



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



# First Workshop

## River Basin Commissions and other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Legal and Institutional Aspects

Preliminary programme

23-24 September 2013

Salle V, Palais des Nations, Geneva



**DAY ONE, Monday, 23 Sept., 10.00 – 13.30 & 15.00 – 18.30**

**10.00            Opening session**

*Chair: Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary, UNECE Water Convention*

Opening remarks from UNECE, *Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, UNECE Deputy Executive Secretary*

Opening remarks on behalf of the lead countries, *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Finland*

10.15            Introduction to the objectives and program of the workshop, *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Finland*

10.20            *Key note address "Strengthening legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation at global level – what value for cooperation in transboundary basins?", Mr. Alejandro Iza, IUCN*

10.35            *Key note address "UNECE Water Convention – 20 years of promoting and supporting joint institutions for transboundary water cooperation", Ms. Heide Jekel, Germany*

**10.50            Session 1: Legal and institutional frameworks for cooperation through joint bodies**

*Chair: Ms. Heide Jekel, Germany*

*Moderator: Mr. Jean-Francois Donzier, INBO*

International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR): evolution of organizational structure and substantive scope and cooperation with non-Convention countries, *Mr. André Weidenhaupt, President of ICPR*

Commission Internationale du bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS): from navigation-dominated commission towards integrated management, *Mr. Blaise-Léandre Tondo, Expert Principal, CICOS*

Authority of Lake Titicaca (ALT) - a bilateral cooperation experience, *Mr. Alfredo Mamani, ALT Executive President*

Q&A – moderated discussion

12.00            Discussion in groups:  
Best practices with regard to organizational structure, scope and competences

13.30            Lunch

15.00            Reconvening in plenary session

Messages from groups (3 min per group)

15.30            Specific issues: implementation at national level, financing/donor coordination, NGO and stakeholder involvement, etc.

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Mekong River Commission - towards decentralization – the pass of organizational reforms, *Mr. Sophearin Chea, Mekong River Commission Secretariat*

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) – the work with NGOs and stakeholders, and ways of reporting, *Mr. Benedikt Mandl, ICPDR*

Internal procedures in the International Sava River Basin Commission, *Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary of ISRBC*

Q&A – moderated discussion

16.15      **Session 2:    Conflict prevention - what role for joint bodies?**

*Chair: Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Switzerland*

*Moderator: Ms. Natalia Alexeeva, Global Water Partnership*

Water Cooperation for a Secure World, *Mr. Sundeep Waslekar, President, Strategic Foresight Group*

Conflict prevention in the Aral Sea Basin: the role of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination, *Ms. Dinara Ziganshina, Deputy Director, Scientific Information Center, Interstate Commission for Water Coordination*

Q&A – moderated discussion

17.00      **“Marketplace of tools” session**

Presentation and discussion of 10 specific tools in roundtable format in small groups (2 rounds)

Tool 1. Atlas of Afghan-Tajik cooperation, *Mr. Viktor Novikov, Zoi Environment Network* (1st round – Russian, 2nd round – English)

Tool 2. GWP Toolbox, *Ms. Natalia Alexeeva, GWP* (1st round – English, 2nd round – Russian)

Tool 3. International Commission for the Protection of the Oder: education for children, *Mr. Piotr Baranski, Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Oder* (1st round – English, 2nd round – English)

Tool 4. Joint Danube Survey 3, *Mr. Benedikt Mandl, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River* (1st round – English with interpretation into Russian, 2nd round – English)

Tool 5. Border crossing and customs formalities – practical experience, *Ms. Ana Drapa, Romania* (1st round – English, 2nd round – English with interpretation into Russian)

Tool 6. GEF-IW: Learn projects for the improvement of legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, *Mr. Hubert Onibon, Regional Coordinator, GEF Volta River Basin Project* (1st round – English, 2nd round – French)

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Tool 7. Website and annual report of International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), *Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, ISRBC* (1st round – English, 2nd round – English)

Tool 8. Champion's Network, *Mr. Patrick Macquarrie, IUCN* (1st round – English, 2nd round – English)

Tool 9. "Niger River Basin Shared Vision" process, *Mr. Drissa Naman Keita, Legal Adviser, Niger Basin Authority* (1st round – French, 2nd round – French with interpretation into English)

Tool 10. Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) Stakeholder Integration Strategy and Access to Information Policy and Strategy, *Mr. Ebenizario Chonguica, Executive Secretary, OKACOM* (1st round – English, 2nd round – English)

18.30 Closing of day one

**DAY TWO, Tuesday, 24 Sept., 9.30 - 13.00 & 14.30 - 17.30**

9.30 Looking back at yesterday's results and today's program - *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Finland*

9.45 **Session 3: Efforts to establish new agreements and joint bodies**

Chair: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Finland*

Moderator: *Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE*

Towards the Memorandum on the Drin River Basin, *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, GWP-Med*

The establishment of Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) and the role of SADC, *Mr. Sylvester Matem, Director of Water Resources from Tanzania and member of the ZAMCOM Technical Committee*

Afghan-Tajik cooperation on hydrology and environment, *Mr. Azizullah Omar, Counselor, Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations in Geneva*

Perspective of a "third party", *Ms. Tamara Kutonova, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*

Perspective of a donor, *Mr. Hans-Ullrich Ihm, GIZ*

Q&A – moderated discussion

11.45 Discussion in groups:  
In your basin, what is missing for having an agreement and institution? If there is an agreement and an institution, what has been crucial for reaching this stage of cooperation? How can agreement/joint body be further improved?

13.00 Lunch

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- 14.30            Reconvening in plenary session
- Feedback from groups (3 min per small group)
- 15.00            **Session 4: Primary tools for developing cooperation in the framework  
of joint bodies**
- Chair: *Ms. Alice Aureli, UNESCO*
- Finnish-Russian Commission - exchange of data and information, *Mr. Seppo  
Rekolainen, Finland*
- Russian-Estonian Commission – the development of joint monitoring and  
assessment, *Mr. Harry Liiv, Estonia*
- Consultations on planned measures - the experience of Hungary, *Ms. Maria  
Galambos Molnárné, Hungary*
- Q&A – moderated discussion
- 17.00            **Closing session**
- Co-chairs: *Ms. Heide Jekel, Mr. Seppo Rekolainen*
- Looking back and evaluation of the workshop
- Discussion of themes for the second workshop and possible needs for further  
action in the framework of the Water Convention
- 17.30            End of the workshop
- 18.00            Reception at the invitation of Switzerland for participants of the Workshop and  
the Working Group on IWRM, in Restaurant Le Veux Bois (address: Avenue de  
la Paix 12)