

Position Paper

Topic: Securing Water Supply throughout the World

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Status quo

Contrary to the general perception, Turkey is not the richest country in freshwater resources. As a semi-arid Mediterranean country, it has only about 1/5 of the water available per capita in water rich regions.

International situation

Over half of the world population will be living with water shortage in 50 years because of a worldwide water crisis, according to a report issued by the United Nations Environment. (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2011)

Conventions and resolutions that Turkey has signed or ratified

Turkey, as a member state of the United Nations, adopted the Millennium Declaration in 2000. Two main statements in terms of securing water resource within the UN are as follows: Firstly, “to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people being unable to reach safe drinking water”. Secondly, “to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies”. (United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2000)

Proposal for Solutions

Based on the current policy adopted by the UN, ensuring the smooth implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) across all member states is needed. Assisting the countries with water shortage and continuation of advocating equitable distribution of water resources is the most effective.

Reference

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Position Paper

Topic: Precaution and Response to Oil Spills

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Status quo

Oil has been one of the main energy sources in Turkey. Around 55% of total oil stocks are of crude oil. The use of emergency oil stocks is Turkey's main emergency response policy, complemented by demand restraint measures. (International Energy Agency, 2013)

A major oil spill was reported July 16 at the Aksa power plant in Kalecik. Oil was being offloaded from a tanker to the plant and the pipe subsequently burst. Minister for Tourism and the Environment confirmed that over 100 tons of oil was released. (Hürriyet Daily News, 2013)

International situation

The main means of oil tanker traffic is by sea. The amount of oil transport increased from 1278 million tonnes in 1982 to 2355 million tonnes per year in 2005. (Turan, 2013)

Conventions and resolutions that Turkey has signed or ratified

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) is signed in 1990. Therefore, measures for dealing with oil pollution incidents are established, leading to the legislation of Oil Spill Response Law in 2005.

Proposal for Solutions

Advocating international co-operation and assistance in overcoming geological disadvantages in oil transport is suggested. Turkey has the most critical passages in the world for oil vessels particularly because of its narrowness. (Turan, 2013)

Improvement in technology of transport would be effective in preventing oil spill.

Adjusting the amount of oil production from member states would reduce the need for sea transport of oil, thus reducing the risks of oil spills.

Reference

International Energy Agency (2013), Oil and Gas Emergency Policy - Turkey 2013 update. International Energy Agency. Retrieved December 19 2013 From <http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/name,38110,en.html>

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