

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
IN THE FIELD OF EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF WATER
RESOURCES AND COMBATING OF DROUGHT**

The Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, hereinafter referred to as “The Parties”,

Expressing the desire to strengthen the friendly relations and expand bilateral cooperation on efficient utilization of water resources and drought mitigation,

Acknowledging the importance of sustainable development for the protection and effective utilization water resources and remediation of the water quality,

Stressing the importance of monitoring and assessment of meteorological and hydrological data for drought mitigation and preserving water resources in quantity and quality,

Keeping in mind that protection and efficient utilization of water resources require close cooperation between the Parties in scientific, technical and technological aspects,

The Parties have agreed on the following;

ARTICLE 1

For effective utilization of water resources and combating drought the Parties shall cooperate through the transfer of knowledge, experience and technology on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Both Parties shall explore the possible financial resources for funding the projects related to efficient utilization of water resources and drought mitigation, through the realization of modern techniques.

ARTICLE 2

The Parties shall cooperate in the following areas;

- a) Current situation of the water resources between the Parties with respect to the hydrological and meteorological conditions shall be determined through sharing of the information and data,
- b) Application of modern water treatment technologies, if needed,
- c) Establishment of the flood early warning systems,
- d) Exchange of experiences on artificial rainmaking (planting the clouds to increase rainfall), and drought resistant plant agriculture, elimination of plant diseases,
- e) Current hydrological measurement stations will be assessed and studies towards their calibration will take place, cooperation on setting up of new stations, in case it is deemed necessary,
- f) Exchange information and experience on the modern irrigation techniques such as drop irrigation, which play a major role in evaporation and reduction of the other ways of water loss, as well as the improvement of product quality,
- g) In order to get maximum benefit from existing water resources and prevention of water loss in irrigation during transportation and distribution of it, realization of joint projects on the modernization of existing irrigation systems and use of close and pressurized systems in the irrigation nets which have been constructed or in planning If the Syrian side requests, the Turkish side shall provide technical assistance on modernization of irrigation systems as well as on planning and preparation of them in Syria.

Companies from both countries will be able to take part in the tender process of construction works of the irrigation nets in Syria and Turkey, supply the necessary contractor services, materials and supplies. Turkish as well as

Syrian companies will be invited to tenders that will be announced for this purpose in accordance with the national legislations in effect.

- h)** Turkish and Syrian companies will be invited to tenders that will be announced towards the cleaning of sediments and moss, grass and other plants in the irrigation and drainage canals in Syria and Turkey,
- i)** Joint studies will take place to prevent the loss of drinking water and to obtain healthy water,
- j)** Exchange the information on best practices on mitigation of drought's effects and efficient utilization of water resources,
- k)** Studies, investigation and project preparations will be realized to avoid floods,
- l)** Training programs on efficient utilization of water resources and operation of dams will be held,
- m)** Establishment of joint database on hydrological and meteorological data with a view to monitoring of drought and its effects, Turkey and Syria shall cooperate. If deemed necessary by both Parties, will invite Iraq to join for cooperation,
- n)** Develop mechanisms to eliminate the problems that may come up in dry periods,
- o)** Cooperate on mitigation of climate change effects on water resources,
- p)** Cooperate in the field of developing tools and equipments to monitor the climate changes and efficient utilization of water resources,
- q)** Sharing information and technology on collection of wastewater and reuse of treated waste water in agriculture and industry,
- r)** Cooperation on development of drought early warning systems.

- s) Sharing of information and experience on taking measurements and combating against plant and animal diseases as well as the farm losses during drought period, and making cooperation on these issues,
- t) Rehabilitation of new plant species which are resistant to drought, identification of existing plant species, resistant to drought, and exchanging of information on production of qualified seeds drought resistant plant species,
- u) Exchanging of information and experience on optimal use of water in irrigation and irrigation management and making cooperation on these areas,
- v) Cooperation on land use techniques which strengthen the water prevention in soil.

ARTICLE 3

Both Parties shall exchange experts and trainees on the agreed areas. The transportation costs of the experts and trainees shall be spent by their country, on the other hand, accommodation costs will be borne by the host country.

ARTICLE 4

Both Parties may invite government agencies, academic institutions, private enterprises and non-governmental organizations found in their country, to participate in the activities within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding, upon mutual agreement.

ARTICLE 5

Following the entry into force of this Memorandum of Understanding, each Party shall designate a National Coordinator to be responsible for the management of cooperation activities under this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Parties shall notify each other regarding the name of the National Coordinator. The Parties may designate a deputy National Coordinator at any time upon written notice to the other Party.

National Coordinators of the Parties shall prepare Annual Working Programs containing the concrete elaboration of cooperation activities envisaged under Article 2 of this Memorandum of Understanding.

By mutual consensus the National Coordinators may meet any time to discuss the activities under this Memorandum of Understanding or to review other matters concerning their cooperation in the field of efficient water utilization and drought mitigation.

ARTICLE 6

Upon mutual agreement, each of the Parties may share the results of their cooperation with third Parties provided that in conformity with their national legislation.

ARTICLE 7

Any dispute that may arise from interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved by negotiation between the Parties.

ARTICLE 8

This Memorandum of Understanding shall not be interpreted so as to prejudice the rights and obligations of the Parties resulting from other agreements in force concluded by the two Parties under international law.

ARTICLE 9

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of the last written notification by which the Parties inform each other that their national legal requirements for its entry into force have been completed.

The Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for a period of five years, unless one of the Parties informs the other six months before the termination date, by a written notice, of its will to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Memorandum of Understanding may be supplemented or amended upon the mutual consent of the Parties. These modifications shall enter into force according to the procedure established in Paragraph 1 on the present Article.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the validity of the activities agreed upon pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding and initiated prior to such termination.

Done in Damascus on 23 December 2009, in two original copies each in the Turkish, Arabic and English languages, all the texts are being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE SYRIAN ARAP REPUBLIC**

**H.E. Veysel Eroğlu
Minister of Environment and Forestry**

**H.E. Nader Al Bounni
Minister of Irrigation**