

**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT ON
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE ROLE OF
THE WATER CONVENTION**

10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Thursday 12 November 2009, room VII, Palais des Nations

Provisional Programme

The segment will be divided in two sessions: the first one focusing on institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation and the second on emerging issues for water management in Central Asia, such as links between water management and environmental aspects, and climate change.

The segment will allow exchange of views between high level representatives of the five Central Asian countries, other Parties to the Convention and a variety of actors engaged in transboundary water cooperation.

10.00-10.20 Opening

- Opening by Ms. Hannele Pokka, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment of Finland, the Chairperson of the segment. (10 minutes)
- “The role of the UNECE Water Convention in Central Asia: achievements, challenges and future perspectives”, Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE (10 minutes)

**10.20-11.45 Session 1: Institutional arrangements for transboundary water
cooperation**

The session will discuss options of institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation and possibilities for future developments in Central Asia, building on the experience from Convention’s Parties in other parts of the UNECE region. Representatives from countries in Central Asia will be invited to share their views on how do they see the future transboundary water cooperation in that region and what would be the best model to make it work effectively.

(a) Key note address “Strengthening the regional water cooperation: the role of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea”.

Mr. Sagit Ibatullin, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (10 minutes)

(b) Statements by panelists (5 minutes per statement)

- H.E. Mr. Saidi Yoqubzod, Minister of Melioration and Water Resources, Tajikistan
- H.E. Mr. Gheorghe Salaru, Minister of Environment, Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Shavkat Khamraev, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Uzbekistan

- Mr. Laszlo Kothay, State Secretary for Water, Hungary
- Ms. Marina Seliverstova, Head, Federal Agency of the Water Resources, Russian Federation
- Mr. Chyngyz Uzakbaev, Deputy Director General of the Water Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Processing Industries, Kyrgyzstan

(c) General discussion (interventions and questions to speakers from the floor)

11.45- 12.55 Session 2: Water management and environmental aspects: challenges and opportunities for transboundary water cooperation

The session will focus on emerging issues in Central Asia: links between water management and environmental aspects, and climate change, including, the challenges it poses and opportunities it offers for transboundary water cooperation.

(a) Statements by panellists (5 minutes per statement)

- H.E. Mr. Saidi Yoqubzod, Minister of Melioration and Water Resources, Tajikistan
- Mr. Dan Cărlan, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Romania
- Mr. Nariman Umarov, Chairman, State Committee for Nature Protection, Uzbekistan
- Mr. Mukhtar Tultabayev, Deputy Director, Department of Ecology, Policy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Kazakhstan
- Ms. Taisia Neronova, Deputy Chief of Department, State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyzstan
- Mr. Victor Dukhovny, Director, Scientific Information Center, Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia
- Mr. Yusup Kamalov, Coordinator of the Energy and Climate Issue Group, European ECO-Forum; Chairman, Union for the Defence of the Aral Sea and Amu Darya

(b) General discussion (interventions and questions to speakers from the floor)

12.55-13.00 Closing

- Concluding remarks by the Chairperson (5 minutes)
