

Introduction by Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties

Signing by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine of the bilateral Treaty on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin

Rome, 29 November 2012

I would like to welcome the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova Mr. Gheorge Salaru and the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Mr. Eduard Stavytskyi to the signing ceremony of the bilateral Treaty in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin.

As the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties I would like to thank both of you for your decision to sign this important document during the Meeting of the Parties of the Water Convention.

The strengthening of the Dniester cooperation has been part of the two last work programs of the Convention (2007-2009, and 2010-2012) and we are very happy and honored to see the results of this work today.

The development of this Treaty and, generally, the Dniester process illustrates very well the strengths of our Convention.

The Convention is about working together: authorities in countries in and outside the basin, stakeholders, NGOs and international organizations. I have been informed that the Dniester process presently engages some 100 individuals representing different sectors and aspects of water management.

The signing of the Dniester Treaty today also shows that the Convention not only serves as a framework for developing specific agreements, but also helps, through projects and activities on the ground, the interested countries to develop such agreements.

The Dniester Treaty is pioneering for the post-Soviet region and also for the rest of the ECE region and globally. It is a very up-to-date agreement that significantly broadens the existing Dniester river cooperation to cover the entire river basin and all sectors important for the management and protection of the shared waters. I believe that this Treaty may become a model for many future river basin agreements.

By signing the Dniester Treaty at the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine demonstrate a very good example to the rest of us. I encourage other Parties to the Convention, as well as non-Parties to follow this example in the future.

I wish the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine success in the implementation of their obligations under the new Treaty.