Thematic Process Session

Concluding session 4.3: Cooperation for Reducing Conflict and Improving Transboundary Water management
Thursday 16 April, 17h-19h
Daegu EXCO, room DEC_304

Reporting of session 4.3.2. : “International water law demystified”

Nick Bonvoisin
Secretary to the UNECE Water Convention
Reporting of session 4.3.2.

KEY CHALLENGES

- **Still much to be done to explain international water law**
  - And its key principles: cooperation, no harm, reasonable & equitable use, ...
  - Complementarity between the Conventions

- **Need ultimately to demonstrate how international water law supports people’s livelihoods (global → local)**

- **Move from accession to conventions to effective implementation**

- **Expectation that international water law should serve as a mechanism to resolve water conflicts**
KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS/PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

- **International water law is not** a pre-condition to cooperation
- **International law influences national water law and national intersectoral cooperation**
- **International law (as embodied in the two Transboundary Water Conventions) serves as mechanism for regulating transboundary water management and influences relations with neighbours in establishing — and broadening — specific agreements**
- **International law influences also regional legislation (EU)**
- **Importance of community of practices → Accession to UNECE Convention also brings opportunity to contribute to decision-making**

- **Demonstrate benefits to be derived from accession to and implementation of Conventions (even if neighbours are not yet parties)**
- **Develop capacity, especially at the national level**
- **Promote examples of successful transboundary basin agreements and organizations**
- **Develop recommendations of provisions for transboundary basin agreements in line with existing instruments of international law**