



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and
International Lakes**

MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Seventh session

Budapest, 17-19 November 2015

**Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change
in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers**

Background note prepared by the International Network of Basin Organizations and UNECE

The “Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers” (the Paris Pact, see annex) has been prepared as a part of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, which is expected to be one of the main outcomes of the upcoming 21-st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris. This Action Plan is a collection of concrete and tangible commitments on climate change adaptation and mitigation which is jointly led by the Governments of Peru, France, the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General and the UNFCCC. For more information please see: <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/about/paa.aspx>.

The Paris Pact has been developed by the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) in cooperation with partners, including UNECE, to demonstrate the importance of water for and in climate change, to emphasize the importance of a basin-wide approach to climate change adaptation and to mobilize all stakeholders eager to commit themselves at COP21. The text refers only to water and adaptation to climate change in basins. Other water-related issues will also be presented at the COP 21 in other commitments.

This non-binding document includes two components: part one is describing the context and providing general principles for adaptation to climate change in basins, and part two is listing the commitments (not legally binding) for adaptation to climate change in basins.

The Paris Pact will be presented at the “Action day on resilience to climate change” on 2 December 2015 at COP21 in Paris which will include half a day on “Water and Adaptation to Climate Change” at Le Bourget from 10:00 to 13:00, in the “Blue Zone” (to be accessed with UNFCCC accreditation).

Representatives of governments, international organizations, donors, national and transboundary basin organizations, local authorities, the civil society and companies are **invited to sign the Paris Pact by 20 November by email as described at the end of the Pact or at the short celebration during the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention on 17 November in Budapest. If you are interested to sign the Pact in Budapest, please inform the secretariat by 16 November: Sonja.koeppel@unece.org**

As of 12 November 2015, 152 organizations from all around the world have signed the Paris Pact, including Governments, the World Bank, UN Agencies, Basin Organizations, NGOs and local stakeholders.

The action of basin organizations and all the other stakeholders (governmental administrations, local authorities, companies, all economic sectors, civil society, donors or international organizations ...) will be essential to increase the resilience of societies to the risks facing water resources in the context of climate change. The progress achieved of the Pact could be reviewed in the framework of the Task Force on Water and Climate under the Water Convention and the global platform and network of basins coordinated jointly by INBO and UNECE.

Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers

At the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21 / CMP11) organized from 30 November to 11 December 2015 in Paris, **We**, representatives of governments, international organizations, donors, national and transboundary basin organizations of rivers, lakes or aquifers, local authorities, of the civil society and companies, support the integration of Water into the Climate change Action Agenda, especially for initiating or strengthening necessary adaptation actions in the basins of rivers, lakes, aquifers and large wetlands.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Climate change is already affecting and will increasingly affect the quantity and quality of freshwater and aquatic ecosystems, especially through the intensity and greater frequency of extreme hydrological events, such as floods and droughts, as well as the increase in ocean level, which threaten security, economic and social development and the environment.

We recognize that adaptation actions should be undertaken without delay to minimize the impacts of climate change on the populations' health and safety, on economic development and the environment, considering the importance of the protection of water-related ecosystems.

The basins are natural areas where water flows on the surface and in the subsoil: they are the relevant territories for organizing water resources management.

In order to ensure more effectiveness, these actions to adapt to climate change should thus be implemented at the level of river, lake and aquifer basins, through a joint, participative, integrated and sustainable water resources management.

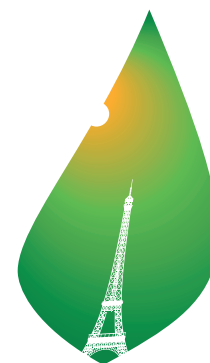
We should act quickly before it is too late!

To that end, mobilizing new and increasing funding dedicated to climate change adaptation in basins is essential. Therefore, new basin organizations and existing ones should be financed and strengthened to facilitate the cooperation, coordination and exchange of information, dialogue, consultation and prevention of conflicts between stakeholders and to enhance the implementation of adaptation measures and the sharing of benefits on the basin scale,

We encourage donors to support prior assessments and actions for adaptation to climate change in basins,

Local authorities and communities, economic sectors and the civil society should be better associated and involved in basin management, including in the definition and implementation of adaptation measures.

Cooperation and exchange should increase between the institutions involved, especially among the basin organizations at the global and regional levels in order to facilitate the transfer of experience and know-how on best practices in basin management and adaptation to climate change.



PARIS2015
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SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES
COP21-CMP11

Supporting and implementing Water and adaptation to Climate Change in the Action Agenda.

With our varying mandates, we will engage to:

1 Reinforce capacity development and knowledge:

- establish basin-wide networks for monitoring and data exchange and water information systems, which are integrated, permanent, reliable, open, representative, interoperable and accessible, as a decision making support tool for adaptation measures,
- develop an interface on the effects of climate change and water between decision makers and research organizations on environmental and human sciences,

2 Adapt basin management planning to climate change:

- at the level of the basins, assess the impacts of climate change and the vulnerabilities and produce strategies for adapting water management to climate change,
- develop basin management plans and actions programs for the implementation of these strategies and measures for adaptation to climate change, and organize regular performance reviews based on suitable performance indicators,
- develop a more efficient and sustainable use of water resources (including groundwater) by better controlling the demand and increasing water availability through inter alia: water efficiency programs, retention measures, modernization of systems, reuse of treated wastewater, artificial recharge of aquifers, rainwater harvesting, application of the polluter-pays principle, etc.,
- enhance the services of water-related ecosystems in adaptation to climate change through inter alia protection and restoration of wetlands, reforestation and other Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM),

3 Reinforce governance:

- build the institutional capacities of basin organizations for adaptation to climate change through existing networks and platforms (UNECE-INBO global network of pilot basins) and improve the abilities of their staff through professional training,
- support mechanisms for the involvement of the stakeholders in basin management, including in vulnerability assessments and planning and implementing adaptation measures, in order to strengthen participative governance and to improve consistency of adaptation policy of the water sector with adaptation policy of water-related sectors (agriculture, energy, transport, tourism, fish farming etc.),

4 Ensure adequate financing:

- establish investment program and sustainable financing mechanisms for the implementation of the action plans and programs.

We will report on our actions and share the progress made in the forthcoming international conferences on water and climate, within existing networks, including the UNECE-INBO global network of pilot basins and the OECD Water Governance Initiative.

We will also promote the signing of this water and climate Pact and Action Agenda.

Name:

First Name:

Position:

Organization:

Signed in (City - Country) :

On (dd/mm/2015) :

Signature :

Please return it signed to inbo@inbo-news.org before November 20, 2015 with a photography of the signatory.



Template of presentation of project illustrating the Action Agenda

1 - Project Title:

2 - Organization(s) in charge of implementation:

3 - Description of the project (max. 200 words):

4 - Schedule of implementation (duration, expected date of completion):

5 - Method for monitoring the implementation of the project:

6 - Contact:

Name:

Tel.:

Email:

Fax:

7 - Optional additional information (website) of the project:

Please return it signed to inbo@inbo-news.org before November 20, 2015.

