological status by 2015, and that the WFD obliges European Union (EU) Member States to draft River Basin Management Plans to protect each of the 110 river basin districts in the EU territory,
19. Recalling the EU's Nitrates Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, and the Bathing Water Directive, which aim to safeguard and enhance Europe's coastal waters,
20. Recalling the importance of bilateral, regional, and multilateral legal frameworks which have made possible the conclusion of a number of treaties, protocols, and conventions on the use, development, and protection of trans-boundary watercourses and related ecosystems,
21. Recalling the Geneva Convention on Long-Range Trans-boundary Air Pollution, the EU's Directive on Ambient Air Quality, the National Emission Ceilings Directive, the Air Quality Framework Directive; the Directive on the limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air; the Directive on the limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air; the Ozone Directive and the Directive relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons which have an impact on atmospheric water,
22. Recalling that the UN-Water side event during COP21 agreed that the effects of climate change will be mostly felt on the water cycle, and consequently noting that political leadership and long-term solutions are required to honour the commitments undertaken in Paris,

23. Remembering the Concluding Meeting of the 23rd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum held in September 2015 in Prague, entitled *Water Governance in the OSCE Area – Increasing Security and Stability through Co-operation*, and the importance of keeping up the momentum and implementing in practice the results of the Forum,
24. Welcoming the importance given to the issue of water in the 2015 Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA, which was held on 15-18 September in Mongolia,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

25. Urges the participating States to identify and treat water governance as a very important priority and to explore all avenues to further strengthen our co-operation so that we collectively gain as many sustainable environmental and economic benefits as possible;
26. Urges the participating States to re-assess international agreements and treaties on surface water to which they are signatory whilst ensuring that there are workable monitoring provisions, enforcement mechanisms, and specific water allocation provisions that address variations in water flow and changing needs;
27. Urges the participating States to safeguard and monitor surface and transit water, underground water, and coastal water from the negative impacts of contaminants, industrial and human waste;
28. Calls on the participating States to safeguard and monitor air quality standards in order to keep the negative impact of air pollution under control;
29. Urges the participating States to take adequate and effective measures at national and international levels to address climate change, which is the root cause of many water-related crises such as droughts, scarcity or flooding, which can lead to the forced migration of millions of people and the loss of biodiversity among many other catastrophic consequences;
30. Urges the participating States to diversify their sources of water, including by treating, reusing, and recycling waste water, in order to optimize their water management;
31. Encourages the participating States to promote life sciences research that will result in the improved use of water, greener water-related technology, and a decreased dependence on fossil fuel, which will contribute to the fight against climate change;
32. Encourages the participating States to continue educating the consumer and the industry on water use and water scarcity, including through the Aarhus Centres;
33. Urges the participating States to show political commitment to systematically plan and manage as best they can such a precious commodity and life-sustaining resource, whilst ensuring that all citizens have an accessible and affordable water supply.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT to the DRAFT RESOLUTION

on

**“DRINKING WATER: FOSTERING CO-OPERATION TO PROTECT A SCARCE
RESOURCE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE”**

[Set out text of Amendment here:]

Principal Sponsor:

Mr/Mrs	Family Name in Capital Letters	Country	Signature

Co-sponsored by:

Mr/Mrs	Family Name in Capital Letters	Country	Signature