TIM 155

***Introduction to water – some definitions***

**Internal renewable water resources**: Average annual flow of rivers and recharge of groundwater generated from endogenous precipitation. A critical review of the data is made to ensure that double counting of surface water and groundwater is avoided. Renewable resources are a measure of flow rather than stock or actual withdrawal. They are, therefore, typically greater than the volume of exploitable water resources, for which consistent data are unavailable.

**External renewable water resources**: External renewable water resources refer to surface and renewable groundwater that come from other countries plus part of shared lakes and border rivers as applicable, net of the consumption of the country in question.

**Nonrenewable groundwater**: Groundwater resources that are naturally replenished only over a very long timeframe. Generally, they have a negligible rate of recharge on the human scale (<1 percent) and thus can be considered nonrenewable. In practice, nonrenewable groundwater refers to aquifers with large stocking capacity in relation to the average annual volume discharged.

**Virtual water**: Virtual water is water used to produce food products that are traded across international borders. It is the quantity of water that would have been necessary for producing the same amount of food that a country may be exporting or importing. These figures reflect both crop and livestock net imports.

**Total actual renewable water resources (TARWR) (km3/year):** The sum of internal renewable water resources and incoming flow originating outside the country. The computation of TARWR takes into account upstream abstraction and quantity of flows reserved to upstream and downstream countries through formal or informal agreements or treaties. It is a measure of the maximum theoretical amount of water actually available for the country.