

STATEMENT

BY

THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

ON

AGENDA ITEM 87:

“THE LAW OF TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS”

AT THE

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK

22 OCTOBER 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Aquifers are life-supporting groundwater resources for the mankind. Proper management and proper utilization of aquifers assumes significance in view of the increasing demand for freshwater around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The draft articles on the transboundary aquifers contain a number of useful provisions such as on the utilization, cooperation, and on the protection, preservation and management of aquifer system.

It is worth mentioning that draft article 3 recognizes the sovereignty of an aquifer State over the portion of trans-boundary aquifers or aquifer system located within its territory.

Mr. Chairman,

At the 66th session, this delegation pointed out the lack of adequate scientific knowledge in the field of management and protection of aquifers, highlighting the need for further study. We also stressed for further scientific and technical assistance to States in understanding the complex issues associated with the management and protection of aquifer system.

Our position has been that time is not ripe to develop a legally binding instrument, such as a convention on the basis of draft articles and that they could serve as a useful guide for States in concluding their bilateral or regional arrangements on this subject.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the efforts of the delegation of Japan in introducing the draft resolution, this time, with a view to consider the draft articles as guiding principles for bilateral or regional agreements and arrangements for the proper management of transboundary aquifers.

The draft resolution encourages the International Hydrological Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue offering further scientific and technical assistance to States. We look forward for discussion on the draft resolution.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we note the fact that conferring the status of guiding principles to the draft articles would be non-binding in nature and the draft articles would be available, in their present form with other instruments and State practices, to States for taking into account and their suitable use in concluding bilateral and regional arrangements on this subject.

Thank you.