

## **The Real Challenges to“ Access to Water ” are not Hydro Technical, but Hydro Political<sup>1</sup>**

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### **SUMMARY**

While World was changing in international relationship rapidly, little attention has been paid to real access to water challenges.

This paper first reviews water related challenges together with consequences of it . It also discusses the ongoing changing in natural climate and approaching threats. We aim to addresses the risk of climate and water related mass migration and emerging importance of water diplomacy.

We conclude with a discussion of the real challenges are not hydro technical but hydro political. That directly contradicts the some considerations and assumptions on ongoing water challenges .

**Keywords:** Water Politics ; Hydro Politics; Water Challenge;

### **1.INTRODUCTION**

For the past several years, water has consistently been named as a leading risk in the World Economic Forum’s annual survey of global leaders, and newspapers worldwide are awash with stories warning of a water crisis.

Is the world really facing a water crisis ? It is not easy to respond as Yes to this question but we can easily say that uncertainties are coming towards to especially low income societies.It can be considered a kind of crisis related with water

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The uncertainties will create some serious problems but not in the way most people think. In fact it should be realised that the real challenges are not technical or hydrological but political.

The world's water problems is really more interrelated with real-world foreign policy challenges .

## **2.WATER-RELATED CHALLENGES**

Water-related challenges that can be classified as three separate one in general

1. the world's fresh water is very unevenly distributed, and mega cities will face serious water related problems because the world's population is both growing and increasingly clustered in cities, it's becoming more and more challenging to find enough water in different sectoral use such as energy, agriculture and domestic use at the same time This challenge is responsible for the overexploitation of many major rivers and ground-water aquifers worldwide.
2. Second, the hydrological cycle is fickle and often delivers either too much water, causing flooding, or too little, resulting in drought. Climate change is shifting both the magnitude and the seasonality of precipitation in many parts of the World including Turkey (3).
3. Third, Lack of clean water is another ancient scourge, but the scale of pollution from industrialized societies, which produce vast quantities of pesticides, fertilizers, and heavy metals, has again made the problem much worse.

## **3. TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS AND WATER SECURITY**

We could admit that technical solutions exist to help solve these emerging problems to avoid a true water crisis. But the areas facing water scarcity can do much to improve their security of supply by using the water more efficiently.

Knowing that an enormous amount of water used by both cities and farms is effectively wasted. In most cities, rain is simply channeled into sewers, but storm water can be recycled and reused—as can wastewater.

Desalination from seawater, which is rapidly improving in efficiency, can protect some island and coastal cities from droughts,

Hydro technical development give us the opportunity that even very heavily contaminated water, moreover, can be purified—for a price. But the problem is that all of them are expensive, and at a global level, we have barely begun to answer the question of who should pay, and how much.

### **Who will pay it ?**

After building its massive Carlsbad Desalination Plant in 2015, San Diego warned residents it may have to increase water prices by up to seven percent per year until 2019(1).

Meeting the United Nations' goals to achieve universal access to clean water and adequate sanitation is estimated to cost at least \$114 billion per year (1).

In many societies, the provision of water for both drinking and agriculture is seen as a core function of the state, and one that should be provided either for free or at highly subsidized rates.

Even today, urban drinking water and irrigation is subsidized in virtually every country, usually in the form of massive government subsidies for building canals, reservoirs, and pumping stations.

Moreover, even if political leaders did suddenly decide to start raising water prices around the globe, it's not clear how many could afford to pay.

Farmers, who account for the majority of water use worldwide, typically subsist on very low incomes, and raising water prices could increase rural unemployment and migration to cities, while possibly threatening food security. The problem is even worse for countries beset by a combination of severe water scarcity, poverty, and instability.

#### **4.WHO WILL DO WHAT ?**

When Foreign-policy makers look at the emerging climate change effects and difficulties clean water supply to low income societies, they will realize that there have been several reasons to be alarmed.

It has been cleared out that climate change dynamics may well play out in several water stressed places in the World. But the level of awareness is not enough yet. The question comes as what can USA and EU do to avert such a catastrophe ?

In fact ,The U.S. intelligence community on released a new report (2) finding that global warming is already acting as a destabilizing force worldwide, with more serious ramifications to come in the next two decades.

Globally, the report found that climate-related national security disruptions are already underway, with the potential for global warming impacts to overwhelm country's ability to absorb natural disasters and continue to govern its people.

The report states:

- Over 20 years, the net effects of climate change on the patterns of global human movement and statelessness could be dramatic, perhaps unprecedented. If unanticipated, they could overwhelm government infrastructure and resources, and threaten the social fabric of communities

These statements show that they are very aware of the problem coming towards the modern world.

Before conclusion , in order to make a general risk assesment that the modern world will face there are some questions(4) to be asked regarding with water stress regions .

- Are the region's water resources being managed sustainably and efficiently?
- Are water services being delivered reliably and affordably?
- Are water-related risks being appropriately recognized and mitigated?

If we got the answers as "NO" for many regions under threat ,It indicates that we are so late.....

## **5.WHAT TO DO ?**

The first step is forwarding a new international water security paradigm and rethinking on the risk of conflict between countries in shared river basins. Water related crisis may destabilize local and national politics creating large-scale population movements and other risks to foreign and security policy. It is needed to rise an awareness with a risk analyses.

It is also considered that governments need to phase out subsidies for the water sector that contribute to inefficient and wasteful water use. This will be politically perilous, but there is a precedent in the form of an international effort to help countries phase out wasteful fuel and energy subsidies in a responsible way.

The international community needs to initiate a serious discussion on how to help countries solve their serious water crises, which may well represent the difference between success and failure for fragile states.

We can see some promising initiatives are under way in several fragile and water-scarce states. But at the end of the day, none of these initiatives are likely to succeed without significantly increased financing.

The world's water hotpoint areas need enough financial support, willpower, research creating actionable knowledge and a security paradigm change .

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## **Biography**

**Dursun Yıldız** is a hydropolitics expert and Director of the Hydropolitics Academy Association located in Ankara-Turkey .He is a civil engineer and used to be Deputy Director at State Hydraulic Works in Turkey; completed hydroinformatics post graduate course at the IHE in Delft, Technical training programme in USBR-USA and a master degree in Hydropolitics at the Hacettepe University-Turkey. He has over 5 years of teaching experiences in some Turkish Universities and now works as head of his own Hydro Energy & Strategy consulting company located in Ankara. He has published several international articles and 11 Books. He recieved Most Successful Reseracher Award on International Water Issues from Turkish Agricultural Association in 2008 and from Central Union of Irrigation Cooperatives in 2016.



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