

Proposal by Germany¹

(5 February 2010)

Theme: Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems				
Selected sub-themes	Envisaged input into the Conference	Envisaged outcomes / added value of addressing the sub-theme at the Conference	Envisaged format for addressing the sub-theme	Scope / Partners
<p>Water for sustainable development: IWRM as a tool for sustainable development (e.g. food, industry, energy and ecosystems) <i>(Comment Jekel: What is meant by this not so easy to understand compilation of issues? That IWRM helps to find a balance between water protection and water uses? Or that IWRM has to cover all roles, water bodies have, i.e. habitat for fauna and flora, big ecosystems, drinking water resource, resource for gaining drinking water or for hydropower production? Should be clarified.)</i></p> <p>Governance and cross-sectoral integration: National Policy Dialogue <i>(Comment Jekel: Governance and cross-sectoral integration as well as the NPD process fit better under “policies and strategies” and “capacity building” below.)</i></p>	<p><u>To explain, what IWRM means in practical terms. What advantages it has to act in an integrated way. Use of good examples to demonstrate what IWRM is, e.g. the EU Water Framework Directive River Basin Management plans, i.e. their establishment until from 2004 to 2009 and their implementation afterwards.</u></p>	<p><u>Acceptance of the IWRM principle and its advantages by the ministers. Commitment to take into account IWRM in the future steps with regard to water management. Increase the engagement in the work of the UNECE Water Convention, perhaps mentioning special ongoing and future projects</u></p>	<p><i>(Comment Jekel: What is meant by format? What options do we have?)</i> <u>There will be a document, will it not? One for the whole theme? Or one for each subtheme? Short and precise documents on the subthemes and the issues under them are necessary from my point of view. Perhaps some sort of check list on each of the issues in the very left column? Examples should be used to present the advantages e.g. of IWRM. Is there also a possibility for PowerPoint presentations in the conference?</u></p>	<p><i>(Comment Jekel: Scope means what?)</i> <u>If partners means partners to develop the papers for Astana, then of course the Bureau of the Water Convention should be involved, but a lot of other organisations dealing with water for sustainable development: EU, OECD etc.</u></p>

¹ By Ms. Heide Jekel, Chairperson of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Water Convention.

<p>Water supply and sanitation, and health (<u><i>Comment Jekel: These issues are of course also linked to IWRM.</i></u>)</p>	<p><u><i>(Comment Jekel: Use of the Parma Paper on the Protocol which explains very well the situation.)</i></u></p>	<p><u>Acceptance of the deficits in the region in these sectors by the ministers. Awareness that these issues will get more and more important due to the expected effects of climate change. Commitment to increase the engagement in the implementation e.g. of the Protocol on Water and Health.</u></p>		
<p>Ecosystems (<u><i>Comment Jekel: Aquatic ecosystems? Ecosystems depending on water? Ecosystem services?)</i></u>)</p>	<p><u>To explain that water bodies or river basins including groundwater are huge ecosystems, which offers a lot of services for mankind (examples) and that mankind has to get aware of this, honour these services and protects them. And in this context also PES should be mentioned, not separately, and with some convincing examples what it means.</u></p>	<p><u>Acknowledgment of the ministers of this ecosystem view, which will get more and more important due to the existing and expected water scarcity and drought problems.</u></p>		
<p>Economic tools (PES, water pricing) PPP <u><i>(Comment Jekel: Both issues above belong better to Financing below.)</i></u></p> <p>Benefit sharing (<u><i>Comment Jekel: Means exactly what? Upstream/Downstream relations? Delicate issue. Ripe for Astana?</i></u>)</p>				

<p>Policies and strategies, <u>including governance and cross-sectoral integration</u></p>	<p><u>Highlight that all sectors have to talk to each other in the states. That public participation is needed to get broad acceptance. Giving examples.</u></p>	<p><u>Commitment of the ministers to start or continue cross-sectoral discussions and find structures to enable such discussions and joint outcomes.</u></p>		
<p>Financing <u>including Economic tools (water pricing) PPP</u></p>	<p><u>To explain that paying for water and waste water is necessary to raise awareness that water is a resource to be protected and not wasted. That the incomes should be invested back in water management again.</u></p>	<p><u>Ministers should take into account the potentials of economic tools in the water management sector and should continue using and improving them or start to establish them in a systematic way.</u></p>		
<p>Capacity building</p>	<p><u>Explaining e.g. the successful National Policy Dialogue and the other capacity building initiatives, e.g. in the framework of the Water Convention</u></p>	<p><u>Acknowledgment by the ministers that capacity building is the starting point to enable sustainable water management. Commitment of the ministers to be more active in this field, uniting resources, finding synergies, no duplication of efforts etc.</u></p>		
<p>Implementation of MEAs</p>	<p><u>Highlighting the progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol</u></p>	<p><u>Urging the countries, which have not yet done so to ratify the existing instruments. For the Convention also hinting on the guide on implementation</u></p>		
<p>Monitoring and assessment</p>	<p><u>Explaining that monitoring and assessment of the status of water bodies is one of the basis for sustainable water management.</u></p>	<p><u>Acknowledgment by the ministers that monitoring and assessment are essential elements and that they should provide the necessary resources for these activities in their</u></p>		

	<p><u>Highlighting the first and the 2nd assessment under the Water Convention</u></p>	<p><u>countries and via capacity building.</u></p>		
<p>Climate change: Adaptation/mitigation Impact of CC, including social (health) and economic impacts Ecosystems, Land degradation, floods, desertification, PEBLDS <i>(Comment Jekel: ? I did not know this before looking at the homepage of PEBLDS. According to the homepage there does not seem to be a lot of current activities in this field. Is it therefore useful to mention it here?)</i> Water efficiency / Energy efficiency IWRM as a tool to adapt/mitigate Transboundary cooperation <i>(Comment Jekel: Transboundary cooperation is also an issue under water for sustainable development.)</i></p> <hr/> <p>Policies and strategies Financing Capacity building Implementation of MEAs Monitoring and assessment</p>	<p><i>(Comment Jekel: The guidance on water and climate adaptation of the Water Convention and the future guidance from the Task force (under the Protocol) on extreme weather events might be a good basis for drafting an input for Astana. There should be no overlapping with the input on water for sustainable development, but only cross references if needed.)</i></p> <p><i>(Comment Jekel: Concerning policies and strategies etc. a lot of what I mentioned above under water for sustainable development is valid also here. Will there be one chapter or input text on this for both subthemes?)</i></p>	<p><u>Acceptance of the critical situation with regard to climate change and its effects or expected effects in the region by the ministers.</u> <u>Acknowledgment of the need for adaptation and mitigation and the need to discuss this on national and international level as soon as possible.</u> <u>Decision on discussion structures or something similar.</u> <u>Agreement on some sort of check list and steps to take with a timetable.</u></p>		