



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Youth Resolution on

Water and Sanitation

adopted at the UN ESCAP Youth Forum on the Implementation of Rio+20

for East and North-East Asia (ENEA) and North and Central Asia (NCA),

Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 21 August 2013

Twenty-nine representatives of youth organizations from 11 countries of East and North-East Asia (ENEA) and North and Central Asia (NCA), namely Armenia, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, met for three days on 19-21 August 2013 at Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, and discussed youth actions to support the implementation of Rio+20. The youths chose three thematic topics prior to the Forum, and during the Forum they created and unanimously adopted three resolutions as the outcome documents of the discussions.

The three thematic topics are: 1) Water and Sanitation; 2) Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements; and 3) Education for Sustainable Development.

Below is the youth resolution on the thematic topic 1) Water and Sanitation.

The UN ESCAP Youth Forum,

Taking into account the increase of pollution and poor sanitation in water resources of the ENEA and NCA subregions,

Convinced of the need for an entity to promote cooperation in the Water and Sanitation sphere, as well as to raise awareness on the necessity of clean water, in ENEA and NCA subregions,

Seriously concerned about the absence of a common document for providing effective estimation of Water Resources quality,

Underlining the importance of providing the rural population with access to safe drinking water,

Noting the necessity of promoting general knowledge about environment for children,

Further supporting the improvement of the conditions of water supply systems in rural areas of ENEA and NCA subregions,

Appreciating the effort of the governments of the member States to standardize water purification,

Considering the need of involving countries in the process of managing transboundary water resources,

1. *Expresses its support* towards the establishment of Youth International Water Council and an international network of ecological educational centers on control and monitoring of the freshwater resources environment in UN ESCAP member States;

2. *Highly appreciates* the creation of a special working group on water issues involving youth, with support from the member States;

3. *Encourages* the Benthological Society of Asia (BSA) to develop international documents on professional and public freshwater bioassessment and management, to be addressed to Ministries of Ecology and Natural Resources and Agencies of Water Recourses, with a view to developing and introducing modern biological monitoring based on the United States “Rapid Bioassessment Protocols” and regional protocols such as those used in Japan and the Republic of Korea;

4. *Underscores the necessity* of improving the water sanitation in rural areas by attracting international investments from member States;

5. *Recommends* an introduction of national educational programmes on water in schools of ENEA and NCA subregions;

6. *Appreciates* cooperation of water companies to provide funds and basic infrastructure for the basic water supply system in rural areas;

7. *Calls upon* the governments to set international standardized regulations on, and develop and implement, a system of actions to purify desalinated water;

8. *Welcomes* further cooperation between border-sharing countries regarding regulation and usage of transboundary water basins of ENEA and NCA subregions.

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