



Workshop on recent progress on transboundary water cooperation: from getting cooperation started to its long-term sustainability

4 July 2017, Geneva, Switzerland, Palais des Nations, Room XXIII
Starting at 10 a.m.

10: 00-10:30 **Opening session**

Moderator: Peter Kovacs, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties of the Water Convention, Hungary

Opening address by

- *Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

Welcoming words from the organizing partners

- *Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary*
- *Gintare Bevainiene, Ministry of Environment, Lithuania*
- *François Münger, Geneva Water Hub*
- *Eric Tardieu, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)*
- *Ivan Zavadsky, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) (tbc)*

Introduction to the aims and the programme of the workshop

Sonja Koeppel, Secretariat of the Water Convention, UNECE

10:30 Session 1: Getting cooperation started

The aim of this session is to discuss which actors, tools and circumstances can help to initiate transboundary water cooperation and how to formalize cooperation by negotiating agreements or other arrangements.

Moderator: François Münger, Geneva Water Hub

- The negotiation and ratification of the Dniester Treaty between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, *Oleksandr Bon, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ukraine, and Andrei Ursache, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Moldova*
- Recent progress in transboundary water cooperation between Tanzania and its neighbouring countries, *Sylvester Matem, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Tanzania*
- The 2015 Jordan – Saudi Arabia Agreement for the Management and Utilization of the Groundwaters in the Al-Sag /Al-Disi Layer, *Mohammad Alatrash, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan*
- The Convention and establishment of ABAKIR for Lake Kivu and River Ruzizi in 2014, *Amb. Eugène Munyakayanza, Kivu and Ruzizi River Basin Authority*
- The establishment and development of transboundary water cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, *Mukthar Zhakenov, Ministry of Agriculture, Kazakhstan*

Discussion

11.45 Panel discussion on negotiating frameworks for cooperation

Moderator: Tracy Molefi, Botswana, previous chair of the African Network of Basin Organizations

- Starting off transboundary water cooperation between Colombia and Peru, *Mauricio Cruz, Ministry of Environment, Colombia, and Juan Carlos Pomareda Munoz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru*
- The development of the directive for the management of shared water resources in Western Africa by ECOWAS, *Ibrahim Wilson, ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Centre*
- Progress in negotiating a bilateral Kura agreement between Georgia and Azerbaijan, *Gvantsa Sivsivadze, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia, and Rafiq Verdiyev, Hydromet Institute, Azerbaijan*

12.15 Discussions in groups

13.00 Lunch break

15.00 Session 2: Operationalising and sustaining cooperation

This session will focus on how to sustain and strengthen transboundary water cooperation by progressively developing and revising legal and institutional frameworks. Different tools, methods and approaches for effective operational cooperation will be presented.

Moderator: *Eric Tardieu, INBO*

15.00 Part 1: Plenary: How to proceed when agreements need to be revised or joint institutions need reforms?

- The negotiation of a revised transboundary water cooperation agreement between Hungary and Serbia, *Peter Kovacs, Hungary*
- Transboundary water cooperation between France and Switzerland, *Sibylle Vermont, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland, and Yves Gouisset, Regional Directorate for the Environment Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France*
- The Mekong River Commission's institutional reform, *Naruepon Sukumasavin, Mekong River Commission*

Plenary discussion

16:00 Part 2: Market place: Practices, approaches and mechanisms to operationalise and sustain cooperation

During the market place, different approaches, tools and methods, which can sustain an effective day-to-day cooperation, will be presented in an informal, interactive setting. Participants will be able to visit two different tables in two rounds.

- Accidental pollution prevention in transboundary basins: *Peter Kovacs, Hungary*
- Cooperation on river basin management planning in the Neman basin: *Gintare Bevainiene, Lithuania*
- Joint hydropower management: *Bouho Jerome Kouakou, Ministry of Water and Forests, Côte d'Ivoire*
- Financing transboundary water cooperation through the Global Environment Facility: *Chris Severin, GEF*
- Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins: *Eric Tardieu, INBO and Sonja Koepfel, UNECE*
- How to sustain cooperation on the Okavango: *Tracy Molefi, Department of Water Affairs, Botswana*
- Cooperation on protected areas and migration in the Trifinio basin: *Silvia Hernandez De Larios, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador*
- Balancing navigation and environmental protection in the Danube basin: *Hélène Masliah-Gilkarov, ICPDR*

- Stakeholder participation and basin councils in the Sixaola basin: *Jose Miguel Zeledon Calderon, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica*
- Flood risk assessment in the Pripjat and Western Bug basins: *Aliaksandr Pakhomau, Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources, Belarus*

17.45-18.00 **Concluding session**