



The 7th World Water Forum

12-17 April 2015, Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea



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

Reporting of session 4.3.2.

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