



International Network
Of Basin Organizations

Topic 3.1 Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation

SUSTAINABLE COOPERATION Institutional Tools and Mechanisms

Friday, March 20th, 14.30—19.00
Sütlüce, Istanbul

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CONTENT OF PRESENTATION

I. KEY QUESTION

II. SUBJECT MATTER SCOPE (Topic of the Session)

III. ISSUES ADRESSED

IV. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS



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I. KEY QUESTION

**HOW CAN COOPERATION (between states) OVER
TRANSBOUNDARY SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER
RESOURCES (of a river basin) BE ACHIEVED IN A
SUSTAINABLE MANNER?**



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II. SUBJECT MATTER SCOPE (Topic of the Session)

- 1. Evaluate/Assess tools and mechanisms available for:**
 - development co-operation; and
 - prevention of conflicts over waters.

- 2. Look forward by suggestions:**
 - how to fill gaps in order to improve cooperation;
 - ways for transfer of knowledge and practices



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III. ISSUES ADDRESSED

- 1. What is sustainable cooperation?**
- 2. What are mechanisms/Tools that support cooperation**
- 3. Which are institutional arrangements and what can be learned?**
- 4. Are principles and tools used in one region transferable to others and how?**

[Session lasted 240 min.;
Two Co-Chairs;
8 Key-note Speakers;
6 Reacting Speakers;
Over 45 participants in discussion;
Attended by >250



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IV. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS 1

1. Sustainable cooperation could be achieved through:

- conjunctive management of surface and groundwater
- in a river/lake basin;

2. Management to integrate:

- use/utilization of waters;
- protection of waters;
- preservation, protection, improvement of aquatic ecosystem(s);
- protection from detrimental effects from waters, including climate change effects;

3. Cooperation to be based on (or lead to conclusion of) (binding) international water treaties based on universally accepted international law principles (e.g.: duty to cooperate, states sovereignty, state integrity, peaceful dispute solutions, etc);



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IV. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS 2

4. Water treaties to be negotiated, signed and ratified by river basin/lake countries on the basis of widely accepted principles of international water law (e.g. equitable utilization, avoiding significant harm)

5. River basin, riparian, lake littoral water treaties to be in accord with the broader-scope international water/environmental treaties/instruments (regional, global; (e.g. UNECE Water Convention, WFD);

6. UN Convention on International Watercourses (N.Y. C.'97) should be very strongly recommended for ratification (at least to the countries signatories);



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IV. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS 3

- 7. Recommendation to the UN Secretary General:**
 - to analyze status and process of N.Y.C.'97 ratification;
 - to undertake measures aimed at its ratification;
 - if he finds it appropriate, to establish an interim body which would be responsible for promotion of ratification;
- 8. The issue of transposition of international treaties into national legal systems of its parties and compliance with int'l water treaties should be specifically dealt with by scientific community;**
- 9. Water treaties to be tools for establishment of joint institutions/arrangements for its implementation (e.g. river/lake basin commission);**
- 10....**