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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
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**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and
International Lakes (Water Convention)
- Secretariat -**

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13 March 2013

**Invitation to the first meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
under the UNECE Water Convention**

Dear Mr. Donzier,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the first meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) which will be held in Geneva from 8 to 9 April 2013.

The Parties to the Water Convention have included in the Work Programme 2013-2015 an assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in selected transboundary basins and established the Task Force to overview and guide its preparation.

To this end, the first meeting of the Task Force, led by Finland, will have the following objectives:

- Discuss the process of preparation of the assessment;
- Explore the needs and preferences of the riparian countries, river basin commissions and stakeholders in the basins proposed to be assessed in the Water Convention's nexus assessment in order to agree on the scope and objectives of the assessment and on deriving information and analysis needs;
- Review past and on-going efforts to analyse the nexus and to provide guidance for sectoral (and inter-sectoral) decision-making to learn from such exercises;
- Discuss and agree on the approach to assessing the nexus, including the methodology, under the Water Convention; and
- Discuss and agreed on the basins to be covered by the nexus assessment and agree on the next steps in the process.

Mr. Jean-François Donzier
Permanent Technical Secretary of
International Network of Basin Organizations
Paris
France

The meeting is therefore a key step in the discussion and design of the assessment of the nexus under the Water Convention. The ideas stemming from the Task Force meeting will be used for developing in the course of spring and summer 2013 the methodology to be employed, which is to be tested on a pilot basin in the autumn of 2013.

The working languages of the meeting will be English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided. More details are included in the attached information notice

The Task Force meeting will be attended by representatives of the countries that are concerned by the case basin proposals submitted so far or that have expressed interest in participating in the assessment, representatives of organizations undertaking parallel initiatives, partners, experts and stakeholders.

I would appreciate if you could send your registration using the attached form to the secretariat no later than **20 March 2013**.

Concerning the nexus assessment and the substantive aspects of the meeting as well as the programme, Ms. Annukka Lipponen can be contacted (tel. +41 22 917 2666; annukka.lipponen@unece.org). Enquiries concerning practical and administrative issues (including registration) should be addressed to Ms. Cammile Marcelo (tel. +41 22 917 1606, cammile.marcelo@unece.org).

I look forward to receiving your response and remain,

Sincerely yours,



Francesca Bernardini
Secretary to the Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes