



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
9 September 2016

English only

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## Human Rights Council

Thirty-third session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 August 2016]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-15704(E)



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## Some facts about the water crisis in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all is one of the sustainable development goals which must be achieved until 2030. The United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation is essential for the realisation of all human rights.<sup>1</sup>

Due to geographical conditions and the lack of proper management of water resources the Islamic Republic of Iran's water resources is currently in critical condition. The population of Iran in 1921 was 8 million. This has increased to over 80 million in 2016. The renewable water per capita in Iran in 1921 was 13000 Cubic Meter (CM) per year which is reduced to an average of 1100 CM/year in the country and to 700 CM/year in metropolises of Iran. The total renewable water sources capacity of Iran has reduced from 132 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) in 1981 to less than 88 BCM in 2016<sup>2</sup>, from which 96% is used in agriculture.

Poor management of water along with population growth, unsustainable development, lack of consumption culture, decrease of precipitation and increase of temperature in addition to the consumption of more than three times of standard limits from ground water, has resulted in the country to approach physical water scarcity. Over 80% of fresh water consumption in Iran is today from ground water and 75% of ground waters have already been used<sup>3</sup>. In parts of the country the ground waters are finished. 279 plains from the 600 plains of Iran have already dried up.

The crisis is not limited to the aforementioned facts and figures. Upon official announcements 13% of all drinking water of Iran is wasted due to worn-out water network. Unofficial sources speak of much higher waste of drinking water. For example in Tehran, the capital, in many city parts, the first pipes which were installed in 1951 are still in use. There are no precise map of the water network and many of the construction works damage main water pipes in the city.

To be able to survive, Iran must add 112% to its extractable water resources until 2025. Total drying of Bakhtegan Lake, Hamoun Oasis, Hurulazim Lagoon, Gavkhoni Wetland and dying of Orumia lake are only the beginning of the crisis. 517 cities of Iran are in the situation of water stress<sup>4</sup> and it is said that if the water problem is not solved in near future over 70% of the countries' population will migrate<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/es/comun/docs/?symbol=A/RES/64/292&lang=E>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.waternews.ir/1395/04/24709/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.tasnimnews.com/fa/news/1395/06/03/1167432/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ilna.ir> کد خبر: 134822

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.doe.ir/portal/home/?news/171104/109925/480181/%D8%A2%D8%A8-%D9%87%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%8C-%D9%88%D9%84%DB%8C-%D9%86%D9%87-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D9%87%D9%85%DB%8C%D8%B4%D9%87>