

First International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations

Towards Sustainable Freshwater Governance

UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 November 2014

Timetable and Draft Agenda¹

(Version of 8 November 2014)

Venue: UN Office at Nairobi, Kenya, Conference Room 1

Expected Participants:

Key stakeholders in the management of freshwater basins from all around the globe, such as ministers of water and the environment, heads of basin organizations and water directors, heads of national delegations to transboundary basin organizations, UN Agencies and other relevant international organizations, financial institutions, MEA Secretariats, civil society and academia.

Purpose of the Forum:

The primary objective of the First International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations is to strengthen basin organizations as key building blocks for environmental governance. Basin Organizations are crucial in supporting the implementation of internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives embedded in many Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) as well as in national and basin-wide water management schemes. The Forum will provide the opportunity for basin organizations from around the globe to share experiences on strengthening their governance structures as well as incentives and tools for enhancing their operations particularly for the implementation of different environmental obligations and international agreed goals in support of sustainable development.

Format:

Technical Segment followed by High-Level Segment. Days 1 and 2 of the Forum (26 and 27 November) are dedicated to a Technical Segment. The technical segment will discuss the four main themes of the Forum: 1. Water Quality and Ecosystem Health; 2. Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Adaptation to Climate Change; 3. Environmental Laws and Regulations; and 4. Institutional Challenges. The Technical Segment is comprised of moderated panel sessions, each with invited speakers honing in on the most critical aspects of the four themes of the Forum by giving an overview of these aspects from their personal, national, regional and stakeholder perspective; each segment of speakers is to be followed by interactive discussions among the panelists and the participants.

Day 3 of the Forum (28 November) is dedicated to the High-Level Segment. The High-level Segment of the Forum will discuss the way forward for sustainable governance and management of freshwater basins based on the outcomes of the Technical Segment. It will take resolutions on how basin organizations and the Forum can contribute to overarching policy agendas, such as the formulation of, as well as the implementation of, environmental and developmental goals. The segment will be composed of Ministers, heads of Basin Organizations and other invited high-level participants. The outcomes of this segment are intended to influence relevant international processes and to stimulate further policy dialogue at relevant fora.

Languages/Interpretation:

English, French, Spanish

¹ Speakers and statements are subject to change.

Technical Segment

Day 1: 26 November 2014

08:00 – 09:30 Registration of participants

10:00 – 10:30 Official Opening of the Technical Segment

Welcoming Remarks:

- **Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP
- **Mr. Jean-Francois Donzier**, Permanent Technical Secretary, INBO

10:30 – 13:00 Theme 1 – Water Quality and Ecosystem Health

The following speakers are invited to make brief and direct (maximum of 5 to 10 min. each) statements on the most critical aspects of the theme by giving an overview of these aspects from their personal, national, regional and stakeholder perspective; each segment of speakers is to be followed by interactive, moderated discussions among the panelists and the participants.

The discussion will focus primarily on a) how to manage basins in order to improve water quality and b) the status of ecosystem health and how to improve it.

Moderator:

Mr. Jeremy Bird, Director General, International Water Management Institute

1st Segment of Speakers: Water Quality

Prof. Jan Leentvaar, UNESCO-IHE

- ‘Application of Water Quality Guidelines at Basin Level to Protect Freshwater Ecosystems’

Ms. Jiang Xia, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Science

- ‘Improving Water Quality – Lessons from Lake Taihu, China’

Ing. Alfredo Mamani Salinas, Executive President, Binational Autonomous Authority of the Lake Titicaca

- ‘Basin Management to Improve Water Quality – Lessons from Lake Titicaca’

Mr. Ben van de Wetering, International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

- ‘Basin Perspectives on Water Quality in Post 2015 Development Agenda’

2nd Segment of Speakers: Ecosystem Health

Ms. Liana McManus, Project Manager, UNEP TWAP Project

- ‘Monitoring Aquatic Ecosystem Health’

Representative from Estonia – Russian Cooperation

- ‘Basin Management to Protect Ecosystem Health - Lessons from Estonia- Russian Cooperation’

Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Head Negotiator, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

- ‘Perspectives on Aquatic Ecosystem Health in the Post 2015 Development Agenda’

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break

15:00 – 18:00 Theme 2 – Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Adaptation to Climate Change

The following speakers are invited to make brief and direct (maximum of 5 to 10 min. each) statements on the most critical aspects of the theme by giving an overview of these aspects from their personal, national, regional and stakeholder perspective; each segment of speakers is to be followed by interactive, moderated discussions among the panelists and the participants.

The discussion will focus primarily on a) how to address the water-energy-nexus issues from a basin management perspective and b) ecosystem based approaches for adaptation to climate change in basin management.

Moderator:

Mr. Robert Mather, Head of Southeast Asia Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature

1st Segment of Speakers: 'Water-Energy-Food Nexus'

Mr. Jan Cools, Scientific Advisor, Milieu Ltd.

- **'Governing the Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Opportunities for Basin Organizations'**

Mr. Lenka Thamae, Executive Secretary, Orange/Senqu River Commission

- **'Implementation of WEF Nexus – Lessons from the Orange/Sequ River Basin'**

Mr. Mitja Brichelj, Chairman, International Sava River Basin Commission

- **'Implementation of WEF Nexus – Lessons from the Sava River Basin'**

Mr. Charles Biney, Executive Secretary, Volta Basin Authority

- **'Basin Perspectives on the WEF Nexus in the Post 2015 Development Agenda'**

2nd Segment of Speakers: 'Adaptation to Climate Change'

Ms. Katherine Cross, Programme Manager, International Water Association

- **'Ecosystem-based Approaches in Water Resources Management for Climate Resilience'**

Mr. Roland Treitler, Project Director, GIZ

- **'Water and Adaptation to Climate Change – Lessons from Thailand'**

Ms. Audra Elizabeth Vilaly, University of Arizona

- **'Climate Change and Water Resources in West Africa: Transboundary River Basins'**

Mr. Peter Bjoernsen, UNEP-DHI Center for Water and Environment

- **'Incorporating Water in Adaptation to Climate Change for the Post 2015 Development Agenda'**

Day 2: 27 November 2014

08:00 – 09:30 Registration of participants

10:00 – 13:00 Theme 3 – Laws and Regulations

The following speakers are invited to make brief and direct (maximum of 5 to 10 min. each) statements on the most critical aspects of the theme by giving an overview of these aspects from their personal, national, regional and stakeholder perspective; each segment of speakers is to be followed by interactive, moderated discussions among the panelists and the participants.

The discussion will focus primarily on a) effective and adaptive legal and institutional frameworks to address the ever increasing challenges and complexities associated with managing water resources, and b) how basin organizations can positively contribute to the implementation of international water law, multilateral environmental agreements and internationally accepted environmental principles.

Moderator:

Dr. Owen McIntyre, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University College Cork, National University of Ireland

1st Segment of Speakers: 'Perspectives on Water Law and the Environment'

Ms. Ariella d'Andrea, International Water Law Association, AIDA

- **'The Evolution of International Water Law and the "Greening" of Water Law'**

Mr. David Coates, Environmental Affairs Officer, Inland Waters, Convention on Biological Diversity

- **'Sustainable Development Goals, Biodiversity Conservation and International Water Law'**

Mr. Chris Perceval, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Ramsar Convention

- **'The Role of Basin Organizations in Wetlands Conservation'**

Ms. Tracy Molefi, Chair Person of the African Network of Basin Organizations

- **'Allocating Water for the Environment: Experiences from the Regulatory Framework of African Basins'**

2nd Segment of Speakers: 'Applying Environmental Principles in Freshwater Governance'

Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lake, UNECE

- **'Experiences of the UNECE Region in the Application of International Water Law Principles'**

Mr. Arnould Lefebvre, Secretary General, International Commission of the Scheldt

- **'The Application of Environmental Principles in the Management of the Scheldt Basin'**

Ms. Susan Wingfield, Programme Officer, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat

- **'Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste: Managing Risk through Laws and Regulations'**

Mr. Yang Youlin, Coordinator, Regional Coordination Unit for Asia, United Nations Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, UNCCD

- **'The Role of Basin Organizations in the Implementation of the UNCCD and in Combating Desertification'**

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break

15:00 – 17:30 Theme 4 – Institutional Challenges

The following speakers are invited to make brief and direct (maximum of 5 to 10 min. each) statements on the most critical aspects of the theme by giving an overview of these aspects from their personal, national, regional and stakeholder perspective; each segment of speakers is to be followed by interactive, moderated discussions among the panelists and the participants.

The discussion will focus primarily on a) adequate policy, financial and institutional mechanisms to deal with the multiple economic, social and environmental challenges in the governance of the world's freshwater resources, and b) how basin organizations can better meet their institutional challenges in responding to environmental pressures and promote sustainable freshwater governance within their respective basins and environmental governance overall.

Moderator:

Mr. Max Campos, Senior Chief for the Integrated Water Resources Management Division, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States

1st Segment of Speakers: 'Basin Organizations and International Environmental Governance'

Mr. Lifeng Li, Director, Freshwater, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

- **'Basin Organizations as Key Players in International Environmental Governance'**

Mr. Russell James, Executive Director of Policy and Planning, Murray – Darling Basin Authority

- **'Sustainable Development and Freshwater Governance: Institutional Challenges and Good Practices'**

Ms. Blanca Carrasco, International Network of Basin Organizations

- **'Environmental Governance in Basins: Tools for Institutional and Financial Management'**

2nd Segment of Speakers: 'Driving Sustainable Development through Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities'

Mr. Alexander Carius, Managing Director, Adelphi

- **'Transboundary Freshwater Governance and Hydro-Diplomacy'**

Mr. Charles Ngangoue, Programme Officer for Central Africa and In Charge of Groundwater, African Ministers Council on Water

- **'Political Challenges for Basin Organizations: The African Perspective in the Context of the Post 2015 Development Agenda'**

Mr. Tim A. Eder, Executive Director, Great Lakes Commission

- **'Basin Organizations as Engines for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities'**

17:30 – 18:00 Official Closing of the Technical Segment:

- *Mr. Jean-Francois Donzier, Permanent Technical Secretary, INBO*
- *Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP*

***** 18:30 – 21:00 Reception hosted by UNEP *****

High-Level Segment

28 November 2014

The High-level Segment of the Forum will discuss the way forward for sustainable governance and management of freshwater basins based on the outcomes of the technical segment. It will take resolutions on how basin organizations and the Forum can contribute to overarching policy agendas, such as the formulation of, as well as the implementation of, environmental and developmental goals.

The segment will be composed of Ministers, heads of Basin Organizations and other invited high-level participants. The Segment is open for attendance by all participants who wish to follow the discussions.

A summary document highlighting the central messages emanating from the discussions will be produced to capture the outcomes of this Segment.

08:00 – 09:30 Registration of participants

10:00 – 11:00 Official Opening of the High-Level Segment

11:00 – 13:00 High-Level Discussions

Following a presentation of discussions during the Technical Segment, Ministers, heads of Basin Organizations and other invited high-level participants are invited to discuss the way forward for sustainable governance and management of freshwater basins based on the outcomes of the technical segment.

The discussions will be chaired by **Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw**, *Deputy Executive Director, UNEP*, and captured in a summary document highlighting the central messages emanating from the Discussions.

High-Level Participants are requested not to exceed 3 minutes speaking time and to consider the following key issues during their statements:

1. What priority actions are required to protect ecosystems in freshwater basins for the continued provision of both surface and groundwater resources in the context of sustainable development?
2. How can basin organizations be better supported to improve the environmental governance and management of freshwater resources? Including through enhanced legal, policy and institutional support to effectively implement internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives, such as MEAs.
3. Contributions by basin organizations to international processes and fora, such as the post 2015 development agenda, United Nations Environment Assembly, the Stockholm World Water Week, the World Water Forum, INBO and others.

***** 13:00 – 15:00 Ministerial Lunch hosted by UNEP (by invitation only) *****

15:00 – 17:00 High-Level Discussions

17:00 – 17:30 Official Closing of the High-Level Segment
