

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Report of the national seminar

**“UNECE WATER CONVENTION
AND ITS ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW”**

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 18-19 October 2010

This report has been issued without formal editing by Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

1. The national seminar “**UNECE Water Convention¹ and its role in international law**” took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 18-19 October 2010. The seminar was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with organizational support from the Regional Environmental Center of Central Asia (CAREC), in the framework of the programme “Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management in Central Asia”. The programme is financed by the Government of Germany through *Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) in the framework of the Berlin Water Process. The national seminar was hosted by Kazhydromet.



This picture and other pictures have been kindly provided by CAREC.

2. The national seminar was attended by over 30 participants, including governmental representatives from the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Committee of Water Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture (with representatives from Ishym Basin Inspectorate, Aralo-Syrdarya Basin Inspectorate, Istysh Basin Inspectorate, Tobol-Torgay Basin Inspectorate, Uralo-Kaspil Basin Inspectorate, Chu-Talas Basin Inspectorate, Balkhash-Alakol Basin Inspectorate), the Kazhydromet, and Kazhyprovodhoz. The meeting was also attended by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, USAID,

¹ Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, see <http://www.unece.org/env/water/welcome.html>

CAREC, JSC Eurasian Water Center, academia (Ali-Farabi University and the Institute of Geography of the Academy of Sciences) and NGOs (Global Water Partnership, EcoForum-Kazakhstan, and Eco-IDEA). The UNECE secretariat, as well as international experts from Hungary, the Netherlands, the University of Dundee (United Kingdom) and the secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification provided substantive inputs during the meeting. The list of participants is attached in Annex 2.

3. The programme of the national seminar was developed together with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in order to better respond to the needs and interests of the country. The same reasoning covered the selection of international experts to contribute to the meeting.



B. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

4. The meeting was opened by Mr. Alexander Bragin, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environmental Protection. Mr. Bragin stressed the importance of the seminar for deepening the understanding of the UNECE Water Convention among water professionals in the country. Although Kazakhstan is a Party to the Convention since almost ten years, this is the first opportunity to discuss the Convention in detail and to strengthen the capacity for its implementation. According to Mr. Bragin, Kazakhstan considers possible accession to the Protocols to the Convention – the Protocol on Water and

Health,² and the Protocol on Civil Liability³ - and therefore welcomes further efforts to deepen the knowledge of the Protocols. Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the UNECE Water Convention, thanked the Ministry of Environmental Protection and CAREC for their support in the organization of the seminar, Kazhydromet for hosting the meeting, and the Government of Germany and GTZ for the financial support. She welcomed all participants and introduced the team of UNECE secretariat and international experts. Mr. Mukhtar Zhakenov, Head of the Department of Water Use and Protection at the Committee of Water Resources, stressed that participation in the seminar of all basin inspectorates which deal with transboundary issues will facilitate better understanding and implementation of the Convention in the country. Mr. Paiyzkhan Kuzhakhmetov, Deputy Head of Almaty Regional Center for Hydrometeorology, welcomed participants on behalf of the organization Kazhydromet. Participants were also welcomed by Mr. Talaibek Makeev, Director of the CAREC, who stressed continuous involvement of CAREC in activities under the Water Convention. Mr. Bragin and Mr. Zhakenov chaired the meeting.

Session 1. Water Convention: its place and role in international law

5. Mr. Sergey Vinogradov, University of Dundee / Legal Board of the Water Convention made an introductory presentation on **international water law**. He described the development of international water law to illustrate the place of the UNECE Water Convention in the broader international legal framework. He addressed such key principles of international water law as equitable and reasonable use, obligation not to cause significant harm, obligation of cooperation, obligation to notify on planned measures, obligation to exchange information and hold consultations, and obligation to settle disputes peacefully.

6. The session continued with an introductory presentation on **UNECE Water Convention** by Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to UNECE Water Convention. She described the status of the Convention which currently has 38 Parties, including 37 countries and the European Union. In Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are Parties, and Turkmenistan is in the process of accession. Ms. Bernardini introduced main obligations under the Convention, and the holistic approach of this legal instrument which includes in the notion of transboundary impact the effects on human health and safety, flora, fauna, soil, air, water, climate, landscape and historical monuments or other physical structures, and socio-economic conditions and addresses both surface and groundwaters, as well as builds on the notion of cooperation over the catchment area. Ms. Bernardini emphasized that in line with such holistic approach, the Convention covers cooperation on both water quality and water quantity. Ms. Bernardini described the crucial role played by the Convention in supporting cooperation in the UNECE region and emphasized the support to implementation provided through the Convention. She introduced the Guide to Implementing the Water Convention adopted by Meeting of the Parties in 2009 and other guidance instruments adopted under the Convention.

7. Following the explanation by Ms. Bernardini of the significance of the **amendments to Articles 25 and 26 which open the Convention to non-UNECE countries**, participants discussed the role of the amendments for Kazakhstan, in particular in relation to its non-UNECE co-riparians. Participants discussed the importance of bringing the amendments into force by 2012, as requested by the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2009, and addressed the steps needed for ratification of amendments by Kazakhstan. Ms. Bernardini also briefed the participants about the upcoming workshop under the UNECE

² Protocol on Water and Health, see http://www.unece.org/env/water/text/text_protocol.htm

³ Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters, see <http://www.unece.org/env/civil-liability/welcome.html>

Water Convention (June 2011) which will bring together representatives of UNECE and non-UNECE countries to discuss cooperation opportunities under the Convention. During the discussion, participants also highlighted the usefulness of organizing similar capacity building activities at national level in other countries of the Central Asian subregion.

Session 2: Obligations under the Water Convention and riparian cooperation

8. Mr. Sergey Vinogradov delivered a presentation on **obligations “for all Parties”** as included in Part I of the Convention. In particular, he described the trilateral normative framework of the Convention which is based on (1) the obligation to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, (2) the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization, and (3) the obligation of cooperation. He also addressed the polluter pays principle and explained that the principle has a domestic character as it regulates the relations within a domestic legal regime of a Party. Mr. Vinogradov underlined that the principle cannot be the ground for compensation claims for pollution between the Parties. Participants had a discussion on the content of the polluter pays principle, as well as on the nature of equity as a general principle of international law. Questions were also raised with regard to compensation claims for domestic impacts of polluting activities.

9. Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE, followed with a presentation on the **obligations “for Riparian Parties”** as included in Part II of the Convention. In particular, she explained the obligation to enter into specific agreements which reflects the framework nature of the Water Convention. She described the three requirements to the content of agreements under the Convention, such as (1) to define waters to which they apply, (2) to cover the issues provided for under the Convention and other issues, and (3) to establish joint bodies. Organisational structure, functions and tasks of joint bodies as well as common problems in the activities of joint bodies in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia were also addressed. Ms. Trombitcaia explained in details other obligations under Part II of the Convention, such as to enter into consultations (article 10), to perform joint monitoring and assessment (article 11), to exchange information (article 13), to establish warning and alarm systems (article 14), to provide mutual assistance upon request (article 15) and to settle disputes in a peaceful way (article 22). Participants appreciated the article-by-article examination of the provisions of the Convention in the two presentations above.

10. International experts described the experience of **riparian cooperation in the framework of two joint bodies**, the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

11. Mr. Maarten Hofstra, an international expert from the Netherlands, UNESCO-IHE, described **international cooperation on the Rhine**, the third biggest European river, shared by Switzerland, Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. In particular, he described the challenges for the Netherlands as a downstream country. He addressed such issues as early cooperation in the Rhine basin, cooperation on water pollution, flood protection, including “Room for the River” Programme, and efforts on ecological and species restoration in the Rhine. Mr. Hofstra explained that cooperation has not always been a success story but countries nevertheless endeavour to look for compromises and cooperative solutions. He also described the ICPR’s structure which benefits from decentralised organisation, consensus, predictable funding through regular fixed contributions from the countries sharing the Rhine river basin to the Commission’s budget, reporting about implementation measures, neutral secretariat and atmosphere of political trust.

12. Ms. Zsuzsanna Buzas, international expert from Hungary, presented the Danube River Protection Convention and ICPDR as a framework for **cooperation in the most international river basin – the Danube**, which covers 10% of Europe’s territory. Ms. Buzas indicated social and economic differences among countries⁴ of the basin which do not prevent countries from implementing common programmes. She addressed the organisational structure of the ICPDR, its Joint Action Programme, Trans-National Monitoring Network (TNMN) and the Accident early warning system (AEWS). Ms. Buzas specifically pointed out coordination mechanisms in the basin that are implemented through bilateral agreements and sub-river basin agreements, as well as coordination mechanisms with the Black Sea Commission and Danube - Black Sea Task Force (DABLAS). Ms. Buzas focused on cooperation of all basin countries, even non-members of the EU, in the implementation of EU Water Framework Directive. In response to the questions from participants, Ms. Buzas clarified that the Commission never had to deal with water allocation issues. She also described in detail the involvement of the public, in particular through (i) observer status in the Commission; (ii) activities of the Ad Hoc Public Participation Expert Group; (iii) provision of comments to the Danube River Basin District Roof Report required under the EU Water Framework Directive.



⁴ Parties to the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River (1994), which participate in the activities of the ICPDR, include 14 States (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine) and the European Union. Countries which share less than 2000 km² of the catchment area (Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Albania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) cooperate with the ICPDR on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

13. A discussion session focused on **transboundary cooperation of Kazakhstan**. Mr. Serik Akhmetov, Eurasian Water Center, presented the ideas for a new draft Agreement between the Government of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Complex Management of Water Resources in Irtysh and Balkhash-Alakhol Transboundary Basins and invited participants and experts to comment on the proposal. The discussion touched upon the opportunities to develop a trilateral agreement which would also involve Russia. Comments have also addressed the obligation to maintain the minimum stream flow in the context of Lake Balkhash and the methodological approaches to determining the minimum stream flow. Mr. Mukhtar Zhakenov made a short presentation on transboundary cooperation of Kazakhstan. He informed the participants about the new intergovernmental agreement between Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation signed on 7 September 2010. Participants discussed opportunities of cooperation in conditions of water scarcity. Mr. Yang Youlin, UNCCD secretariat, has shared the experience of China in restoration and remediation of areas which were unsustainably used in the past.

Session 3. Building synergies with other legal instruments

14. This session provided an opportunity **to discuss possible linkages** between obligations and activities under the Water Convention and obligations and activities under two other international legal instruments: UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

15. Ms. Sandra Ruza, **UNECE Espoo Convention** Secretariat, explained major obligations under this legal instrument, in particular the obligation to organise an environmental impact assessment of projects under the scope of the Convention at an early stage of planning, and the procedure for environmental impact assessment (EIA) in a transboundary context under the Espoo Convention. She emphasized that although the Convention did not provide for clear requirements on domestic EIA, adequate national EIA system is important for practical implementation of the Convention. Ms. Ruza described in detail example of applying the Espoo Convention to the Belarus pilot project - Hydropower plant on the Neman River in Belarus close to the border with Lithuania. During the discussion, participants were interested to find out about the pilot project between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on the application of the Espoo Convention provisions to the planned development of the Andash copper and gold deposits. The pilot project was undertaken from 2006-2009. Participants emphasized the importance to build up on the experience of this pilot project. As the Russian Federation is not a Party to Espoo Convention, questions were also raised on the opportunities to use the Water Convention for the discussion and evaluation of planned activities between Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, both Parties to Water Convention. Ms. Ruza emphasized the overall readiness of the Russian Federation to apply the Espoo Convention, as evidenced by the Nord Stream project. Mr. Serik Akhmetov informed the participants that the third Conference of the Parties to the **Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea** (Astana, Kazakhstan, 24-26 November 2010) will adopt and open for signature two protocols to the Tehran Convention, one of them on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Ratification and application of the protocol by the Parties to the Tehran Convention (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan) would improve dialogue and cooperation between the countries in the assessment of major projects with a potential cross-border impact on the environment.

16. Mr. Yang Youlin, **UNCCD** Secretariat, made a presentation on UNCCD's initiatives at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels which help prevent conflict over scarce resources. In particular, he

presented the National Action Programmes under UNCCD as a tool to promote policies and strengthen institutional frameworks that are developing cooperation and coordination between the donor community, governments at all levels, local populations and community groups, and facilitate access by local populations to appropriate information and technology. Participants exchanged information about several projects on desertification in Kazakhstan.

Session 4: The topical issues in international water law

17. Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE, addressed **principles and criteria for water allocation in international law** and the problem of prioritization of factors and criteria. She also provided examples of countries experience in water allocation. In particular, she stressed that the Water Convention does apply to the water quantity. Even though water quantity issues are not specifically referred to in the Convention, water quantity is included in the scope of application of the Convention, as water quantity and quality strongly interrelate. Major principles of the Convention – the principle of equitable and reasonable use, no significant harm principle, and the principle of cooperation – are fully applicable to regulate water quantity issues. Ms. Trombitcaia described the mechanisms of the Water Convention (joint bodies, consultations, exchange of information, dispute settlement) which can be used for regulating the issues of water allocation. The participants had a discussion on the prioritization of factors described in the presentation. Many emphasized the need for stronger environmental approach to water allocation criteria which would go beyond the protection of the minimum stream flow of a watercourse.



18. Mr. Sergey Vinogradov followed with another relevant topic, **State responsibility for transboundary pollution and civil liability**. In particular he explained the differences between (i) State responsibility for unlawful acts, (ii) State liability for injurious consequences of acts not prohibited by international law and (iii) civil liability for environmental harm. He specifically addressed the role of the **Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters** to two UNECE Conventions (the Water Convention and the Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents) as an important instrument to promote compensation of damage caused by the transboundary effects of an industrial accident on transboundary waters. The Protocol provides for a strict liability of the operator and includes a broad definition of damage. It also specifies financial limits of liability, except for the fault-based liability, and includes measures on financial securities. The discussion focused on concrete examples of both State responsibility as well as civil liability in case of transboundary pollution and accidents on transboundary waters. Mr. Vinogradov stressed the importance of dispute prevention and called upon participants to avoid transformation of differences into the dimension of State responsibility. Discussion also touched upon another two examples: the Baia-Mare accident on the Tisza River in 2000 which had a large transboundary impact and pushed the international community towards the adoption of the Protocol on Civil Liability, and the recent accident at the alumina refinery in Hungary. Although the latter had no transboundary impact it serves as a reminder for the international community to take effective measures to prevent and address the issue of environmental pollution from industrial accidents and of civil liability.

Session 5. Water Convention as a mechanism for broader cooperation to protect the environment

19. Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Co-Secretary to the **Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention**, explained the obligations of Parties under the Protocol which brings together environmental and health policies. In particular, she referred to the obligations to establish targets and target dates and to establish systems for surveillance and early warning of water related diseases. She also addressed measures to be taken in the areas of public awareness, education and public participation under the Protocol. Ms. Bernardini explained the functioning of different bodies under the Protocol, in particular the role of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism. She described the implementation of the Protocol by providing the example of the Republic of Moldova and outlined the challenges in implementation, the major one being intersectoral cooperation within the country. Participants discussed the interest of Kazakhstan in becoming a Party to the Protocol and emphasized the need for further capacity building on this legal instrument. EcoForum-Kazakhstan voiced strong support to the Protocol as providing a comprehensive legal framework to tackle environment and health problems.

20. Ms. Zsuzsanna Buzas shared the experience of Hungary, where 96 % of water resources originate from the neighbouring countries, on the issue of **monitoring and data exchange on transboundary rivers**, both in the context of bilateral cooperation and in the framework of the ICPDR. In particular, she described several regulations which serve as a framework for bilateral cooperation on monitoring and water quality with Romania and Slovakia and addressed (i) exchange of meteorological and hydrological data and information; (ii) sampling, analyses and the evaluation of water quality; (iii) activities during the accidental pollution. Ms. Buzas also described the ICPDR's Transnational Monitoring Network which is based on national monitoring networks, gathers data from 77 sampling stations (in 2005) and covers 52 determinants in water. She has also addressed the efforts to revise TNMN to respond to the challenges connected with implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. New TNMN from 2007 covers 33 chemical / physico-chemical and 3 biological quality elements and is based on 111 monitoring sites. Participants had a

strong interest in such issues as border crossing by water managers responsible for sampling and collection of water quality data, and unified methods for sampling and measurements all over the catchments area. Dealing with phytoplankton (e.g. blue-green algae problem) was also raised in the discussion.

21. Ms. Ekaterina Strikeleva, CAREC, made a presentation on another area of work under the UNECE Water Convention - **payments for ecosystem services** (PES). Ms. Strikeleva presented the concept of PES as well as the Recommendations on PES developed under the umbrella of the Convention. Her presentation focused on a pilot project in Chon-Aksuu River watershed in Kyrgyzstan, which allows to test the scheme to be able to apply it as instrument for sustainable financing of the management of water ecosystems in Central Asia. Discussion focused on the needs in PES both in the given case selected for the pilot project as well as the applicability of this instrument in general in the systems where national and local budgets are responsible for ecological rehabilitation but often do not have enough resources to tackle specific issues. Participants welcomed the fact that the pilot project is implemented to test the scheme in Central Asia.

22. Ms. Francesca Bernardini drew attention of the participants to the recently adopted **Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change** and emphasized the new pilot project to be implemented in Chu Talas basin to improve the adaptive capacity of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and support dialogue and cooperation on the necessary steps to design an adaptation strategy in the transboundary context.



Concluding discussion

23. A concluding discussion focused on the needs of Kazakhstan in connection with strengthening implementation of the Water Convention. In particular, the following items were highlighted:

- Basin councils established in the country need active support to ensure their continuous and effective functioning. Such support should include training, exchange of knowledge and experience to build and improve the capacity of the councils.
- Kazakhstan would greatly benefit from the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on Integrated Water Resources Management and is eager to start the Dialogue as soon as possible. The dialogue could also be an important instrument to strengthen basin councils. The International Water Assessment Center (Slovakia) stands ready to support the initial phase of the NPD. The UNECE Secretariat will endeavour to look for resources to ensure a sustainable NPD process.
- Kazakhstan wants to become a Party to the Protocol on Water and Health and would appreciate assistance in this regard.
- Non-governmental organizations see the Protocol on Water and Health as a crucial instrument to improve water supply and sanitation in the country and are ready to actively support and participate in the process of Kazakhstan's accession to the Protocol.
- Kazakhstan's ratification of the amendments to the Convention opening it to countries outside the UNECE region will be an important step, both for the transboundary water cooperation of Kazakhstan, as well as for strengthening the Convention as a legal instrument of global application.
- The current work of the Legal Board of the Water Convention on developing a mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance is an important area of work, in particular from Kazakhstan's perspective, thus Kazakhstan should actively participate in the process.
- Although some difficulties still exist, Kazakhstan sees progress in its transboundary water cooperation with co-riparians. However such progress needs to be sustained and intensified.
- National water management and transboundary water cooperation are in need of adequate funding and sufficient human resources. National budget should allot appropriate resources to support the water sector. The international community and the public have also a role to play to advocate the importance of water management, transboundary water cooperation and adequate and stable financing.
- There is a strong interest in continuation of capacity building with a focus on water monitoring issues targeted at water professionals on the spot. Specific issues to be addressed in further capacity building also include responsiveness of transboundary water agreements to flow variability, and methodologies to calculate the minimum stream flow.
- Publication of promotional material on the Convention in the national language would be very helpful in order to make this information more accessible to the broader spectrum of governmental officials and the public.

Annex 1: Agenda

National Seminar
UNECE Water Convention and its role in international law
Almaty, 18-19 October 2010

In the framework of the UNECE-GTZ programme “Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management”

Venue: KazHydroMet, prospect Abaya 32

1st Day	18 October 2010
9.00-9.30	Registration of participants
9.30 -10.15	<p>Opening</p> <p>Alexander Braghin, Director of the Department for Implementation of International Environmental Standards, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Mukhtar Zhakenov, Head of the Department of Regulation, Use and Protection of Water Resources, Committee of Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to Water Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</p> <p>Konyssbek Baedilov, Head of the Hydrometeorological Center of Almaty oblast, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Mr. Alexander Nikolayenko, Regional Adviser, “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia” Programme, GTZ</p> <p>Mr. Talaybek Makeev, Director, Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia</p>
10:15-11.00	<p>Session 1: Water Convention: its place and role in international law</p> <p>Introduction to international water law: sources and principles (Sergey Vinogradov, University of Dundee/ Legal Board of the Water Convention)</p> <p>Water Convention: a unique framework for transboundary water cooperation (Francesca Bernardini)</p>
11.00-11.30	Coffee break

11.30-13.00	<p>Session 2: Obligations under the Water Convention and riparian cooperation</p> <p>Water Convention: “obligations for all Parties” (Sergey Vinogradov)</p> <p>Water Convention: “obligations for Riparian Parties”. Joint bodies: international experience and best practice (Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE secretariat of the Water Convention)</p> <p>Individual joint bodies:</p> <p>International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine and other commissions with participation of the Netherlands (Mr. Maarten Hofstra, UNESCO-IHE)</p>
13.00 -14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 16.00	<p>International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (Zsuzsanna Buzas, Hungary)</p> <p><u>Discussion (Moderated by Sergey Vinogradov): Achievements and challenges in riparian cooperation of Kazakhstan (1h 30 min)</u></p> <p>Introduction to riparian cooperation of Kazakhstan, Mukhtar Zhakenov</p> <p>The draft Agreement between the Government of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Complex Management of Water Resources in Irtysh and Balkhash-Alakhol Transboundary Basins, Serik Akhmetov</p> <p>Discussion</p>
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-17:45	<p>Session 3: Building synergies with other legal instruments</p> <p>Consultations between riparians: the role of the Espoo Convention (Sandra Ruza, Espoo Convention Secretariat, UNECE)</p> <p>UN Convention to Combat Desertification (Youlin Yang, Assistant Regional Coordinator, UNCCD Secretariat)</p>
19.00	Reception

2nd Day	
19 October 2010	
9.00- 10.00	<p>Session 4: The topical issues in international water law</p> <p>Water allocation and criteria (Iulia Trombitcaia)</p> <p>State responsibility and transboundary pollution. Civil Liability (Sergey Vinogradov)</p>
10.00 – 11.00	<p>Session 5: Water Convention – an engine for broader cooperation to protect the environment</p> <p>Protocol on Water and Health (Francesca Bernardini, Co-Secretary to the Protocol)</p> <p>Monitoring and data exchange at transboundary rivers, including water quality cooperation (Zsuzsanna Buzas, Hungary)</p>
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-13.00	<p>Payments for ecosystem services (Ekaterina Strikeleva, CAREC)</p> <p>Climate change and water resources (Francesca Bernardini)</p>
13.00 -14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15:00	<u>Discussion:</u> Needs of Kazakhstan to strengthen implementation (Moderated by Serik Akhmetov)
15.00 – 15.30	Conclusions

Annex 2: List of participants

	ФИО	Организация	Должность	Контактный телефон
1	Брагин Александр	МООС РК	Директор Департамента внедрения международных стандартов в области окружающей среды Министерства окружающей среды РК	Тел: +7 (7172) 740665
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