



Environment and Sustainable Development Committee

Report of the Meeting

**Helmand:
Iran's Water Right and
Hamun International Wetland's
Protection Challenges**

12 Jun 2023



Lecturers	Topics	Lectures' Kernels
<p>Dr. Nasrin Mosaffa Professor, University of Tehran IAUNS Chair</p>	<p>Foreword</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Historical prominence of water matter and development one of the first international institutions on the Rhine River; ● Taking different and supplemental approach to Helmand will hopefully lead to capacity building for scientific consideration of the matter;
<p>Dr. Javad Amin-Mansour Researcher and Former Diplomat, Meeting Chairperson</p>	<p>Subject Sketch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Magnitude of the wetlands' management; ● Conflict between national boundary- based interests and environmental boundary-less approaches ; ● The necessity of Iran's integrated and balanced foreign policy towards Eastern and Western neighbors so that being applicable in both sides uniformly;

<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Mohammad Reza Shahbaz Beigian Assistant Professor, Tarbiat Modares University</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Systemic Analysis of Helmand Conflict through Revitalization of the Hamun Wetland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Treaty being as an ineffective cooperation indicator in the water conflict of Helmand as a trans-boundary river; ◆ Requirement of the evaluation of the negotiable water as a well known phrase in boundary waters management in order to both Iran and Afghanistan could meet in the halfway to avoid risk-taking or violence in cooperation and conflict intercept according to scientific papers; ◆ Iran's essentiality of assuming tracks two and three other than track one in water diplomacy which are not purely state-centric but based on trust- building and public diplomacy;
<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Shirin Shirazian Assistant Professor Islamic Azad University, Science and Research</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Afghanistan Developmental actions and obligations of the Helmand Treaty 1973</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Afghanistan's currently 19 built or constructing development projects such as Kajaki and Kamal Khan dams; ➤ Iran and Afghanistan treaties history from the Treaty of Paris 1857 to Godsmith Arbitration 1872 to McMahon Arbitration 1902 to Helmand River Delta Commission 1951 to the Helmand Treaty 1973 which reflects the strained relations between the two countries due to the water and diminishing Iran's water right finally to 5661.715 million cubic meter per normal year; ➤ Afghanistan violation of articles 2, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 5 appendage 1 of the Helmand Treaty; ➤ Afghanistan justifications for its violations based on continuous droughts, destruction of water establishments on the northern Kajaki dam due to internal conflicts and its impracticability because of security considerations, damages of recent floods in a way that made holding to the treaty impossible, and claims on Iran's mismanagement of its water right;

<p align="center">Eng. Mohammad Darvish Environment Committee Chief of the UNESCO Chair on Social health and Development</p>	<p align="center">Current Condition of Zabol; Problems and Solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zabol's dryness exacerbation and absolute drought in Iran's inland wetlands such as Bakhtegan, Tashk, Kamjan, Gavkhooni and Jazmoorian which are even worse than Hamun's wetlands due to trade and commodification of water; ● Afghanistan's lack of chance for water regulation due to its central governments' weaknesses and specially Taliban as an impediment to water policy enforcement; ● Indispensability of a win-win equation for Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to ensuring an effective cooperation and striking a rational balance; ● Iran's violations of environmental ethics and immature comprehension of the laws of nature lead to the darkest prospective condition; ● Hamun collapse due to defining an intensive water- based economy by both Iran and Afghanistan;
<p align="center">Dr. Mahnaz Rashidi Assistant Professor, Islamic Azad University Central Tehran Branch</p>	<p align="center">Helmand International Wetland's Environmental water right through International Law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Hamun's wetlands' characteristics such as the Puzak south end, Helmand and Saberi being registered in the list of wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar Sites; ➔ Lack of consideration to environmental flows in Helmand Treaty as defined in Brisbane Declaration 2007; ➔ The Convention of Biological Diversity 1992 as a common multilateral international convention between Iran and Afghanistan; ➔ Commitments to the principal of no harm to biodiversity, human health and economy and the ecosystem protection principal partly in Customary International Law to reach environmental sustainability; ➔ Cognizance of Indus Waters Kishenganga Arbitration 2013 between Pakistan and India among international judicial precedents.
Questions and Answers;		
<p align="center">Dr. Mohsen Abdollahi Associate Professor, Shahid Beheshti University</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Since there is already an enforceable treaty between Iran and Afghanistan, Iran's absolute water right is ensured by the treaty and it is not conditional to Iran's competency therefore, new treaty is not the case unless on the mutual wetlands' water stress management and revitalization; ✓ Seven billion cubic meter is needed to revitalize the wetlands which can not be fulfilled by merely Iran's water right. 	

Meeting Coordinator: Dr. Mona Karbalaie Amini

Reporter: Dr. Setareh Taherkhani