

How the two global water conventions support transboundary water cooperation

Sunday, 31 August 2014

14:00-17:30 – Room T6

World Water Week, Stockholm



Two global legal frameworks now foster cooperation between countries, sectors and other stakeholders in transboundary basins: the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention enters into force and the 1992 UNECE Water Convention or Helsinki Convention is opened for worldwide accession. They support countries in creating adequate basin governance structures, preventing conflicts and addressing challenges such as balancing multiple water uses or climate change adaptation. Their implementation can be fostered through tools such as the TWAP, which helps to identify priorities for action.

Convenor: UNECE

Co-convenors: Dundee Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science, Finnish Water Forum, Government of Hungary, Government of the Netherlands, Green Cross International, IUCN, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France, Ministry of Water and Forestry of Cote d'Ivoire, SIWI, UNEP-DHI Centre for Water and Environment, UNESCO, WWF

- 14:00 Opening remarks and introduction by the moderators**
Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE and Alice Aureli, UNESCO
- 14:10 Two global water conventions: the UNECE Water Convention and the UN Watercourses Convention**
Alistair Rieu Clarke, Dundee Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science
- 14:20 Recent progress in strengthening frameworks for transboundary water cooperation**
Seppo Rekolainen, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland
- 14:30 Panel discussion: Why are the water conventions useful for our transboundary water management?**
• Moderated by Alejandro Iza, IUCN
• Djana Bejko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Albania
• Michael Tozan, Ministry of Water and Forestry, Côte d'Ivoire
• Suhair Salman Abdulwahab, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq
• Niels Vlaanderen, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands
- 15:15 First results of the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP), one possible tool to support the implementation of the Conventions in the future - which priorities for action?**
Peter Koefoed Bjørnsen, UNEP-DHI
- 15:45 Coffee break**
- 16:15 Implementing and promoting the UN Watercourses Convention on the ground: Experience of the Senegal basin**
Lamine Ndiaye, Observatory of the environment, Senegal River Development Organization
- 16:25 How the institutional framework of the UNECE Water Convention supports implementation of international water law**
Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary
- 16:35 Interactive discussion with the audience: How can the two global water conventions support cooperation on transboundary water resources and interact with each other in the future?**
Discussion moderated by Leshia Witmer, WWF
- 17:20 Concluding remarks**
Fabien Dupuis, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France and Lifeng Li, WWF
- 17:30 Reception offered by the government of the Netherlands at the WWF booth**