

---

## HOW THE UN SYSTEM SUPPORTS TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

### Side event at the Sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention

**Timing:** Thursday, 29 November 2012, 13.30- 14.45

**Location:** Aula dei Gruppi

**Organizers:** UN-Water

**Languages:** English-Russian with simultaneous interpretation

Light lunch will be provided

Approximately 40% of the world's population lives in river basins that cross the borders of two or more countries and, even more significantly, over 90% of the world's population lives within countries that share these basins. The protection, equitable and sustainable use of transboundary water resources – both surface and groundwater – is thus key to development and security. The 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation will further underscore the importance of transboundary cooperation.

What is the UN system doing to address the challenges of shared water resources? How does it alleviate related tensions around the globe? And how does it support countries' cooperation? What is planned for 2013? Which role does UN-Water play in this and in the follow-up to Rio+20?

The side event will address these questions by presenting and discussing the efforts of a number of UN agencies on cooperation on transboundary waters.

### Programme

**Opening** by the moderator, Mr. Federico Properzi, UN-Water Chief Technical Adviser

#### Panel discussion with the following panellists:

- International Year of Water Cooperation and transboundary groundwater management  
*Ms. Alice Aureli, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*
- Food security and transboundary cooperation  
*Mr. Jean-Marc Faurès, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (TBC)*
- Transboundary water resources management and multilateral environmental agreements  
*Ms. Lara Ognibene, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*
- Promoting transboundary cooperation on the ground  
*Mr. Vladimir Mamaev, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*
- Developing a legal instrument for shared water in the Arab region  
*Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)*
- Water Diplomacy in Central Asia  
*Mr. Fedor Klimchuk, United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)*
- Financing transboundary cooperation  
*Mr. Alessandro Palmieri, World Bank*
- Moving towards a sustainable development goal on water: thematic consultations on water resources management  
*Ms. Sonja Koeppel, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

**Closing remarks** by the moderator