Algeria on "The law of transboundary aquifers"

By Mehdi Remaoun, First Secretary

Distinguished delegates,

Algeria aligns itself with the statement delivered by Tunisia on behalf of the Arab Group.

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Given the number of transboundary aquifers in Algeria, including five major ones, my delegation considers this agenda item of great importance.

Algeria's water legislation and regulation goal is to preserve qualitatively and quantitatively the use of the aquifers, as for instance the Water Act of 2005 aiming to establish the prjnciples and rules for the use, management and sustainable development of water resources. We can also mention the executive decree 07-399 on qualitative protection perimeters of water resources, the executive decree 10-317 on sampling and analyzes of samples of groundwater resources and surface water, as well as the executive decree 10-318 on the modalities for granting concession of use of water resources in fossil aquifers or poorly renewable systems.

As indicated in the first Secretary-General's report on "The law of transboundary aquifers", contained in document A/66/116, Algeria highlighted the importance of bilateral and regional cooperation through the conclusion of agreements and the introduction of joint cooperation mechanisms between States sharing aquifers. In the same time, Algeria expressed readiness to fully cooperate in order to consider the best way to follow up on the draft articles.

Accordingly, Algeria reiterates the importance of bilateral and regional cooperation among shared aquifer States. It is up to the latter to agree on specific measures related to the management, exploitation and protection of the shared aquifer, bearing in mind that the ILC draft articles is of general nature providing principles to guide States in their negotiations of bilateral and regional agreements.

In this regard, the Consultation Mechanism of the Northern Sahara Aquifer System is an important regional tool used by water management institutions of Algeria, Libya and Tunisia.

This cooperation mechanism between these three countries sharing the Northern Sahara Aquifer led to improve the knowledge and technical collaborations of the aquifer waters.

Distinguished delegates,

Algeria notes again that the general definition of the term "aquifer" in draft Article 2, paragraph a), does not mention the details of typologies identified by specialists, like confined aquifers of unconfined, and does not differentiate between renewable aquifers from fossil aquifers. Regional cooperation frameworks should therefore supplement it in order to meet the required specifications to manage the particularities of each type of aquifer.

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Moreoyer, Algeria emphasizes the importance to take into account the environmental dimension, related to the sustainable development of the transboundary aquifers concerned States, through appropriate protection and good faith cooperation to reach a fair and reasonable use of the water aquifer resources.

Therefore, Algeria insists on the strengthening of national regulatory frameworks, as well as bilateral and subregional cooperation, in order to ensure effective protection of the aquifer water resources against any form of pollution.

To that end, Algeria intention is to promote the establishment of mechanisms on aquifers shared
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