

WORKSHOP ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION:

The 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses: their relevance and usefulness for the countries of Latin America

3 and 4 October 2016

Campeche, México

DRAFT AGENDA

3 October

9:00 - 10:00

Registration

10:00 - 10:30

Opening Statements by the organizers

- Mr. Vicente Elías Cárdenas Góngora, Local Director of the National Water Commission (CONAGUA) in Campeche, Mexico
- Mr. Peter Kovacs, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Hungary
- Ms. Shreya Kumra, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) (TBC)
- Mr. Miguel Doria, UNESCO Office in Montevideo and Regional Bureau for Science, UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO IHP)
- Mr. Adriano García-Loygorri, Ibero-American Water Directors Conference (CODIA)
- Opening of the Workshop, Mr. Salomón Abedrop López, Deputy Director General for Planning, CONAGUA

10:30 - 11:15

Workshop objectives and introductory round

- Objectives of the workshop and introduction to the programme
Ms. Sarango Radnaaragcha, UNECE
- Introductory round of participants and expectations from the workshop

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 - 13:30

Session 1: Transboundary watercourses cooperation: Main principles and their application through various legal frameworks

Chair: Mr. Peter Kovacs, Chair of Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Hungary

- Why do we need international water law? Including history and current status of the Conventions
Ms. Lesha Witmer, WWF
- 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses – similarities and differences, substantive and procedural provisions
Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Northumbria University
- The UNECE Water Convention in practice: experience from its implementation, institutional framework and activities on the ground – *Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of Water Convention, UNECE*
- Current state of transboundary water cooperation in Latin America
Mr. Julio Montes de Oca, IUCN Central America

13:15 – 13:30

Preparation for the group exercise (instructions for break out groups): explanations from the Moderator, *Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Northumbria University*

13:30 - 15:00

Lunch

15:00 - 16:30

Session 1 continued

Group exercise

Group exercise on the Conventions and their use to promote transboundary cooperation – Moderator Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Northumbria University

Questions to be discussed:

- From your perspective, what are the key constraints and opportunities for transboundary water cooperation?
- What is/could be the value added of the UN Watercourses Convention and/or the UNECE Water Convention in supporting transboundary water cooperation within the transboundary waters that you are working on?
- What factors might inhibit State, in particular your country, in acceding to one or both Conventions?

16:30 - 16:45

Coffee break

16:45 - 18:15

Session 2: Good practices and tools available in different regions of the world

First challenge: Institution-building

Chair: Mr. Jose Miguel Zeledon, Director, National Water Agency, Costa Rica

- Obligations in international water law and principles for effective

joint bodies developed under the Water Convention, *Mr. Peter Kovacs, Chair of Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Hungary*

- Cooperation between Mexico and the United States for Rio Bravo and Rio Colorado Integrated Management
Mr. José Alejandro Cervantes Beltrán, Director General of the Península de Baja California River Basin Organization, CONAGUA
- CeReGas and Governance. The Guarani Aquifer System: an example of binational cooperation between Argentina and Uruguay
Ms. Ximena Lacues, Technical Secretariat CeReGAS (Regional Center for Groundwater Management for Latin America and the Caribbean)
- The experience of Lake Titicaca,
Mr. Edwin Maydana, Peru-Bolivia Autoridad Binacional del Lago Titicaca
- The experience of Rio de La Plata,
Dr. Juan Curbelo and Mr. Rolando Bustos, Administrative Commission for the Río de la Plata
- Spain – Portugal agreement “Convenio de Albufeira” –
Mr. Adriano García-Loygorri, General Directorate of Water, Spain

18:15 – 18.30

Wrap-up session – Closing of the first day

4 October

Session 2: (continued)

9:30 - 11:15

Second challenge: Trust building

Chair: Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of Water Convention, UNECE

- How the Conventions help to build trust
Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Northumbria University
- The work on benefits under the Water Convention and the example of the Sava River Basin
Ms. Dragana Milovanovic, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Serbia
- Policy guidance note on identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation developed under the Water Convention and its application
Mr. Roberto Martin Hurtado, UNECE Consultant

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00

Session 2 (continued): practical exercise on the benefits of cooperation *Mr. Roberto Martin Hurtado, UNECE Consultant*

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 15:30

Third challenge: Information-sharing and the special case of transboundary aquifers

Chair: Mr. Abelardo de la Torre Villanueva, National Water Agency, Peru

- Obligations in international water law with regards to information-sharing and monitoring, relevant work under the Convention and monitoring of the implementation of transboundary cooperation under SDG6
Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of Water Convention, UNECE
- Mexico-United States information exchange under the framework of the 1944 Water Treaty
Mr. Oscar Gutiérrez Santana, Director General of the Río Bravo River Basin Organization, CONAGUA
- ISARM Americas: Regional Strategy for the assessment and management of the Transboundary Aquifers Systems
Mr. Alfonso Rivera, Chief Hydrogeologist, Geological Survey of Canada, Natural Resources Canada
- Groundwater Resources Governance in Transboundary Aquifers: Integral Management of Bi-national Aquifer Ocoatepeque-Citalá
Mr. Julio Montes de Oca, IUCN Central America

15:30 - 17:30

Session 3: Conclusions and next steps

Chair: Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of Water Convention, UNECE

- Interactive discussion in the working groups on the next steps at the national, basin, regional and global levels to strengthen transboundary water cooperation, including through activities carried out with development partners active in the region and other stakeholders.
- Presentation of results of working group discussions to the plenary session

17:30 – 17:45

Conclusions by the Chair

17:45 – 18:00

Closing statements by the organizers

- Mr. Vicente Elías Cárdenas Góngora, Local Director of CONAGUA in Campeche
- Mr. Peter Kovacs, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Hungary
- Mr. Jose Arroyo, Economic Affairs Officer, ECLAC Mexico
- Mr. Miguel Doria, UNESCO IHP
- Mr. Adriano García-Loygorri, CODIA

19:30 – 22:30

Cocktail