Two global conventions on transboundary water cooperation: So what?

The special session will celebrate the entry into force of the UN Watercourses Convention and the global opening of the UNECE Water Convention. A debate with a variety of stakeholders – including high-level countries’ representatives – will discuss the impacts of countries’ accession to or implementation of such legal instruments.

**When?** Tuesday, 14 April 2015
14.40-16:10

**Where?** Daegu, Inter Burgo Hotel, B1F
Grand Ballroom A (Room DIB_B101)

**Objectives of the session**

- Increase recognition of the key role of international water law in strengthening cooperation
- Increase political support for transboundary cooperation, including reference to it in the post-2015 development agenda
- Invite commitments by countries
Session description


Still, more than 130 countries around the world haven’t ratified any of the Conventions and the added value remains unclear to many stakeholders. The session will give the floor to a panel of experts to discuss accession to and implementation of such legal instruments by countries.

Programme

Facilitator: Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

United Nations system perspective on the 2 Conventions
Video message by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

Setting the scene: International water law and its relevance
Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clark, Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, University of Dundee

Interactive panel discussion
H.E. Ms. Nomvula Mokonyane, Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa
Mr. Sulton Rakhimzoda, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Tajikistan
Mr. Peter Kovacs, Governmental Plenipotentiary in bilateral transboundary commissions, Ministry of Interior, Hungary
Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse, President, WWF International
Mr. Donald Kasongi, Nile Basin Discourse Board Secretary General, Board Member Tanzania
Mr. Mario Lopez Perez, CONAGUA, Mexico
Mr. Joppe Cramwinckel, Water Project Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Interactive discussion: comments from the floor and commitments by countries
Special announcement by Mr. Kai Kaatra, Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
Expert respondent and wrap up: Mr. Alejandro Iza, Director of the IUCN Environmental Law Centre

Closing remarks
H.E. Mr. Xavier Sticker, Ambassador for the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France

For more information: www.uneca.org/index.php?id=38853#/ and eng.worldwaterforum7.org/program/program.asp?program_seq=422