The Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

Astana, Kazakhstan, 21-23 September 2011
“Environment for Europe” process

➢ a unique partnership of UNECE member States, organizations of the UN system represented in the region, other intergovernmental organizations, RECs, NGOs, private sector and other stakeholders

➢ a high-level platform to address environmental priorities and promote broad horizontal cooperation, and a regional pillar of sustainable development

➢ focused on helping countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to raise their environmental standards towards a common regional standard

➢ UNECE serves as secretariat to the process
Astana Efé Ministerial Conference

- Astana, Kazakhstan, 21 – 23 September 2011
- **two main themes:**
  - sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems
  - greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development

Thus: Opportunity to bring water-related issues to Minister’s attention and to promote Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health
Astana EfE Ministerial Conference

- Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) is the convening body for the preparatory process
- Conference agenda prepared by CEP Extended Bureau (Geneva, 16-17 Mar 2010) & CEP 17th session (Geneva, 2-5 Nov 2010)
- Three multistakeholder roundtable discussions in parallel sessions
- Launch of the second Assessment in opening plenary
## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, 21 September</th>
<th>Thursday, 22 September</th>
<th>Friday, 23 September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>3. Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems</td>
<td>5. Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch break / side events: noon–2 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch break / side events: 1–3 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch break / side events: 1–3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Opening of the Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;(plenary, 2–4 p.m.)&lt;br&gt;- Opening ceremony and adoption of the agenda</td>
<td><strong>4. Sustainable management of water and greening the economy</strong></td>
<td><strong>6. Reporting on the outcomes of the discussions under the thematic sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;(plenary, 3–4.30 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. The EfE process: 20 years of pan-European cooperation</strong>&lt;br&gt;(plenary, 4–6 p.m.)&lt;br&gt;- History of the EfE process&lt;br&gt;- Astana Green Bridge Initiative&lt;br&gt;- Presentation of EEAoA&lt;br&gt;- Presentation of the Second Assessment&lt;br&gt;- Statements</td>
<td><strong>7. Adoption of Conference outcomes</strong>&lt;br&gt;(plenary, 4.30–5.30 p.m.)</td>
<td><strong>8. Closure of the Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;(plenary, 5.30–6 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side events</td>
<td>Official event — establishment of Environmental Information System (SEIS) / side events: 6–9 p.m.</td>
<td>Official events / side events: 6–9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems

a. Which policies proved to be effective to value and protect water-related ecosystems, including the payment for ecosystem services? What are the main obstacles and gaps?

b. What policies proved to be effective in addressing human health issues related to water quality and quantity? What are the main obstacles and gaps?

c. What are the priorities/challenges in adapting management of water and water-related ecosystems to extreme weather events and to climate change?

d. What are the experiences and lessons learned from the cooperation in transboundary basins to improve water quality, manage water quantity and protect ecosystems?
Sustainable management of water & greening the economy

a. What policy mixes and practical tools, such as IWRM, pricing, standards, and water users associations, can be most effective to improve water efficiency by different water users, especially in agriculture, households and industrial operations?

b. How can we encourage investments to take into account the impacts on water quantity and water quality, energy and resource efficiency, and vulnerable populations?
“Inputs and outputs”

- Two thematic background documents
- Water document prepared by Water Convention secretariat in cooperation with partners, draft to be discussed by CEP in May
- Conference outcomes: a two-page Ministerial Declaration; a Chair’s Summary; initiatives, agreements by interested ministers and stakeholders on specific subjects and/or for specific subregions, as well as policy tools
- Astana Water Action
Water Convention side events

- Second Assessment
- Water and climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
- EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues
- Protocol on Water and Health
- Water quality project in Central Asia
- GIZ project: Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia
Next steps

- Special Session of the Committee on Environmental Policy, 24-27 May 2011
- Finalization of the two thematic background documents
- Arrangements for the multistakeholder roundtable discussions
- Drafting the Ministerial Declaration
- Working on outcomes
We want from you

- Comments on draft official substantive document
- Comments on Astana Water Action
- Suggestions for the side events
- Information on your country’s plans
- Promote the Convention through declaration, ministers’ statements etc.
Astana EfE Ministerial Conference

Thank you!

http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/welcome.html