NATIONAL WORKSHOP

THE UNECE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES

KEY ASPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IRAQ

13-14 January 2016

Hotel Le Meridien, Amman, Jordan

DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday 13 January 2016

8:30-9:00  Registration of participants and welcoming coffee

9:00-09:45  Opening session

Welcoming remarks
Mr. Mahdi Ghadhban, Ministry of Water Resources of Iraq
Mr. Peter Kovacs, Chair of the Bureau of the UNECE Water Convention
Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE

Overview of the workshop programme
Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE

Introductory tour de table

9:45-11:15  Session 1: International legal instruments to advance cooperation on shared waters

Chair: Mr. Murtadha Jumaah Hasan, Ministry of Water Resources

General principles of international water law
Ms. Raya Marina Stephan, consultant to UNECE

General explanations about the main features of the UNECE Water Convention
Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the UNECE Water Convention
Definitions and physical scope of the UNECE Water Convention
Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE

Questions and answers

11:15 – 11:45  Coffee break

11:45-13:15  Session 2: Transboundary water cooperation in Iraq

Chair: Mr. Forat Altimini, Member of the Parliament

Status of transboundary waters in Iraq: summary of pressures, management issues and successes
Ms. May Yousif and Mr. Mr. Ali Mohammed Jawad, Ministry of Water Resources

Overview of cooperation with neighboring countries
Ms. May Yousif and Mr. Mr. Ali Mohammed Jawad, Ministry of Water Resources

Panel discussion: Reflections on possible ways for improving transboundary water cooperation
(5 minutes for each panelist):
- Why is transboundary water cooperation important for your institution?
- What are the opportunities for progress?
- How could the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework support the management of transboundary waters?

- Mr. Luay Ali Hussien, Ministry of Water Resources
- Mr. Hayder Al-Tamimi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Ahmed El Habeeb, Prime Minister’s Office
- Mr. Mohammed Zamel Saeed, General Secretariat for the Council of Ministries
- Mr. Jabbar Zayed, Ministry of Health and Environment
- Mr. Alaa Al-Hasani, Ministry of Agriculture
- Ms. Shirouq Alabayachi, Member of the Parliament

Discussion with participants

13:15 – 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45-17:30  Session 3: Interactive discussion on the obligations of the UNECE Water Convention, the benefits and challenges of its implementation

Chair: Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE

Part I – Provisions related to all Parties

General provisions: obligation to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact; equitable and reasonable utilization; principle of cooperation
Mr. Alexandros Kolliopoulos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece and Ms. Raya Marina Stephan, consultant to UNECE
Prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact; Monitoring and exchange of information
Mr. Alexandros Kolliopoulos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece and Mr. Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary

Part II - Provisions related to riparian Parties

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation
Mr. Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary and Mr. Alexandros Kolliopoulos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Joint monitoring and assessment; Exchange of information between riparian Parties; Warning and alarm systems
Mr. Serik Akhmetov, Kazakhstan and Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE

Prevention and settlement of disputes
Ms. Zaki Shubber, UNESCO-IHE and Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE

After each point, there will be Q&As for clarification

17:30 Closure of Day 1

19:00-21:00 Reception dinner at restaurant Sufra, Rainbow street, Jebel Amman.
Thursday 14 January 2016

8:30-8:45

Introductory speech by H.E. Eng. Mohsin al Shimmary, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq

Wrap up from day 1
Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE and Ms. Shirouq Alabayachi, Member of the Parliament

8:45-10:45  Session 4: Implementing the Water Convention: challenges, success stories and lessons learnt

Chair: H.E. Eng. Mohsin al Shimmary, Minister of Water Resources

Implementing the Water Convention: country experience from Kazakhstan
Mr. Serik Akhmetov, representative from Kazakhstan

Implementing the Water Convention: country experience from Hungary
Mr. Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary

Implementing the Water Convention: country experience from Greece
Mr. Alexandros Kolliopoulos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece

How the Water Convention promotes transboundary water cooperation on the ground
Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE

Discussions

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-13:30  Session 5: Moving forward and conclusions

Chair: Mr. Anaam Thabet, Ministry of Health and Environment

Preliminary conclusions of the National Committee of Iraq: why being a Party to both water conventions?
Mr. Murtadha Al-Sudani, representative from the National Committee

How to become a party and basic requirements for implementation and compliance
Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE
Comments by Parties to the Convention on accession process

Discussions on next steps

Report on outcomes of group discussion
Mr. Mohammed Zamel Saeed, General Secretariat for the Council of Ministries

13:30-13:45  Closing