

THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION AND THE UN WATERCOURSES CONVENTION VALUE, FUTURE PERSPECTIVES AND POTENTIAL SYNERGIES

Side event at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention

Timing: Wednesday, 28 November 2012, 13.30- 14.50

Location: Sala del Mappamondo

Organizers: Finnish Environment Institute SYKE and French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Languages: English-Russian with simultaneous interpretation

Light lunch will be provided.

With the forthcoming entry into force of the 1997 UN Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UN Watercourses Convention) and of the amendments to the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) opening it to accession to all UN member States, there will soon be two international legal frameworks of global application regarding the management of transboundary waters. It is therefore important to develop synergies between these two Conventions, with a view to determining how these instruments can both contribute to the better management of transboundary waters throughout the world and mutually support each other.

The side event, co-organized by Finland and France, will highlight the consistency and complementarity between the two instruments, analyse the advantages of ratifying both and discuss their future relationship, possible synergies and the institutional arrangements that might be developed for their global implementation. The official agenda of the Meeting of the Parties includes two items related to the opening of the Water Convention, in particular considering the Convention's relationship to the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention. The side event will allow for an additional in-depth discussion.

Programme

Co-Chairs: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Director, Finnish Environment Institute*

Mr. Sujiro Seam, Deputy Director for Global Public Goods, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France

Introduction and objectives of the side event

- The 1992 UNECE Water Convention and the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention: from compatibility to synergy
Mr. Attila Tanzi, Professor of International Law
- Why ratifying both the 1992 UNECE Water Convention and the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention?
Ms. Phani Daskalopoulou-Livada, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece
- Towards global partnership in water management cooperation
Ms. Shirouk Al-Abayachi, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq
- Relationship between the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention and the 1992 UNECE Water Convention: Institutional options and scenarios
Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Reader, UNESCO-IHP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, Dundee University
- Road map towards a synergistic implementation of both Conventions
Mr. Sujiro Seam, Deputy Director for Global Public Goods, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France

Debate with the public