Thematic Session 4.3.3 Reporting
(v.20 April 2015)

Session Title: Mandate, structure and means for efficient transboundary river and aquifer basin joint organizations

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1. The goal is to increase our success in implementing and scaling solutions for this issue. What are considered to be the most critical enabling conditions to achieve this success?

The most critical enabling conditions identified to implement solutions for this issue of mandate, structure and means for efficient transboundary basin organizations include:

GOVERNANCE:
- Political will based on the understanding of the benefits of cooperation and transboundary basin organizations for increasing sovereignty over water resources,
- Knowledge and ownership of the international law principles of transboundary water cooperation,
- Knowledge and ownership of best practices in transboundary water management planning,
- Sustainable financing mechanisms for transboundary basin organizations,

KNOWLEDGE AND MONITORING
- Adequate water monitoring networks at national and/or basin level(s),
- Frequent exchange of water data and information at transboundary level,

CAPACITY BUILDING:
- Available training capacities for diplomats, negotiators and professionals of basin organizations on integrated water resources management in a transboundary context,

COMMUNICATION:
- Awareness campaign targeting the stakeholders and the general public on the benefits of cooperation and transboundary basin organizations,

2. What are some key global action ideas from your discussion that can help make the efforts to implement and scale solutions for this issue more successful?

Implementing and scaling solutions of integrated joint management of mandate, structure and means for efficient transboundary basin organizations would be more successful if the following actions were undertaken at global level:

- Mobilize different types of international organizations (UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNECE, INBO, GWP, Green Cross, IUCN, WWF, etc.) to promote the interests and benefits of cooperation and transboundary basin organizations among decision-makers of riparian countries, in particular in basin where no joint bodies/where joint bodies suffer from inappropriate mandates, means, structures,
- Promote customary principles of international water law as well as the 1992 and 1997 Conventions which provided them further recognition (e.g. balance between interests of
upstream and downstream countries through the principles of “no-harm” and “equitable use”)

- Promote existing best practices in transboundary water management planning, such as those detailed in the books published by INBO and its partners:
  - Book on Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good Practices (2015),

| 3. What are some key **local** action ideas from your discussion that can help make the efforts to implement and scale solutions for this issue more successful? | Implementing and scaling solutions of integrated joint management of rivers, lakes and aquifers at basins level would be more successful if the following actions were undertaken at local level:

- Provide financial support to emerging transboundary basin organizations,
- Promote sustainable, self-financing of transboundary basin organizations through contributions from riparian countries and regional economic commissions,
- Provide technical support for the development of water monitoring networks in transboundary basins and promote the exchange of data and information between riparian countries,
- Promote and finance training programs on integrated water resources management in a transboundary context for diplomats, negotiators and professionals of basin organizations,
- Carry out awareness campaign targeting the stakeholders and the general public on the benefits of cooperation and transboundary basin organizations, |

| 4. Based upon the outputs from this session, how could the **Implementation Roadmap** be further strengthened? | The implementation roadmap could be further strengthened with inclusion of the action ideas mentioned above and a greater focus on:

- The need to jointly manage transboundary surface and groundwater resources,
- The need address issues of the theme 4.3 jointly, in particular, taking into account solutions identified for 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 (e.g.: support Education and interdisciplinary programmes, promote preventive diplomacy and cooperation training programmes), |