

Draft presentation @ 13/11/15 @ 9am

Time available: 3 minutes

Possible additional time: 1 minute after other panellists and 1 minute at the end

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Thank you very much, Mr Chair.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and colleagues,

It is a honour and a pleasure for me to be part of such distinguished panel and at a moment when the Parties to the Convention will adopt very important strategic decisions for the future of the Convention, river basins management and transboundary cooperation, and the broader global sustainable agenda.

I was asked to address two questions today, namely:

- *How can the Water Convention, [its institutional structure and its activities] support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?*
- *How should the partnership between UNISDR and the Convention evolve [to be most efficient and useful to the two partners and to countries]?*

In this respect, I would like to share with you four points:

- a) Through the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction the Members of the United Nations have signalled a strong determination to:
 - Managing disaster risk in a very comprehensive and integrated way across sectors and institutions; disaster risk reduction is not a technical sector per se;
 - Adopt development policies, plans and investments that in and of themselves prevent the creation of new risk and reduce the existing risk;
 - Increase international cooperation, including trans-boundary cooperation;
 - Ensure the full engagement of all stakeholders in decision making and implementation through coordination mechanisms;
 - 7 global targets were adopted to materialise such commitment;

- And the commitment to manage disaster risk was reiterated through financing for development, the SDGs, and, hopefully, will be through the Paris Agreement and COP21 decisions

b) The Sendai Framework:

- Counts on treaty bodies to support its implementation and the integration of disaster risk management in all national practices; and in particular in...
- ...Water management, river basins, ecosystem management feature prominently;
- Support national coordination for integrated disaster risk management;
- Asks Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction to support a coherent approach in managing disaster risk across sectors and agendas;
- Aims at strengthening accountability in disaster risk management and the review and development of relevant normative instruments.

c) The Watercourses and International Lakes Convention and its mechanisms can play a significant role in integrating the Sendai Framework commitments in its practices and thus achieve the 7 Global Targets. In particular through:

- Ensuring the resilience of critical infrastructures and live-saving and essential services in river basins;
- Supporting the further understanding of water-related disaster risk, and its dissemination to other sectors;
- Strengthening the understanding of sequential effects, the risk of “cascading disasters”;
- Implementation of ecosystems-based approach;
- Development of common information systems and exchanges of good practices;
- Strengthening of early warning;
- Promoting the adoption of strategies and plans which multi-hazard and multi-sector disaster risk management in nature;
- Supporting the application of the very positive experience and practices in trans-boundary cooperation on water issues to other sectors;
- Development and review of normative instruments.

Finally,

d) There is a number of important areas for the cooperation between the Convention's bodies, including joint bodies, and work processes, such as National Policy Dialogues, and UNISDR.

And would like to mention just a few:

- Development of a Words into Action on “water/river basins management and trans-boundary cooperation” to show case, and development guidance on application of integrated disaster risk management in water and trans-boundary cooperation (5.4);
- Development of mutually supportive monitoring and reporting mechanisms (1.1, 1.3) for the Sendai Framework and the Convention;
- Sharing of good practices among countries (5.4);
- Development or establishment of disaster loss data (1.1, 1.3, 5.4);
- Disaster risk modelling, built on data losses and trends (1.1, 1.3, 5.4);
- Preparation of periodic assessments (1.4);
- National policy dialogues and development of regulatory frameworks (6);
- Advocacy based on successes and benefits of trans-boundary water cooperation, including through the Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction (2, 5.4);
- Support development of integrated national and local policies, including on climate change adaptation (4.1)

In concluding, I would like to thank the ECE secretariat colleagues for the continued and very valuable cooperation and technical support in this and other areas of work.