



EXAMINING THE WATER-FOOD- ENERGY-ECOSYSTEM NEXUS A THEMATIC ASSESSMENT IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS

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

Timing: Friday, 30 November 2012, 13.00- 14.20

Location: Sala del Mappamondo

Organizers: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Finland, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

Languages: English-Russian with simultaneous interpretation

Light lunch will be provided.

Meeting the growing water demand without compromising sustainability is a rising challenge in the context of growing population and under the pressure of climate change impacts.

It is therefore crucial to better understand the interactions between water, food, energy and water-related ecosystems in river basins, in order to strengthen synergies and policy coherence between water, food, energy and land management sectors.

The assessment of these interdependencies is even more relevant in transboundary basins, where identifying intersectoral synergies and mutually beneficial solutions can help reducing trade-offs and potential conflicts, not only across sectors, but also across borders, and support the decision-making process to reduce conflicts and enhance sustainability.

The side event, co-organized by Finland, FAO and UNECE, SEI and SIWI will provide the opportunity to present the findings and recommendations of existing relevant initiatives working on the nexus approach, to inspire the future work under the Water Convention, and to identify interested rivers basins to be assessed. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences on how to tackle related policy issues and recommendations on how to approach the assessment of these complex inter-sectoral relationships.

Programme

Moderator and opening remarks: *Mr. Pasquale Steduto, FAO*

- Water: connecting food security, energy security and sustainable development
Ms. Heide Jekel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- Plans for the nexus assessment in a transboundary context under the Water Convention
Ms. Annukka Lipponen, UNECE and Mr. Jakob Granit, Stockholm Environment Institute
- Mutually acceptable mechanism for integrated use of water resources in the Aral Sea Basin through applying a scenario approach
Mr. Giovanni Muñoz, FAO and Mr. Fedor Klimchuk, United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

Invited commentary: *Mr. John Joyce, SIWI (tbc)*

Discussion with the public

- What are the key challenges and the priority actions to be considered in transboundary basins to foster the cross-sectoral dialogue?
- What approaches have proved efficient in strengthening the coherence between the water, food, energy and environment sectoral management policies?
- Which basins might be of interest for the future thematic assessment?

Concluding remarks: Finland