



## Two global Conventions on transboundary water cooperation – so what?

Special focus high level session during the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

Tuesday, 14 April 2015, 14.40-16:10

Republic of Korea, Daegu, Inter-Burgo Hotel, B1F Grand Ballroom A (Room DIB\_B101)

### Background

The entry into force of the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UN Watercourses Convention) in August 2014 and the global opening of 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) represent major breakthroughs in terms of international water law and transboundary water cooperation. In addition, transboundary water cooperation as a key factor for sustainable water resources management is mentioned in the draft Sustainable Development Goal on water, as negotiated by the Open Working Group.

However, more than 130 countries around the world still haven't ratified any of the Conventions and the added value remains unclear to many of the stakeholders, including citizens at large.

### Objective of the session

The session will celebrate this development with high-level representatives of the countries, which have ratified one or both of the Conventions.

It aims to increase recognition of the key role of international water law in strengthening transboundary water cooperation, and political support for transboundary cooperation, including reference to it in the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

It will also be an opportunity to collect announcements by additional countries that intend to ratify one or both Conventions and new commitments for implementation of the two Conventions.

### Programme

UN system perspective on the 2 Conventions	Mr. Jan Eliasson, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General <i>(tbc)</i>
Keynote speech on international water law and its relevance	Ms. Inger Andersen, Director General, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

<p>Interactive and dynamic questions and answers session with representatives of different categories of stakeholders impacted by the actual accession of a country to such legal instruments and by its implementation</p> <p>What legal pathways do they open?  What cooperation can they generate?  What are the potential benefits for business, agriculture, for the industry and the environment?  What's in it for citizens, for riparian populations and for the most vulnerable?  Why two conventions?</p>	<p><i>Facilitator: Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment</i></p> <p>H.E. Ms. Nomvula Mokonyane, Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Juan José Guerra Abud, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Mexico <i>(tbc)</i></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov, Minister of Foreign Affairs or Mr. Sulton Rakhimzoda, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Tajikistan <i>(tbc)</i></p> <p>Mr. Peter Kovacz, Governmental Plenipotentiary in bilateral transboundary commissions, Ministry of Interior, Hungary</p> <p>Mr. Donald Kasongi, Nile Basin Discourse Board Secretary General, Board Member Tanzania</p> <p>Mr. Joppe Cramwinckel, Water project director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (GEF)</p> <p>Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse, President, WWF international</p>
<p>Additional comments and questions from the floor and commitments by countries to ratify one or both Conventions</p>	<p><i>Moderator of the interactive discussion: Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment</i></p> <p>Expert Respondent: Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clark, Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, University of Dundee</p>
<p>Closing remarks</p>	<p>H.E. Mr. Xavier Sticker, Ambassador for the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France</p>

Followed by an Award ceremony and reception hosted by WWF international