

DRAFT INTERVENTION BY DELEGATION OF INDONESIA

DISCUSSION ON DRAFT RESOLUTION “SUSTAINABLE LAKE MANAGEMENT”

UNEP CPR SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING, 11 NOVEMBER 2021

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,

Thank you for the opportunity given to our delegation to provide more information on our proposed draft resolution on “Sustainable Lake Management”.

Water is a fundamental requirement for all life, unifying all living organisms, flora, fauna and humans. Lakes, reservoirs, wetlands and other lentic water systems represent the most important sources of freshwater, with lakes and wetlands collectively containing more than 95% of the liquid freshwater on the surface of our planet. The estimated total volume of lakes is 199,000 km³ with plus/minus 3,000 km³, covering an estimated total area of 5,130,000 km².

The essential role of freshwater in mainstreaming the aquatic and terrestrial landscape that provide life, supporting ecosystem services, diversity and health is also fundamental to human existence.

Lakes provide a wide range of aquatic ecosystem goods and services, essential for human livelihoods, health and well-being, including the provisioning services of water for health, food, and energy, as well as regulating services for food cycle, water purification, climate, and biodiversity, as well as cultural services for recreation, tradition, and historical values.

There are lakes on every continent, making them one of the world’s most important natural assets and a major resource for poverty alleviation, economic development, human health, food production, recreation, hydropower production and preservation of biodiversity integrity.

Lakes are facing multiple stresses on their environments, including increasing effluents from point and nonpoint sources, artificial alterations of lake basins, excessive water use, invasions of alien organisms, global climate change, and changes in human priorities. Over 55 percent of global lakes have been polluted.

Consequently, lake environments are seriously deteriorating on a global scale which would threaten human health, flora and fauna habitat, increase hydrological disaster, and decrease economic productivity, that urgently need to be managed in a sustainable manner.

Excellencies,

As in the case of many countries, lakes in Indonesia are being threatened as a result of human pressures, such as increased population and intensified use of land and surface water, climate change and other natural phenomenon.

Indonesia possesses more than 840 large lakes and 735 small lakes spread across the archipelago. They can contain more than 500 km³ of water, or equivalent to 72% of total supply of surface water in Indonesia.

Regarding challenges of lake management, the Government of Indonesia has taken several actions:

1. We have 15 + 15 Priority Lakes, and formulating Integrated Lake Management Plan of each Priority Lakes and integrate it in local and national development plan,
2. We implement integrated programs, among others: spatial planning, development planning, forest and land rehabilitation, water quality management, biodiversity conservation, waste management, sustainable agriculture and fishery, and transfer (for better) livelihood,
3. We established Presidential Decree on Save of Priority lakes, for acceleration of lakes conservation and rehabilitation, and for coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, and
4. We actively involved in global forum on lake management. Recently, we are proposing a draft of Resolution on Sustainable Lake Management.

Excellencies,

In the Global Agenda, of course the Sustainable Development Goals is our main reference. The reference for Sustainable Lake Management can be found in Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, Target 6.5: Implement water resources management at all levels, and Target 6.6: Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Furthermore, there are many references and occasion where the international community holding hands and join forces to promote sustainable lake management.

At the 16th World Lake Conference in Bali, Indonesia, 2016, the participants agreed on the Bali Declaration which underscored among others:

- There is a need to better understand lake ecosystem processes to shape effective and sustainable management strategies;
- In terms of lake management, social network analysis can help identify existing social structures and possible intervention points for increasing the problem-solving capacity of governance networks;
- Local wisdom can also play an important role in lake management;
- Science-based conservation taxes can play important roles in supporting efforts to improve lake water quality

At the 17th World Lake Conference in Ibaraki, Japan, 2018, the participants reaffirmed that lakes and other lentic waters are critically important water environments on our planet, and should be mainstreamed in upcoming United Nations and other major international fora on water.

As we have our discussion today, the 18th World Lake Conference is being held in Guanajuato, Mexico, under the theme “Governance, Resilience and Sustainability of Lakes for a Better Society”.

But we need more detailed Global Agenda for lakes.

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,

Our proposed draft resolution is simple, straightforward, and action oriented.

As we have mentioned above, this draft resolution is closely linked to the SDGs, in particular Goal 6.

Furthermore, this draft resolution can also strengthen UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy of 2022-2025, in particular Paragraph 77 and Paragraph 78, where for all freshwater ecosystems, UNEP will drive responsible, freshwater-inclusive decision-making, using state-of-the-art tools and near-real-time data to illicit local watershed and transboundary action to protect freshwater biodiversity, as well as to develop sustainable blue economies in freshwater, coastal and marine zones.

In the preambular paragraphs, the draft resolution emphasizes on several aspects, namely:

- References to major relevant documents (Rio+20 and A/RES/70/1)
- Significance and unique characteristics of lake, and its benefit to humanity and nature.
- Challenges faced by lake environment and its potential adverse effect to human health, flora and fauna habitat.
- Recognition of what collective responsibilities and partnership can do to support sustainable lake management

In the operative paragraphs, the draft resolution suggested concrete actions for all member states and relevant international organizations to implement:

1. Protection, restoration and wise use of lake, concerning water quality, erosion and sedimentation, and aquatic biodiversity,
2. Integration of lake management plans into national and regional development plans and policies,
3. Engagement and capacity building for communities by using socio-economic approach appreciating culture, local wisdom, and prosperity of surrounding community,
4. Involvement of all stakeholders including university/research centers, private companies, and non-governmental organization in a concerted efforts to implement sustainable lake management,
5. Research and scientific guidance, including emphasis on science-policy linkages and nature-based solutions, and
6. Development of international networking and collaboration, for sustainable lake management.

Furthermore, regarding on the implementation of sustainable lake management, we would need support from UNEP to mainstream sustainable lake management in the global agenda, facilitate research, capacity building, and sharing knowledge and best practices including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as designate a World Lake Day to highlight lakes important roles in maintaining the well-being of both humanity and nature.

Mr. Chair,

Our delegation looks forward for productive discussion on this draft resolution. I thank you.

/ends/