

World Water Forum 5th
Topic Sessions Proposal
Theme 3

**Managing and Protecting Water Resources and their Supply Systems
to Meet Human and Environmental Needs**

BASIN MANAGEMENT AND TRANS-BOUNDARY COOPERATION
STRUCTURE OF TOPIC 3.1. SESSIONS

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS – 2

Second Working Paper

1. Background:

This paper reflects the proposed structure for the sessions that will be held under topic 3.1.

It invites all interested stakeholders to indicate their interest in participating to the process that will lead to those sessions, as well as their willingness to participate in the actual sessions.

A first version of this paper was circulated after the World Water Forum Preparatory Meeting that was held in Istanbul, in February 2008. During that meeting and following the request of the Forum's Secretariat, the participants present and interested in topic 3.1. indeed gathered and brainstormed on the main questions that topic 3.1. should address. The Secretariat limited to FOUR the number of questions that this topic should address. The Secretariat also proposed that each question will be the main focus of a session. In other words, topic 3.1. would organise 4 sessions.

The questions (and the related sessions) that were identified during that meeting were circulated following the meeting in a previous version of this document.

2. Session objectives and time allocation:

The Programme Committee of the Forum reviewed those four questions and sessions and drew our attention to several facts for the improvement of the session proposals:

- The main issues related to transboundary water may be minimised if always combined with basin management. It is therefore necessary to have specific sessions dealing with transboundary water issues alone. Such session would tackle the political dimensions, institutional structures of, as well as the operational tools needed for, transboundary water cooperation.

- Sessions should aim to provide concrete solutions to key questions on non-consensual subjects, raise awareness on new solutions or developments or give the opportunity to discuss issues in order to provide greater consensus.
- Sessions should favour exchange (panels, debates, questions and answers and interactive formats) rather than provide static presentations.
- Sessions must include different perspectives and associate various stakeholders. Focal points for the various stakeholder groups will be available to assist you in identifying appropriate representatives to associate within your sessions.
- Time allocated for topic 3.1. will be distributed as follows:
 - **One 2-hour session** (session 3.1.1.) in plenary, which would enable the organisers to delve deeply into the core of topic issues
 - One 3-hour session (3.1.2.)
 - One 2-hour session (3.1.3.)
 - One 2-hour session (3.1.4.)
 - **A final 2-hour synthesis session** in plenary, which would enable coordinators to present a synthesis on all of the topic work and to present some out-of-the-box thinking on steps toward the future for the topic as a whole.

Following these comments we have revised the first version of the structure of topic 3.1. sessions that was based on the discussions of the Preparatory Meeting in February 2008. This is the second version of the structure of topic 3.1. sessions.

3. Contributions to this process:

As individuals and institutions will indicate their willingness to contribute to the sessions, the coordinators will up-date the list of “topic 3.1. participants”. This list is already in the make. It includes all the names of all the individuals and institutions that made comments or indicated interest in taking part into this process when we circulated the first version of this paper. The “topic 3.1. participants” will be expected to be present at the sessions during the forum to enrich the debate and contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the sessions.

There are many ways to participate to the process:

- By commenting on this paper (Topic 3.1. structure paper) and indicating the willingness to be active in the sessions during the Forum;
- By using one’s own activities to draw recommendations for the Forum sessions (for example, a meeting of experts on transboundary waters organized by a given institution, can come up with recommendations or questions that can be injected into this process and discussed during the Forum;
- By contributing to the Virtual Space for debate: a virtual space, that you can reach through the World Water Forum Web site (<http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/>) is available for stakeholders to give feedback on the process leading to the sessions of topic 3.1.;
- By taking part in the sessions during the forum and intervening in order to share experiences and knowledge related to the topic 3.1.
- And by contributing to the Topic 3.1. technical papers that may be circulated for comments to a wide audience. These papers would follow the structure of the topic 3.1. sessions. These would papers reflect the main issues of the topic.

4. Topic 3.1. Stakeholders list as it stands

UNESCO (through ISARM and PCCP) and INBO (the International Network of Basin Organizations) have been designated to coordinate jointly the work for topic 3.1.

Many stakeholders or “Topic 3.1. participants” have already been identified. The list will be enlarged as the process will go on. As the process is open, the approach will indeed be as inclusive as possible. The list is available in an Annex One.

At the moment more than 110 organisations or institutions sent proposals to enrich the topic.

5. Meetings and events related to topic 3.1. and potentially contributing to its development

Many relevant meetings and events are planned to take place in the fall of 2008 or have already taken place. They are serving as a platform for the discussion of issues that are highly relevant to this topic. They offer opportunities to collect the views and concerns of a community of stakeholders on the issues of topic 3.1. The issues discussed during these meetings should be brought to the attention of the political leaders that will take part in the Forum.

The list of these events is available in Annex Two. All topic 3.1. participants are invited to contribute to this list.

6. Deadlines

Contributions to this paper (Topic 3.1. structure paper) from the wider community will be received through Sept. 30th. Efforts will be made to integrate as many of these proposed contributions as possible.

In the meantime and even beyond Sept. 30th this will be regularly revised and updated with the feedback of the "Open call for contributions" and relevant meetings, the feedback from the Programme Committee and the Thematic and Topic coordinators, and the outputs of the thematic, and regional processes.

Contributions to Topic 3.1. technical papers would be received through January 31st.

The communication tools of INBO and UNESCO (websites and newsletters) will be used as much as possible to further develop the dialogue and to communicate necessary information: www.inbo-news.org and www.unesco.org/water

The material developed for the preparation of topic 3.1. will furthermore be distributed when and wherever possible among sector professionals during regional scheduled meetings, conferences, hearings, dialogues.

The emphasis in engaging stakeholders will be done through the consultation of existing networks and professional institutions as well as, through the events listed in Annex Two and others.

7. Structure of the sessions:

Given the limited number of hours and sessions, and given the process that is leading to the creation of these sessions (a wide consultative process) **no single institution will be able to organize and hold a session alone.** Furthermore, these sessions are NOT the coordinators' sessions. They are the sessions of the stakeholders that are being consulted and invited to participate to the process through emailing such as this one.

During the sessions there is a limited amount of time to respond to the questions of the topic. It is therefore suggested that each session will be organized in an innovative way that will match the objectives set by the Secretariat, and will give as many participants as possible, the opportunities to intervene.

Sessions 3.1.1., 3.1.2., 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 will be organised as follows:

- During the session few speakers will be given a few minutes to provoke the thoughts of the participants.
- The sessions will be moderated by two co-chairs who will facilitate the debate between the participants. This will guarantee that an important number of interventions are made and that as many of the contributors to topic 3.1. will be able to share their experiences

and knowledge in the relevant sessions. Such a management of the time will nurture the debate and the exchange of experiences. It will also guarantee that the objective of the session is reached.

- It is hoped that less than 20% of the time will be devoted to “thought provoking interventions” and the rest of the time will be devoted to the participation of the audience.
- Rapporteurs will capture the elements of the debate that can constitute policy recommendations for the future.

In other words, each session will be structured as follows:

- **2 co-Chairs** open the session and facilitate the debate among all the participants.

- **2 to 4 selected speakers** will intervene for approximately 10 minutes each to provoke the thoughts of the audience on the question(s) that the session is supposed to address. The question(s) will be shown on a power point projector. The speakers will tackle these questions to raise the interest of the audience, identify the sensitive points to be discussed and launch the debate. **The speakers will NOT present the work of their own institutions. They will talk on behalf of the topic and not on behalf of their respective institutions.**

- **2 Rapporteurs** for every session will also be identified based on the same criteria.

The Chairs and Rapporteurs of every session will present the conclusions of debate during the Synthesis session.

Other Topic 3.1. participants may be willing to help in the organization of the session by making other sorts of contributions (such as contributing with data, scientific and/or technical support, editing session material, promoting session)

The group of Chairs, Speakers, Rapporteurs, Coordinators and other contributors will be considered as the Session consortium of conveners.

The Chairs, Speakers, Rapporteurs, and other contributors will be chosen from the list of “topic 3.1. participants”. The criteria for the selection of these speakers are the following:

- Relevance of the work of an institution/individual in transboundary water and basin management and coherence with the objective of a given session
- International scope of the work
- Proven record in the field of transboundary water cooperation and basin management
- Ability to speak on behalf of the topic.

8. Main questions at Topic level:

With the growing pressures on water resources and the expected impacts of climate change, better basin management and cooperation in trans-boundary water resources management becomes an essential element to meet human and environmental needs.

In order to develop efficient basin management and trans-boundary water cooperation, we have to provide answers to several key questions such as:

- How to practically apply hydro-solidarity at basin level?
- Are basins the natural areas to implement efficient water management policy? What about groundwaters ?
- How to coordinate national water policies with basin approaches?
- What are the success stories and failures of hydro-solidarity at basin level and what are the associated key actions for a basin approach, trans-boundary cooperation and benefit sharing?

- What are the best practices to ensure better stakeholders' participation?
- How to organize effective participation of water users, local powers, NGOs and in general the wide public in basin management and how to increase water awareness in the field?
- Legal instruments have been developed on local, regional and global scale, how effective and relevant are they for surface and groundwater resources management and governance?
- How can transboundary surface and groundwater resources be managed more sustainably by all riparian States concerned?
- Are international conventions and treaties of any added value to better manage Transboundary basin and aquifers?
- What are the best practices to better planning, financing and monitoring at basin level?
- Are the key principles and tools developed by the European Union within the WFD implementation transferable to other regions to improve basin-scale management? If so, how?
- Are there principles and practices (such as IWRM among others) developed in some regions that can be useful in different regions of the world?
- How efficient are the indigenous customary ways of managing surface and groundwater resources? If they do improve such management, how can they be incorporated in the contemporary behaviour of water managers and decision makers?

Annex 3 presents other possible questions which could be addressed during the sessions of this topic.

These sessions of Topic 3.1. do not pretend to cover all the issues that are related to basin management and transboundary cooperation. The whole Forum with all its sessions constitutes a harmonious whole of which many other sessions tackle the majority of the issues related to basin management and transboundary cooperation even if those other sessions do not explicitly mention the wording of Topic 3.1..

The sessions of Topic 3.1. have one generic objective: they will bring out the main challenges faced by the professionals, decision-makers and civil society concerned with the use of waters, in order to facilitate the formulation of policy recommendations for the improvement of the quality of basin management and cooperation at local, national and transboundary level.

In order to do so, the sessions will try to focus on the most burning issues. They will constitute a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience. They will nurture debate and discussions.

In addition to that, each session will have a specific objective described in the following:

SESSION 3.1.1.

Main Question:

“What are the success stories of hydro-solidarity?”

What are the reasons for success of hydro solidarity? What are the reasons of failures? Do political obstacles and constraints hinder the achievement of hydro-solidarity? And if so, how? What is the value added of a basin approach?

How can indicators of the quality of water cooperation and hydro solidarity be developed and then measured/monitored?

Suggested Session Title:

“SUCCESS STORIES AND FAILURES OF HYDRO-SOLIDARITY

Hydro solidarity v/s Hydro sovereignty”

In order to improve cooperation over surface and ground water, it is crucial to identify and share experiences, success stories and failures, among the water community.

This session would constitute a means for learning lessons, exchanging experiences, and building networks around such success and failures stories.

By identifying the indicators (political, institutional, technical...) that can measure the quality of cooperation and the potentiality of conflicts, this session will also contribute to the anticipation, the prevention and the resolution of water conflicts.

Description and objective:

The objective of the session is to improve – through intensive debate and exchange - the knowledge of successful water cooperation which in turn can improve water cooperation itself.

The session will focus on hydrosolidarity" as an increasingly integrated approach to managing water resources that relies heavily on participation and coordination among community stakeholders, water-related management agencies, and local, state, and national governments. The fundamental goal of hydrosolidarity as the cooperative, unified management of shared water resources, whether at the national or the international level will be tackled. Furthermore, basins that are natural territories in which water runs on the soil or in the sub soil, whatever the national or administrative boundaries, will be considered as constituting a unit in which hydrosolidarity should apply.

Hydrosolidarity will also be studied in contrast to hydrosovereignty and other aspects of traditional water resources management. Hydrosovereignty refers to the sovereign control exerted by autonomous nations with respect to the use and management of their water resources. In a national context, states, individual landowners, or other entities also may emphasize the right to use water within their property in any way they see fit. Sovereignty is emphasized for water just as it is for land and other natural resources that are bound to a particular place; however, problems arise because water flows downhill, potentially affecting other individuals or groups and crossing political boundaries.

The session will be indeed an opportunity to review examples of success and failures stories at three levels, local, national, trans-boundary basins. It will therefore tackle the *reasons* of success and the *causes* of failures. It will offer an opportunity to exchange views and experiences on the technical, political and institutional constraints that can constitute obstacles for cooperation over surface and ground water resources.

Based on that assessment the session may move forward and suggest indicators that can be used to monitor and assess the quality of cooperation at any level.

SESSION 3.1.2.

Main Question:

“How can stakeholders be involved in basin management and transboundary water cooperation?”

How can decision makers and basin organizations identify all the stakeholders that should take part in the management of transboundary waters?

Once these stakeholders identified, how can their participation be organized? How can it be enabled and sustained?

Suggested Session Title:

“How to enable stakeholders’ participation?”

Stakeholder’s participation is key for the achievement of actual cooperation over transboundary resources. It is a guarantee that decisions made on the management, use and development of shared surface and ground water resources can be implemented successfully. This session will explore the ways and means to guarantee organize and institutionalize stakeholders’ participation.

The session will scrutinize a wide array of issues to be taken into account when aiming at a genuine stakeholders’ participation, such as the choice of the level of participation, the identification of the stakeholders, the legitimacy and systems of representations, the mechanisms for participations and the funding of the process.

Description and objective:

The objective of the session will be to identify key mechanisms and requirements for the development of stakeholders’ participation. It will also be an opportunity to identify the tools that can serve in specific contexts for the establishment of the pertinent strategies in the organization of stakeholder’s involvement

The various questions above will be analysed through the presentation practical examples emphasizing the various kinds of cooperative participation (such as institutional frameworks, basin committees, education and empowerment, consultation, information, involvement). The understanding of the roles of stakeholders depending on the context will also be evaluated. The session will also deal with the key issues related to the participation of specific groups like women, NGOs, poor people, young people. The relevant information and communication technologies useful in participation process will also be addressed.

The key issues would be:

- Information, consultation, empowerment: which kind of participation?
- Identification of stakeholders, who are their representatives?
- Role and Efficiency of basin committee or commission
- How do we determine the legitimacy of the representatives and what types of representative systems?
- Which mode or mechanism for the participation?

SESSION 3.1.3.

Main Question: "How can cooperation over transboundary surface and groundwater resources be achieved in a sustainable and equitable manner?"

What is sustainable and equitable cooperation? What are the mechanisms and tools that support the achievement of such cooperation?

What other tools can be developed to improve the track record? Can tools and mechanisms be transferred from one region to another? And if so, how would that be possible?

**Suggested Session Title:
"SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE COOPERATION:
Institutional tools and mechanisms"**

There are indeed more than 263 trans-boundary river basins around the world and certainly even more transboundary aquifers on which resources 2/5 of the world population's lives depend. Many countries' development depends on water resources they share with their neighbours. There are countless tools used for the achievement of cooperation and innumerable mechanisms having this objective. Very few though, are actually sustainable and equitable. This session will look into these tools and mechanisms.

Description and objective:

The objective of this session is to evaluate the tools and mechanisms that are available for the development of cooperation and the prevention of conflicts over water resources. The session will make an assessment of these tools and mechanisms, and will look forward by suggesting how to fill the gaps in order to improve the track record of cooperation. The session will also offer an opportunity to explore the grounds for the transfer of knowledge and practices.

The session will look into various kinds of technical/operational tools such as: management plans/master plans including risk and disaster management plans, programme of measures, information, monitoring, assessment, research, joint planning and operation, modelling, training, decision support systems.

It will also look into the political and institutional mechanisms and tools that are crucial for the reinforcement of trans-boundary cooperation as well as for the improvement of water management (surface and groundwater) at basin level (i.e. international organizations, arbitration commissions, basin organisations Financing mechanisms, legal and financial mechanisms).

The key issues would be:

- International conventions, treaties and regional agreements related to transboundary waters
- Management plans and Master plans including risk and disaster management plans at transboundary level
- International commission, transboundary basin authority: various types, statutes, functions,
- Financing mechanisms
- Mechanisms of sharing water resources and benefits

SESSION 3.1.4.

“Which are the operational tools that allow to achieve transboundary cooperation and sound basin management?”

What's an effective operational tool? How does it serve transboundary cooperation? How does it serve the achievement of sound basin management? What tools have already proven to be efficient? In which context?

What other tools can be developed to improve the track record? Can tools and mechanisms be transferred from one region to another? And if so, how would that be possible?

Suggested Session Title: “EFFICIENT AND SOUND COOPERATION: Operational tools”

Description and objective:

The session will focus on operational tools which are crucial for the improvement of water management (surface and groundwater) at basin level, as well as for the reinforcement of transboundary cooperation.

The session is expected to offer examples of tools on the subject, particularly from real experiences related to:

- Risk management, flood and drought;
- Modeling;
- Training and capacity development (tools, methods, kit);
- Funding mechanisms;
- Integrated Information Systems;
- Planning methods.

The key issues to be discussed will be:

- Exchange of data, information and knowledge between institutions; water information system;
- Base line, planning and scenarios;
- Development of management plans, master plans including risk and disaster management;
- Programmes of measures;
- Monitoring/ assessment tools at basin level;
- Financing mechanisms and tools: national budget, tariff strategy, taxes;
- Transferability of tools and experiences towards developing countries.

SESSION 3.1.5.

What did we achieve through the discussion on topic 3.1.

Have the sessions reached their specific and respective objectives? If so how? Have the sessions provided a real forum for discussions and exchange? Did they have an impact on the participants?

What have we learned from the discussions of the sessions 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3.? What are the messages that those sessions can send to the policy makers?

**Suggested Session Title:
"SYNTHESIS OF THE DISCUSSIONS:
Basin management and transboundary cooperation"**

The Chairs and Rapporteurs of each session will be invited to make a synthesis of their sessions trying to reply to the questions raised above.

The floor will be open for a final round of debate and discussions.

The coordinators of the topic will wrap summarizing the policy recommendations that the set of sessions of topic 3.1. have generated.

The session descriptions will evolve through this consultation process. Please do not hesitate to give us your comments and recommendations by email to the following addresses

- At INBO :

Jean François Donzier: inbo@wanadoo.fr

Daniel Valensuela: d.valensuela@oieau.fr

- At UNESCO:

Léna Salamé: l.salame@unesco.org

Marguerite de Chaisemartin: m.chaisemartin@unesco.org

Please note that the format of the sessions will likely **not** evolve (number of sessions within topic 3.1.; time allocated for speakers; structure with few speakers for provoking thoughts and facilitation etc.)

Annex One

List of topic 3.1. Participants

See Excel Sheet for a more up-dated list

The following bodies are part of the list of Topic 3.1. participants (by alphabetical order):

- African Network of Basin Organizations
- African Water Issues Research Unit
- African Water Information System
- African Youth Movement
- Agence française de Développement + BAD
- ANRH from Algeria,
- Arab League
- Arab Water Council
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,
- Asia Society,
- Association pour la reconstruction et le développement
- BALWOIS,
- BGR,
- Border Environment Cooperation Commission
- Border Environment Cooperation Commission
- Central Directorate for Water and Environment
- Central and Eastern Europe Network of Basin Organizations,
- Centre for Environment Policy and governance, London School of Economics
- Centre of Russian Waterworks Inventory and State Water Cadastre,
- Compass Foundation, from Switzerland,
- Coordination des Organisations de la Société civile pour la Défense de l'Environnement et le Développement du Bassin du fleuve Sénégal
- Delft University of Technology
- Department of Environment & Conservation
- DHI water and environment, from Denmark,
- Ecologic
- EECCA Network of Basin Organizations,
- Environment Agency of Republic of Slovenia
- Environmental & Water Resources Institute
- Environment Floods Water System
- Environmental and Water Resources institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers
- Euphrates Tigris Initiative for Cooperation
- Euro-Mediterranean Center for Climate Change
- EUROPE INBO Group for the implementation of the EWFD,
- European Center for River Restoration,
- Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System
- FAO,
- French Water Academy,
- Fundación Centro Internacional de Hidrología Subterránea
- Gebze Institute of Technology from Germany,
- GEF,
- Global Environment Facility
- Green Cross International,
- House of Water and Environment
- IAEA Nubian,
- IGRAC from the Netherlands,
- Indian Water Work Association
- Institute for biology of inland waters Russian Acad. Sci.
- International Conference on Nature - oriented Flood Damage Prevention,
- International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre
- International Network of Basin Organizations

- International Office for Water
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- INWEB
- Istanbul University Faculty of Forestry, Marmara University, Cukurova University,
- Jeunes volontaires pour l'environnement Togo - Réseau africain des rivières, Directeur
- Joint Rivers Commission, Bangladesh
- Jucar Basin Authority
- Latin American Network of Basin Organizations,
- Lesotho Highlands Water Commission
- Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations
- Mekong River Commission Secretariat
- Middle East Technical University,
- Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism
- National Water Agency of Brasil,
- Network of Asian River Basin Organizations,
- Network of International Commissions and transboundary Basins Organizations,
- North American Network of Basin Organizations,
- OAS,
- Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel,
- OSCE,
- Oregon State University,
- Overseas Development Institute
- Pakistan Water Partnership,
- Peace Canal on the Golan Heights Initiative
- Regional Centre for Shared Aquifers in Africa (Tripoli, Libya),
- San Diego & Tijuana initiative
- Scientific Information Center of Interstate Coordination Water Commission (Aral Sea)
- Senat of Costa Rica,
- SICA-CRRH,
- SICALA Haute Loire
- SIWI,
- Shiga Prefectoral Government,
- South African Development Community
- South-eastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration
- State Hydraulic Works DSI and MFA, from Turkey,
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Ukrainian Center for Environmental and Water Projects
- UN Commission for Central Europe
- UNECE,
- UNESCO IHE – Delft,
- UNESCO- through the HELP initiative,
- UNESCWA,
- UNECA,
- UNILC,
- Union of municipalities of Marmara Region,
- Université de Annaba
- Université de Laval
- Université de Ljubljana
- University of Castilla-la-Mancha, from Spain,
- University of East Anglia, UK
- University of Lagos
- Véolia –Water,
- Walloon region from Belgium,
- Water Company
- World Meteorological Organization
- World Water Council
- World Wide Foundation - Turkey
- WWF International,

Annex Two

List of relevant meetings and events

- UNILC Session May-July 2008
- 3rd International Conference on Managing Shared Aquifer Resources in Africa, Tripoli, Libya, 25-27 May 2008
- EUROPE-INBO session, during the International Symposium Management of water-related extreme phenomena, ECWATECH in Moscow, Russia from 04 to 06 June 2008;
- 4th International Conference on River Restoration, in Venice, Italy, from 16 to 21 June 2008;
- International Water Exhibition Water Tribune, in Saragossa, Spain, from 07 to 10 July 2008 - Thematic Week 4 – INBO-MENBO-EWP Session: "basin management and transboundary cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean", on July the 8th,
- UNESCO-PCCP Consultation Process on the Mono River, Lomé, Togo, from 16 to 18 July 2008;
- UN Water seminar on transboundary water resources at the Stockholm Water Week, in August 2008;
- UNESCO-PCCP Consultation Process on the Ostua Metapan Aquifer, Guatemala, from 26 to 28 August 2008;
- IWRA General Assembly, session on Transboundary Water Management, in Montpellier, France, from 01 to 03 September 2008;
- IWA Symposium on River Basins, in Budapest, Hungary, from 04 to 06 September 2008;
- General Assembly UN October-November 2008
- Europe-INBO 2008, session on the implementation of WFD, in Sibiu, Romania, from 02 to 04 October 2008, "Floods management, groundwater management and draught management in basin context";
- IVth International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, in Thessaloniki, Greece from 15th - 18th October 2008,
- 6th Workshop on ISARM Americas, Dominican Republic, November 2008
- Latin America Network of Basin Organisations General Assembly, in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, from 10 to 14 November 2008, with the GM of the Brazilian Network of Basin Organisations.

A number of training events will also serve as a vehicle to collect the views and concerns of the technical community and transfer it to the process of the Forum.

These events include:

- UNESCO-PCCP Course on Water and cooperation for Graduates (Fac.of Philosophy and Letters), Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 18 March to 24 June
- 3rd International Conference on Managing Shared aquifer Resources in Africa in Tripoli, Libya, 25-27 May 2008,
- UNESCO-PCCP & partners Regional training on Transboundary waters dispute prevention and management, Bangkok, Thailand, 28-29 May 2008;
- UNESCO IHE, PCCP & partners Training on anticipating and resolving flood issues, differences and disputes in the Lower Mekong Basin, from June 2008 to February 2009
- UNESCO-PCCP and UCBA Short Postgraduate Course, Caracas, Venezuela, from 14 to 18 July 2008;
- UNESCO-PCCP High level Training Course for International Civil Servants on Dispute Resolution of National and International Water Resources, Geneva, Switzerland, 21-23 October 2008;
- UNESCO-PCCP training for Trainers on Dispute resolution of national and international water resources in Middle East, 28-31 October 2008;

In addition, a first thinking process was initiated by EU during the CSD-16 in New York (12 May 2008), as side event on Basin Organisations Financing.

An event in Asia will be organised in autumn, end of November or early December, with Japan Water Agency or NARBO or Partners of China. Date and location still have to be defined.

INBO and GWP have already prepared a Brief on "IWRM at basin Level" issued in English and French.

UNESCO-IHP, NARBO and Turkey have also initiated actions toward the production of updated Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) principles and guidelines.

In the same way, GWP, GWP TEC, INBO, and its Regional Networks are involved in the elaboration of a Handbook for practitioners on "How to apply IWRM at river, lake and aquifer basin levels", with the financial support of the French MFA .

UNESCO IHP, is engaged with its French partners Académie de l'eau, BRGM and Office International l'Eau in a study on the cooperative management of transboundary aquifers systems, with the support of the French Agency for Development (Agence Française de Développement).

Annex Three

List of questions

- How to practically apply hydro-solidarity at basin level?
- Are basins the natural areas to implement efficient water management policy? What about groundwaters?
- How to coordinate national water policies with a basin approach?
- What are the success stories and failures of hydro-solidarity at basin level and what are the associated key actions for a basin approach, trans-boundary cooperation and benefit sharing?
- What are the best practices to better stakeholder participation?
- How to organize effective participation of water users, local powers, NGOs and in general the grand public in basin management and how to increase water awareness in the field?
- Legal instruments have been developed on local, regional and global scale, how effective and relevant are they for surface and groundwater resources management and governance?
- How can transboundary surface and groundwater resources be managed more sustainably by all riparian States concerned?
- Are international conventions and treaties of any adding value to better manage Transboundary basin and aquifers?
- What are the best practices to better planning, financing and monitoring at basin level?
- Are the key principles and tools developed by the European Union within the WFD implementation transferable to other regions to improve basin-scale management? If so, how?
- Are there principles and practices (such as IWRM among others) developed in some regions that can be useful in different regions of the world?
- How efficient are the indigenous customary ways of managing surface and groundwater resources? If they do improve such management, how can they be incorporated in the contemporary behaviour of water managers and decision makers?
- What are the best tools/practices available? ...
- How to reinforce the role and actions of international commissions?
- How to fill the gap concerning groundwater management, especially in transboundary context?
- How to move from surface water management to a real integrated water resources management, including groundwater resources?
- How to evaluate and improve cost-effectiveness of measures?
- How to combine and coordinate measures within transboundary river basins?
- How to take into account climate change challenges in water management at basin level?
- Does IWRM at basin level give solutions to prevent and adapt to climate changes? How?
- How to link management of water utilities and IWRM?
- How to raise awareness of decision-makers and politicians on the necessity of IWRM?
- How to inform and educate populations to water challenges?
- How IWRM can help to manage water demand and allocate water resources between users?

- Which information is really necessary and effectively used for decision taking in IWRM?
- How to finance and organise a coherent and sustainable production of the necessary data?
- Which level of data and information must be disseminated to public? Is there any data not to be disseminated?
- How to promote and organise the sharing of data and information between the various data producers?
- IWRM really the only solution for sound Water Management ? Any alternative ?
- Does the limit of a basin organisation need to fit with the hydrological limits of the basin?
- What can be the main tasks of a basin organisation?
- How to move from measure planning to measure implementation?
- What are the possible overall environmental objectives for a basin?
- What could be the possible intermediary objectives of first RBM Plans?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of iterative 5-6 years plan versus long term 20-30 years strategies?
- How to gather data needed for basin characterisation from the different stakeholders?
- Are different communication strategies needed for stakeholders and the general public?
- How to organise consultation at basin level?
- How economical analysis can be used to support decision making?
- How to communicate on IWRM initiative and results?
- How to consult or involve citizens (in addition to stakeholders) ?
- What specificities for a transboundary basin ?
- What if a country doesn't want to participate (the upstream syndrom) ?
- Does a user-pay, polluter-pay principle is mandatory ?
- What is the difference between cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness ?
- How to identify disproportionate costs?
- How to choose among the various models of IWRM on the market ? How to adapt it to the local context ?
- How to manage fighting between the different ministries which shared water management ?
- Is decentralisation of powers a prerequisite for basin management?
- How to secure financing means at long term?
- How to identify relevant stakeholders? How to teach them for real participation and sharing ?
- How to manage transboundary harmonised issues considering the multiple existing Treaties and Conventions for many rivers in EU (43 in EU were identified in 2007)
- How to consider and to compensate the asymmetry between countries along the transboundary basin, on economical aspects for economical issues ?
- How to solve the budget public reduction to reach the GES and manage them with same prioritisation in the countries concerned on the basin ?
- Could we imagine mediatory process and official mediators for difficult transboundary problematic to solve urgently or not ? How?