

***Intervention de la BAD (représentée par M. Francis Daniel BOUGAIRE) lors du Débat général de la session spéciale : la coopération relative aux eaux transfrontalières : partager l'eau pour l'humanité, la planète, la prospérité et la paix.***

**Cette Convention est un outil important pour contribuer au développement de la concertation et de la coopération entre les Etats qui ont en partage des cours d'eau communs (de surface ou souterrain) pour la protection durable de ces ressources et aussi pour qu'elles contribuent dans des conditions équitables, apaisées et durables au développement harmonieux des projets et programmes y afférents.**

**La présence de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) à cette 8ème réunion des Parties à la Convention sur la protection et l'utilisation des cours d'eau transfrontalières et des lacs internationaux, témoigne de l'importance qu'elle accorde à l'eau en général et spécifiquement aux ressources en eaux transfrontalières qu'elles soient de surfaces ou souterraines.**

**Cette importance accordée à l'eau et aux eaux transfrontalières par la BAD se traduit au moins dans les aspects suivants :**

**1-Le rôle actif de l'eau pour la mise en œuvre de ses cinq grandes priorités actuelles à savoir : nourrir l'Afrique, éclairer l'Afrique, industrialiser l'Afrique, intégrer l'Afrique et améliorer les conditions de vie des populations africaines. Notamment, la coopération dans le domaine des eaux transfrontalières contribue notablement à l'intégration sous régionale et régionale ; la mise en œuvre de projets d'eau potable et d'assainissement contribue puissamment à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations pauvres urbaines comme rurales.**

**2-Le financement des projets des organismes de bassins existants, des projets d'eau des communautés économiques régionales et de projets communs à des Etats qui partagent un cours d'eau transfrontalier pour la création d'organisme de bassin.**

**3-Le développement de partenariats avec d'autres institutions financières et non financières comme l'UNECE, le RAOB, le GWP, etc, pour le financement de projets d'eau et l'appui au renforcement des capacités institutionnelles et opérationnelles des organismes de bassin.**

**Je vous remercie.**

**Eighth Meeting of the Parties (MOP 8) of the Convention on the Protection  
and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes  
(Astana, Kazakhstan, 10-12 October 2018)**

**EU and its Member States coordinated statements**

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## High-level Segment – Part 2

### Sharing waters in the context of growing water scarcity: How can transboundary cooperation make a difference?

Chairperson of the Convention, honourable Ministers, Excellencies, high Representatives of the UNECE, ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

Water scarcity is a particular challenge for southern EU countries. But also for large river basins with abundance of water in general, e.g. the Rhine river basin or the Danube river basin, water scarcity is an evolving issue and is expected to become more relevant in the future due to climate change. Moreover, in areas suffering from water scarcity where groundwaters are often the only relevant source of water, great attention should be put on management of transboundary aquifers.

Within the EU, there are different approaches to cope with water scarcity, with priority of reducing demand and improving the water use efficiency first. Climate change adaptation strategies have been developed in many EU Member States as well as for international river basins, e.g. Danube and Rhine. But there is no one size fits all approach: approaches with proven efficiency have to be tailored to the regional needs in cooperation with local experts.

With this in mind effective measures for water scarcity require recognizing and balancing the values of water - in all its social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions. Taking these values into account in equitable, transparent and inclusive processes, can help to manage our (transboundary) water resources in a more integrated and sustainable way.

Regional adaptation measures focus e.g. on the establishment of drought risk management plans, improvement of irrigation efficiency or reuse of treated wastewater, where appropriate. Financial incentives to support the implementation of such measures are often provided through rural development programmes in cooperation with EU. Raising awareness on nature based solutions and ecosystem services of healthy water ecosystems, like e.g. providing drinking water, flood protection and spaces for recreation strengthens the motivation to implement adaptation measures.

Water scarcity is an issue where transboundary cooperation is key in order to jointly develop approaches and to share experiences and practical knowledge considering the nexus between water, energy, food security and ecosystems. The Water Convention has been a platform for discussion and exchange for a long time

and will be the right platform to cope with these challenges. Therefore, the EU and its Member States appreciate that water allocation and benefit sharing is part of the 2019-2021 work programme of the Water Convention. Activities under this framework will improve understanding and will help to find common solutions for this challenging water management and cooperation issue.

Thank you, Chair.

FAO INTERVENTIONS AT  
EIGHTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE WATER  
CONVENTION  
10-12 October 2018  
Astana, Kazakhstan

**Intervention by Olcay Unver, Deputy Director  
FAO Land and Water Division  
Part 2 of the High-Level Segment**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues,

FAO would like to extend its appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan, the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for a very successful organization put together. This High-Level segment focuses on water scarcity, which we see as a growing threat that, unless dealt with, can set back the global efforts to build a fairer, more-sustainable world.

While estimates vary, by 2025, about two-thirds of the world population may face water stress, while 1.8 billion people may be living with 'absolute' water scarcity.

Agriculture is a major victim of as well as contributor to water scarcity. We know that much of the socio economic impacts of scarcity falls on the sector. In the case of droughts, the economic impact is as high as 84% on agriculture among all sectors.

If we are to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including zero hunger and eradicating poverty we need to manage our natural resources wisely and move away from the business as usual.

To ensure that the problem does not prevent agriculture from providing food security and nutrition to a growing global population, FAO and partners launched the [Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture](#) in 2016.

Agriculture must produce more food with less water: 50 percent more by 2050 to support a world population that will have grown by 2 billion. The

sector will be able to meet this demand through crop choices, irrigation methods, livestock production practices, more efficient water use in food value chains and reductions in food loss and waste.

Making the right decisions in these areas can reduce water demand, protect water quality and adapt agriculture to climate change.

FAO's work on water accounting and water auditing shows the importance of being able to know how much is available and how best it can be allocated in a sustainable way.

Addressing water scarcity in agriculture will not prevent droughts, but it can help stop them becoming famines.

As agriculture also contributes to water scarcity, accounting for 70 percent of freshwater withdrawals, actions to enhance water-use efficiency in the sector have wider benefits.

Reshaping agriculture can help meet the Paris climate commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 6 (access to clean water and sanitation) and SDG 12 (sustainable consumption), among others.

It is imperative that, actions and strategies targeting sustainable development must address water scarcity, agricultural production, food security and climate change in an integrated manner.

In order to illustrate my statements and to contribute to the art installation, I brought with me a white cloth handkerchief, because

- It wipes away tears, when people's livelihoods are torn apart because of desertification, drought and water scarcity;
- It captures water, then once squeezed, it releases water / water can be recovered;
- It is small and affordable and hence accessible to all, as water should be for every human being;
- It is white as the purity of unpolluted water; and
- Often used by many in rural areas as a napkin to take back home the leftover food, as food can't be wasted.

For too long many of us have taken granted having food and water available at any time. It is time to realize how much this is a privilege for so many people.

Thank you for your attention.

## **UNECE MOP8 Astana, 10-12 October 2018**

### **Special session – Transboundary water cooperation: Sharing water for people, planet, prosperity and peace**

Director General, Ari Niiranen, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

#### **Part 2: Sharing waters in the context of growing water scarcity: How can transboundary water cooperation make a difference?**

Chairperson of the Convention, honourable Ministers, Excellencies, High representatives, ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change will worsen the water scarcity in many regions. This is true also for Finland. Annual precipitation is expected to increase, but summers will get dryer. A good example is the past summer, very low precipitation caused big losses for farmers. Low water situation has of course implication for waters crossing the borders.

We have also a clear need for adaptation measures for low dry periods not only in southern regions but also in the north, and of course, transboundary implications have to be part of the planned measures.

The new International Water Strategy of Finland introduces the concept of the Finnish Water Way and it represents our holistic approach on water. In our approach, we all, five ministries, private sector and stakeholders work together as a society, from the grass-roots level to the national level, towards sustainable water management also in transboundary waters.

The Strategy is based on three pillars: Water for Sustainable Development, Water for People, and Water for Peace. Pillar for Water and Peace emphasize preventing conflicts through transboundary water cooperation. Climate change mitigation and adaptation is one of the key objectives as well as equitable and sustainable water use.

Finland will welcome any activities within the UNECE Convention framework that could help the countries and riparian countries together develop adaptation measures to combat harmful impacts of climate change.

# **TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION: SHARING WATER FOR PEOPLE, PLANET, PROSPERITY AND PEACE**

## **Part 2 – Sharing waters in the Context of Growing Water Scarcity: How can transboundary Water Cooperation Make a Difference**

### **Ghana**

This statement serves as contribution to the issue of *how cooperation is evolving to deal with growing water scarcity*. The focus is on the Volta Basin.

Ghana shares the Volta River Basin with five other countries – Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Togo – with the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) as the transboundary water management institution. The riparian countries are linked by a common need for the valuable water resources of the basin, which is now facing transboundary threats, including land and water quality degradation, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and flooding.

A number of triggers led to the establishment of the VBA and continues to drive cooperation among the riparian states. However, one fundamental initiative that has helped reduce underlying tension and improved collaboration is the strengthening of trans-border cooperation through the introduction of village level management arrangements to meet livelihoods including livestock watering.

Growing water security is being dealt through evolving transboundary cooperation interventions including innovative mechanisms to support and sustain livestock watering in the local communities.

Over time, the VBA has encouraged the formation of joint local trans-border stakeholders forum to serve as platform for the exchange of experiences, engage in constructive and collective deliberations, and agree on common perspectives for conserving and utilising the water resources of the Volta.

For instance, a transboundary local committee serving communities in upper east, Ghana and south eastern Burkina Faso acts as a link between the two countries. The useful observation has been the committee's proactive action in ensuring physical measures that may increase water for livestock watering and dry season farming. This has not come easily but it is the basis towards avoidance and full resolution of the conflicts.

The key message is that transboundary cooperation should also be built on the promotion of collective action and understanding at the local level and that shared physical measures and/or practices that would prevent conflict and promote cooperation should be seriously considered.

**Honourable Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Colleagues, ladies & gentlemen,  
A very good afternoon.**

Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
for the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention

Support Statement of EU

First & foremost, I would like to congratulate the Kazakh government together with the Secretariat of the WC for hosting & organising WC the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention, in this beautiful part of the world.

The Netherland fully supports the statements by Austria on behalf of the European Union.

The NL is increasingly aware of the risks of water scarcity. This summer we have experienced the driest summer in the NL on record for the past 200 years. We see the urgency & have initiated activities on water scarcity under our international river commissions to prepare ourselves and to feed discussions on this topic that becomes increasingly important.

Droughts put pressure on transboundary cooperation. Promoting cooperation in times of drought is therefore of the utmost importance. But preventing and preparing for droughts is key.

With climate change and population growth, the influence of water on (regional) stability and security is increasing. In order to prevent water related instability and conflict, following the example of Senegal, the NL put the issue of water and climate change as a root cause on the agenda of the UN Security Council. Lake Chad was the concrete example that was presented. We believe that Transboundary Water Cooperation is imperative and the UN WC provides the foundation for dialogue.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands will gladly add an item to the art installation.

We have searched for an object that symbolises successes or challenges of transboundary water cooperation. The object is firstly a typical building from the NL, and stands as a symbol for innovation a few honderd years ago. This wind driven watermill would pump water from one level to the other, prevented the lower part of our country from flooding and enabled us to create new land for agriculture uses called polders. The technicality behind this innovative idea at the time was mind-blowing, however, without cooperation and good governance the

implementation would not last. Therefore, a new system of voting rights was initiated.

By presenting you this object, we would like to stress the importance of cooperation and good governance across borders in the context of people, planet, prosperity and peace.

Thank you.



8<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**  
10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN

## **Déclaration de l'OMVS**

Cette déclaration est faite au nom du Haut Commissaire de l'Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS), empêché :

Considérant que les différentes dispositions de la Convention de l'Eau sont en parfaite harmonie avec les principes fondateurs de notre Organisation qui ont permis à 4 pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, depuis 46 ans, de lier leur destin en mettant en place une communauté d'intérêts communs avec comme base la solidarité, l'équité et le partage.

Considérant aussi que l'adhésion à la Convention constitue un choix résolument orienté vers la paix et la stabilité. Nous nous engageons sur les points suivants :

- l'engagement de l'Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS) à poursuivre et intensifier le plaidoyer auprès de ses Etats membres pour l'adhésion à la Convention (à l'instar du Sénégal);
- En tant que Secrétariat Technique Permanent, nous avons entrepris de manière irréversible la redynamisation du Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin (RAOB) pour en faire un important outil au service de ses membres et ainsi en assurer la durabilité et l'efficacité.
- l'engagement, en relation avec la présidence actuelle du RAOB à mobiliser tous les organismes membres de ce réseau pour le plaidoyer auprès de leurs Etats membres quant à l'adhésion à la Convention ;
- continuer, à travers le monde comme nous l'avons toujours fait, à promouvoir les principes de gestion solidaire et concertée des eaux transfrontalières par des Organismes créés sur des bases juridiques et institutionnelles solides.

Enfin, nous invitons tous les participants assister au side event, co-organisé avec la BAD, sur la gouvernance transfrontalière des eaux en Afrique prévu le 11 octobre de 8h30 à 9h45 à la salle 1 Syr Darya.

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE  
PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY  
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

**Eighth Session**

**10-12 October 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan**

**High-level segment**

Ralf Ernst

Deputy Co-Ordinator, Head of Environmental Activities; Office of the Co-ordination of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Dear Ministers and Deputy Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to address you today on the occasion of the Eighth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention. I congratulate the **Government of Kazakhstan** for the leadership in hosting this important event. We are honoured to contribute to this event.

The 2030 Agenda reinforces the nexus between peace, security and development. This relationship is at the core of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security. In this regard, we view the Water Convention as one of the cornerstone frameworks for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on Water in the OSCE region where water is a strategic resource and an essential element of national and regional security.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organisation under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter with 57 participating States in North-America, Europe and Asia.

Water has an important role to play as a tool for conflict prevention, confidence-building and diplomacy in the context of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. Competition for water can be a source of conflict – joint water management can be a way to prevent or resolve conflicts and to build confidence among States.

OSCE political commitments in the field of water management are consistent with and complementary to the Water Convention. These commitments, inter alia, encourage OSCE participating States to effectively implement the Convention or, in relevant cases, accede to it.

*Ladies and gentlemen*

In the interest of time I will now only refer to one regional example of our work in transnational water cooperation.

In the **Dniester River basin**, which is shared by Moldova and Ukraine, the OSCE, together with the UNECE, has supported the negotiation and ratification of a bilateral treaty. The bilateral river basin commission recently established by the two countries to jointly manage the Dniester river basin is an important outcome of this work. The first meeting of the Commission was held only last month, this is a very recent development.

The OSCE, in co-operation with UNECE and UNDP, is supporting Moldova and Ukraine in the implementation of the Treaty through a dedicated Global Environment Facility funded project.

An important output of our joint support to the efforts of these countries is the “Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin”. A copy of this framework I wish to contribute to the art installation that is being developed as part of this conference.

This framework highlights essential elements of our work on transboundary water cooperation. First, there is, of course, the topic: it emphasises the need for climate change adaptation which will determine much of our work on transboundary water cooperation for years to come. In addition, this is a good example for the collaborative efforts of international and intergovernmental organisations in delivering services and assistance to governments. This framework was developed with the assistance of the **Environment and Security Initiative**. The **ENVSEC Initiative**, as we call it, is a long-standing partnership between the OSCE, the UNECE, UNDP, UN Environment and REC that has delivered many successful projects.

*Ladies and gentlemen*

In closing, let me assure you that we will be happy to further share our experience in the facilitation of water cooperation among participating States of the OSCE, but also with countries outside of the OSCE, in the spirit of the developments under the Water Convention.

Thank you for your attention.

**The eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to  
the Water Convention**

**10-12 October 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Special session: Transboundary water cooperation: Sharing water  
for people, planet, prosperity and peace*

*(b) Part 2 - Sharing waters in the context of growing water  
scarcity: How can transboundary water cooperation make a  
difference?*

**Romania: Mr. Ioan DENEȘ, Minister, Ministry of Waters and Forests**

***October 10th, 2018***

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Romania would like to join other states in thanking the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention.

It is the first Meeting of the Parties with State-Parties from outside the Pan-European region!

Romania fully support EU Statements made by Austrian Presidency!

Romania gives great importance to the implementation of European policies in the field of water resource management, for the benefit of European citizens, this being one of the strategic objectives of the forthcoming Romanian Presidency of the European Union Council, in the first semester of next year.

In the context of extreme weather conditions caused by climate change, which in Romania generates scarcity of water resources and floods, maintaining a balance is a real challenge.

Since water resources are transboundary in most cases, it is particularly important to have a river basin cooperation framework. Romania is almost entirely covered by the Danube river basin and cooperates with the other Danubian States in managing all problems in this international river basin, based on the Danube River Protection Convention. The issues related to the reduction of available water resources are addressed in the Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and in the Danube River Basin Management Plan. These documents establish a coordinated framework at national level, as well as the overall general baseline measures.

Bilateral cooperation with neighbouring states is particularly important, especially for coordinating actions in order to minimize the impact of extreme weather phenomena. In this regard, Romania cooperates with Bulgaria, Serbia, Ukraine, Hungary and Moldova, in the framework of the agreements signed for transboundary water management and will develop these bilateral instruments to meet future challenges regarding the reduction of water resources available in the region (here in figure is concrete example of the transboundary water management: Hydrotechnical Knot on the Prut River, tributary of the Danube, between Romania and Republic of Moldova, which has as main uses for both states: flood control of a capricious river, irrigation, water supply, hydropower and fish farming. And because we couldn't bring with us the Hydrotechnical Knot, we present here an traditional Romanian jugful for share water that in Romanian is called "ulcior").

This year, in August, we have reached a final stage of the negotiation of a new agreement with Serbia on transboundary waters, an agreement based on both the principles of the European Union's policy and those of the Water Convention.

Romania believes that the Water Convention and the Water and Health Protocol are a framework that can provide support to transboundary water management and Romania will continue to actively support their development.

Thank you for your attention!

Excellences,  
Mr or Ms Chair,  
High-level representatives,

- I have the pleasure to address you on behalf of the UNESCO Director General and provide UNESCO's contribution to this session by highlighting some the most relevant and up-to-date approaches that the Organization is promoting regarding equitable and sustainable water use and water cooperation.
- UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) works to facilitate international dialogue on transboundary water cooperation. IHP currently implements and coordinates 14 worldwide initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the water-related SDGs. These initiatives facilitate the exchange of scientific information between IHP and water stakeholders at the regional level, through establishing and maintaining networks of scientists and water professionals. In so doing, they serve an important role in promoting regional scientific cooperation and exchange. The outputs of these initiatives, which include scientific materials and tools, can be of direct relevance and application to managing transboundary water resources.
- Moreover, IHP fosters and consolidates cross-disciplinary networks through the UNESCO Water Family, which provides a pool of experts of various disciplines. Several UNESCO Category II Centres and Chairs have a specialized focus on transboundary water cooperation and diplomacy.
- Until the beginning of the 21st century, there was only a vague idea about transboundary aquifers. Limited knowledge of this resource implied that common frameworks for dialogue between countries were also lacking. In order to fill these gaps, in 2000, the IHP launched the International Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) Programme.

- This UNESCO programme promotes scientific, legal, socio-economic, institutional and environmental assessment of internationally shared aquifer resources. During more than fifteen years of work, it made available to Member States, experts and the global community a full range of scientific tools, water management options, methodologies, case studies and guidelines for informed decision-making applied to transboundary aquifers and the related surface waters and ecosystems, thus contributing to promotion of cooperation. The UNESCO inventory and the mapping of transboundary aquifer constitutes a technical reference, which has been crucial for example in the designing of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation and its monitoring.
- Another cooperative effort of UNESCO and UNECE is monitoring of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation. Under the umbrella of UN-Water, a report presenting the baseline situation for transboundary water cooperation has been developed as part of a series that track progress towards the various water-related targets set out in the global agenda. And we believe that monitoring and further strengthening transboundary water cooperation are central to ensuring sustainable development for all.
- In terms of institutional and legal aspects, facilitation of governance reforms, looking especially at groundwater integration within river basin management, was identified as a key. The UNESCO Project on transboundary groundwater resources governance (GGRETA), supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), over the last five years has become a clear example of the opportunities offered by this approach. The Project has demonstrated the first example of institutionalizing cooperation over a transboundary aquifer in the Southern Africa region and the first operational governance mechanism to be nested in a river basin organization.

- In Central Asia, UNESCO focuses on building capacities of young researchers, civil servants and water experts by promoting legal instruments for water cooperation, including the UNECE water convention. UNESCO is currently replicating these experiences in other regions, particularly in Africa, and invites all Member States and partners to find avenues to promote equitable and sustainable water use and water cooperation along similar lines, when dealing with transboundary water resources.
- Another UNESCO's programme «**From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential**» (**PCCP**) was implemented through the development, improvement and dissemination of educational materials, institutional frameworks and methodologies for the anticipation, prevention and resolution of water conflicts, as well as various legal tools and best practices for the management of transboundary water resources. This was executed through activities focused on education and training, research, and the creation of platforms for dialogue and exchange, including those in Central Asia.

**Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention  
10-12 October 2018  
Astana**

**High Level Statement**

**Ms. Paola Albrito**

**Chief**

**Regional Office for Europe**

**United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**

## Salutations

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

- Thank you for the opportunity to address you here today.
- A few statistics make it abundantly clear how water related risk and transboundary cooperation are central to the work of disaster risk reduction, and for peace and prosperity.
- Overall, water-related disasters account for almost 90% of the 1,000 most devastating disasters of the last thirty years.
- This is important for all of the countries in the region here today. For example, 25% of Central Asia's population is employed in agriculture – which is one of the sectors most vulnerable to hydro-meteorological disasters such as flooding or drought.
- Climate change is exacerbating water risk and in turn, multiplying security threats. Hydro-meteorological disasters continue to bring about the highest numbers of displacement: In 2017 disasters, caused by natural hazards displaced 18.8 million people.
- Disaster risk reduction builds a positive narrative calling for preventing the creation of new risks. It creates a space for national and regional level cooperation and dialogue.
- This is strong theme in the Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation, being launched at this Meeting of the Parties, led by UNECE, and in cooperation with UNISDR. I would like to thank UNECE Secretariat for their strong collaboration on this guide
- The implementation guide is a crucial contribution on implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Both water resources and disasters know no borders, making transboundary cooperation essential to achieving sustainable development. The technical guidance will now greatly support turning words into action.
- A key measure of the success or otherwise of our efforts in implementing the Sendai Framework will be the number of countries which will meet the 2020 deadline for a substantial increase in the number of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction which give due consideration of water risk.
- The strength of those strategies will depend on how well they can prevent the creation of future risk, being prepared for climate impacts in an increasingly urbanized world.
- These thematics will be discussed at the upcoming European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Rome on 21-23 November 2018 under the chairmanship of Italy, co-hosted with UNISDR to which I warmly invite you to attend.
- I would like to close by congratulating the Secretariat, the Parties and Task Force on Water and Climate for their work which has helped us all to understand the importance of transboundary cooperation on managing water risk.
- The message that I take away is the following. If not understood and managed well, water will not always be there when you need it; and may overwhelm you when you least expect it. Getting ahead of this risk curve is essential for peace, security and sustainable development.
- Thank you.

Statement from the floor, MOP-8  
*(Astana, 10 October 2018)*

**Mr. Philipp Saprykin**, Deputy Head  
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

**Special session Part 1: “Transboundary water cooperation and water allocation – Preventing conflict and ensuring peace and stability”**

*Dear Chairperson,  
Distinguished Participants,*

Allow me adding voice of gratitude to the Government of Kazakhstan for hospitality and warm welcome!

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, (UNRCCA) was established ten years ago at the initiative of the five countries of Central Asia. It is the first United Nations body with a specific mandate focused on preventive diplomacy.

From its very inception, the Centre’s work has been based on regional cooperation. We are active in many areas, including counter-terrorism and capacity building for preventive diplomacy across the region, and increasingly with Afghanistan. And one of the most important areas of our work is trans-boundary water management.

We have long seen the need for a regional legal framework for managing the region’s water tailored to Central Asia’s particular needs and circumstances. Such a framework would be a significant contribution to the region’s long-term security and stability. It would be catalyst to economic growth, quality of life, sustainable development as well as addressing scarcity of water.

For many years, the Centre worked to build support for a proposal on a legal framework or an arrangement for trans-boundary water management in the Aral Sea Basin, fully in line with the UNECE Water Convention.

Although the situation in the region was not ripe for such joint arrangement, we continued our efforts to build capacity in water diplomacy and conflict prevention, collect and share data and highlight the pressing needs in this area.

Since late 2016, regional cooperation has expanded dramatically. A new spirit of cooperation has emerged, and new initiatives are coming from each of the countries on a regular basis. New bilateral arrangements on water have sprung up across the region.

The adoption of the Caspian Convention on 12 August of this year shows us clearly that regional agreement is possible on even the most difficult issues related to water in Central Asia.

The first summit of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea on 24 August in Turkmenistan took place in nearly a decade and it was a landmark achievement.

*Dear participants,*

UNRCCA is striving to capitalize on these new dynamics and use the positive momentum to build consensus on key water-related issues and raise the profile of transboundary water management on the international agenda. Our work so far has focused on several threads, all contributing to the long-term goal of a regional agreement/arrangement.

We have engaged on capacity-building in water diplomacy in five Central Asian states and Afghanistan. We address melting glaciers, given that high-altitude glaciers are Central Asia's primary source of water and they are coming under increasing stress with the global climate change.

Trans-boundary cooperation, conflict prevention and water diplomacy have taken on a new relevance in Central Asia and we all must do everything to seize this opportunity, encourage these trends and support the countries' positive efforts towards resolving some of the region's most pressing issues.

We are actively looking for new entry points in this work through innovative approaches and appropriate incitements that would complement the UNECE Water Convention - related work and efforts in the Central Asian Region.

Thank you for your attention!

## **Intervention at the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention**

Mr. Ngo Tuan Dung,  
Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Department,  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, S.R. Viet Nam

*Astana, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018*

Distinguished Chair,  
Ladies and gentlemen

Viet Nam is among the countries worst affected by climate change and sea level rise. With continued rapid economic growth and accelerated urbanization, Vietnam is facing enormous challenges in managing its water resources such as draught, salinity intrusion, water scarcity or urban water quality... As approximately two third of the water in Viet Nam's rivers is generated outside the border, transboundary water management and cooperation are of crucial importance to us.

Throughout its course of action, Viet Nam has consistently showed that it is an active, reliable and responsible member of international communities. Viet Nam has supported international water law and regional initiatives which help countries cooperate to deal with the challenges of shared water resources. In 2014 Viet Nam had joined the UN Watercourses Convention. Before that, together with Lao PDR, Cambodia and Thailand, Viet Nam has signed the 1995 Mekong River Agreement, one of the most advanced multilateral transboundary water management framework in the world up to date.

Thus, in our view, an accession to the UNECE Water Convention would be in line with these continued efforts and a commitment of Viet Nam to addressing the numerous challenges and issues related to the exploitation, use and protection of transboundary waters in accordance with internationally recognized principles and standards.

We also believe that this process would also benefit other countries in the region by sharing the experience and lessons and creating framework for bilateral and multilateral agreements for integrated transboundary water management.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in charge of intergrated water resource management in Viet Nam, has started activities to prepare the domestic requirement for this accession

*We would like to take this opportunity to request the technical support from UNECE as well as all Parties to the Convention in the process of preparing the required national conditions for the accession. The support involves, but not limited to, the following:*

*- Provision of relevant experts and expertise for a comprehensive review and assessment of the current Viet Nam's legal framework and technological readiness, and other cross sectoral issues.*

*- Support for developing and carrying out post accession implementation activities pursuant to the Convention's requirements and appropriate to specific national conditions including follow up measures, monitoring and evaluation. Beside, designing innovative financial mechanisms, nexus policy analysis and dialogue, and HR training for IWRM are also very important*

To conclude, we would like to take this opportunity to highly commend the role and achievement of the Water Convention as well as the effort to become a global multilateral legal and intergovernmental framework for transboundary water management. We support this effort and pledge to continue our cooperation. Finally, we would like to thank the UNECE for the invitation and support, and thank the Kazakhstan Government for its excellent organization and hospitality.

*Thank you all.*



كلمة ممثل الجمهورية الإسلامية الموريتانية في الدورة الاستثنائية 8 لأطراف الاتفاقية الدولية

للمياه المنعقدة ما بين 10 إلى 12 أكتوبر 2018 في أستانا بكازخستان

يلقيها: المحامي الدكتور إبراهيم أفال بوبكر المستشار والمكلف بالشؤون القانونية لوزارة المياه والصرف الصحي.

شكرا السيد الرئيس لإعطاء الكلام نيابة عن بلدي الجمهورية الإسلامية

الموريتانية

السيد الرئيس المحترم

السادة والسيدات ممثلو الدول والهيئات الدولية والإقليمية المحترمين

تحية طيبة، وبعدها أشكر دولة كازخستان على حسن وكرم الضيافة

الذي حظيت به الوفود المشاركة في هذا الاجتماع الهام، الذي موضوعه الاتفاقية

الدولية للمياه، والشكر موصول إلى الأمانة التنفيذية لاتفاقية المياه.

أنا أمثل بلدي موريتانيا في هذا الاجتماع لاتخاذ اللازم في ما يتعلق باتفاقية

المياه خدمة لمصالح بلدي.

أذكر في هذا المقام أن موريتانيا لأول مرة تشارك في اجتماعات هذه

الاتفاقية، وستقوم بلادنا على ضوء المعطيات المتحصل عليها من الآن فصاعدا

للإجراءات الضرورية اللازمة للانضمام إلى الاتفاقية الدولية للمياه كالجارة

السنغال، وستقوم في هذا المجال بتكوين فريق عمل يسهر على الإجراءات

الضرورية للانضمام للاتفاقية في أقرب الأجل ونطلب من الأمانة التنفيذية

للاتفاقية الدعم الفني واللوجستي في هذا المسار الذي سيضمن لبلادنا الانضمام

للاتفاقية في أقرب الأجل.

ونطلب من الأمانة التنفيذية للاتفاقية تزويدنا بكافة المعلومات والدعم

الذي يمكن موريتانيا من الانضمام في أسرع وقت ممكن.

كما نطلب من الأمانة التنفيذية للاتفاقية القيام في أسرع وقت بورشة

وطنية في موريتانيا وورشات إقليمية في كافة الدول التي ترغب في الانضمام من

أجل دعم مسار هذه البلدان للانضمام لهذه الاتفاقية.

وفي الختام تقبلوا فائق التقدير والاحترام.

عن الكلمة

المحامي الدكتور إبراهيم أفال بوبكر

المستشار القانوني لوزارة المياه

والصرف الصحي بموريتانيا

## Statement by Uruguay

### **Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP 8) to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)**

**Astana, 10 October 2018**

### **Special High-Level Session Part 2 – Sharing waters in the context of growing water scarcity: How can transboundary water cooperation make a difference?**

#### **Introducción**

- Ante todo corresponde agradecer a la Secretaría de la Water Convention y a Kazakhstan como país sede de este gran evento, el haber invitado a Uruguay para participar de las importantes deliberaciones que se llevarán a cabo en los próximos días.
- Como país productor de alimentos para más de 30 millones de personas, con una población de sólo tres millones, se hace evidente que el recurso agua es de vital importancia para la producción nacional y las exportaciones de Uruguay que entre la agricultura y ganadería suman el 70 % del Producto Interno Bruto del país.
- Pero no sólo en el área productiva es que Uruguay ha prestado históricamente una importancia prioritaria al recurso agua. En el área social, es el único país de América Latina que ha logrado una cobertura casi universal de acceso al agua potable segura.
- Como lo destacara Naciones Unidas, el Gobierno uruguayo realizó un esfuerzo para incrementar el acceso al agua potable de toda la población, el cual se sitúa en el **98% de cobertura**, uno de los índices más altos de Latinoamérica y el Caribe. También reconoció el avance a nivel del saneamiento, con un **98% de la población que accede a “una fuente mejorada de saneamiento”**, de la cual **el 60% está cubierta por la red de alcantarillado**.
- En el mismo sentido es de interés adelantar desde ya a los delegados presentes que Uruguay, históricamente se ha sentido muy cómodo en los ambientes multilaterales, por lo que más valora este tipo de foros internacionales. Más aún como en el caso, cuando pretenden convertirse en “globales”.
- Resaltando al mismo tiempo que en el caso de Uruguay, sus cuencas bi o multinacionales ya poseen marcos regulatorios convenidos con los países vecinos, como en el caso de la Cuenca del Plata y el Acuífero Guaraní, entre otros.

#### **Marco normativo**

- **Constitución de la República Artículo 47: Artículo 47**

La protección del medio ambiente es de interés general. Las personas deberán abstenerse de cualquier acto que cause depredación, destrucción o contaminación graves al medio ambiente. La ley reglamentará esta disposición y podrá prever sanciones para los transgresores.

***El agua es un recurso natural esencial para la vida. El acceso al agua potable y el acceso al saneamiento, constituyen derechos humanos fundamentales.***

- **Plan Nacional de Aguas**

El Plan Nacional de Aguas, es un instrumento técnico político para la planificación y gestión de las aguas considerando los diversos usos del recurso, aprobado por decreto del Poder Ejecutivo 205/017 del 31 de julio de 2017. A partir de su aprobación, Uruguay cuenta por primera vez con un Plan Nacional de Aguas, tal como lo estableció la Ley de Política Nacional de Aguas de 2009 (Ley N° 18.610).

El plan se ordena en torno a tres grandes objetivos:

- el agua para un desarrollo sostenible,
- el acceso al agua y el saneamiento como derecho humano, y
- la gestión del riesgo de inundaciones y sequías.

Contiene un diagnóstico completo de la situación de los recursos hídricos, posibles escenarios a futuro, identificación de los aspectos críticos y líneas de acción que orientan 10 programas y 30 proyectos.

A partir de la presentación de este primer documento de trabajo, entre julio 2016 y marzo de 2017, se llevó a cabo un proceso de divulgación y discusión del plan en los ámbitos formales existentes con competencias específicas en la planificación de los recursos hídricos: Comisión Asesora de Agua y Saneamiento (COASAS), Consejos Regionales de Recursos Hídricos y Comisiones de Cuencas y Acuíferos. En forma paralela y complementaria se desarrollaron diversos mecanismos de consulta y divulgación orientados a la puesta en consideración del plan por parte de la ciudadanía.

Una vez finalizadas estas instancias de divulgación y discusión de la propuesta, en el primer semestre de 2017, la Dirección Nacional de Aguas integró en una versión final los aportes y ajustes al Plan Nacional de Aguas surgidos del proceso de discusión.

En marzo de 2017, el Mvotma presentó el documento en la Coasas (Comisión Asesora de Agua y Saneamiento) y el 22 de marzo, en el marco del Día Mundial del Agua, fue elevado al Poder Ejecutivo a través del Gabinete Ambiental para su consideración y aprobación, a efectos de tomar definición de compromisos y acciones para la implementación por parte de cada organismo.

El 31 de julio de 2017, el Poder Ejecutivo aprobó por decreto el Plan Nacional de Aguas.

Dado lo anterior, como Ustedes comprenderán, el Agua siempre ha sido un tema de particular significación para Uruguay y por ello tanto nos enorgullece participar de este evento y en la medida de nuestras posibilidades aportar nuestra experiencia reguional.

## ***Intervention de la délégation de la République de Guinée***

***Monsieur le Président de la session ;***

***Excellences Messieurs les Ministres ;***

***Mesdames, Messieurs les Invités,***

Permettez- moi au nom des hautes autorités de mon pays et de la délégation guinéenne d'exprimer notre profonde gratitude au gouvernement du KAZAKHSTAN non seulement pour l'accueil chaleureux mais aussi pour la parfaite organisation de cette huitième session de la Convention sur l'Eau dans cette belle capitale d'ASTANA. Je voudrais aussi féliciter le Secrétariat de la Convention pour son travail exemplaire dans l'organisation de cette session.

Mon pays la République de Guinée est communément appelée château d'eau de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Elle enregistre une pluviométrie moyenne annuelle de 1835mm avec un potentiel annuel en eau renouvelable de 226milliards de m<sup>3</sup>. Elle dispose de 23 grands bassins fluviaux dont 14bassins transfrontières arrosant tous les Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Par exemple le bassin du Niger arrose neuf Etats membres. Cinq (5) de ces bassins fluviaux transfrontières sont gérés par des organismes intergouvernementaux tels que : ABN, OMVS, OMVG.....

Pour la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau, notre pays a adopté en 1994 le « Code de l'eau ». Il a élaboré et adopté la Politique de l'eau et a mis en place des structures adéquates telles : la Commission Nationale de l'Eau, la Direction Nationale de l'Hydraulique, la Direction Générale du Fonds de l'Hydraulique. Elle a surtout été l'un des pays fondateurs des organismes intergouvernementaux ci-dessus.

Compte tenu de ces immenses potentialités en ressources en eau et du souci majeur à mieux gérer ces ressources partagées en eau pour le bien être des populations, le gouvernement de la République de Guinée affiche sa volonté politique d'adhésion à la Convention.

C'est pourquoi au nom du Ministre de l'Energie et de l'Hydraulique de la République de Guinée , DOCTEUR CHEICK TALIBY SYLLA , j'ai l'honneur d'annoncer ,du haut de cette tribune , la demande officielle d'adhésion de la République de Guinée à la Convention et sollicite donc la Présidence et le Secrétariat de la Convention avec les Bailleurs de Fonds à appuyer mon pays tout au long de son processus d'adhésion. Pour terminer la délégation guinéenne félicite la République du Tchad et du Sénégal pour leur adhésion à la Convention.

## Statement by Kenya

### **Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP 8) to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)**

**Astana, 10 October 2018**

#### **Special High-Level Session Part 2 – Sharing waters in the context of growing water scarcity: How can transboundary water cooperation make a difference?**

##### **a) How is cooperation evolving in your basin to deal with growing water scarcity?**

*i. Development of appropriate frameworks providing for sustainable management and development of transboundary waters. These include:*

- Transboundary water Policy
- Legal framework for the implementation of the policy
- Bilateral Memorandum of understanding (MoUs for Sio-Malaba-Malakisi between Kenya and Uganda, Lakes Chala/Jipe and Mara Between Kenya and Tanzania)
- Regional water policy under IGAD
- Regional Water Resources protocol under IGAD
- Undertaken negotiations with Uganda on the fishing management around Migingo Island, in Lake Victoria

*ii. Other initiatives on the sustainable management of Transboundary waters includes:*

- Joint identification and preparation of transboundary water related projects
- Establishment of joint technical committees
- Establishment of institutional framework – e.g Water Resources Authority, Water Towers Authority
- Undertaken Environmental flow assessment for Mara River
- In the process of undertaking Water allocation plan for River Mara
- Installation/Rehabilitation of regional hydrometeorological network for enhanced transboundary water resources data management
- UNEP Coordinated Project on the sustainable management of Lake Turkana and its River Basins between Kenya and Ethiopia
- Project proposal on the integrated management and Development of Daua River Basin between Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia under IGAD.

##### **b) What are the incentives to implement tailored actions to manage demand, increase water efficiency and share benefits, and what are the challenges faced in their implementation?**

*i. Incentives*

- Need for enhanced regional cooperation
- Need to alleviate poverty
- Need to enhance socio-economic status of the population and regional at large
- Need for Peaceful coexistence
- Need to meet the ever increasing water demand in background of diminishing water resources
- Need to harness transboundary waters potential for economic development

- Need to address the challenges associated with climate change – management of floods and draughts
- Need to conserve and sustainably manage transboundary water resources for posterity

*ii. Challenges*

- Inadequate capacity in terms of resources and technical expertise
- Prioritisation of national versus regional interests
- Climate change
- Increasing demand due to population growth, industrialization, irrigation among others

**c) How can better valuing water help to address the problem of water scarcity in the transboundary context?**

- Enable enhancement of resources allocation towards conservation of water resources and their catchments
- Enable enhancement of allocation of resources towards sustainable operation and maintenance of water utilities

**d) How can implementation of the Water Convention as a global legal and intergovernmental framework, and activities under its framework, support sustainable water allocation and benefit-sharing in the context of water scarcity?**

- The Water Convention provides a solid international legal framework for transboundary water cooperation and a developed and evolving institutional platform.
- The Convention can facilitate improvement of water management at the national level by fostering the development of national legislation for the management of water resources that based on an integrated and basin approach, which ensures environmental protection and the prevention and reduction of pollution and overuse.