



WORKSHOP

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR COOPERATION ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

KEY ASPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES

11-12 JUNE 2014, TUNIS, TUNISIA (HOTEL BELVÉDÈRE FOURATI)

AGENDA

Wednesday 11 June 2014

9:00 – 10:00 Opening session

Moderator: Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE

Ms. Chahra Ksia, President of the Center of Water Studies and Arab Water Security, League of Arab States

Mr. Lassaad Lachaal, Minister of Agriculture of Tunisia

Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)

Ms. Sarra Touzi, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

Overview of the workshop programme: Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE

10:00– 11:00 Session 1: Transboundary water cooperation: benefits, challenges and situation in the Arab region

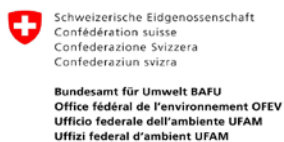
Chairperson: Ms. Chahra Ksia, League of Arab States

Review of transboundary waters in the Arab region: pressures and management issues

Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA

Tour de table: Participants' interventions on transboundary waters in the Arab regions – Challenges faced and progresses towards strengthened cooperation (statements by countries: 2 or 3 minutes max per country)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break



11:30 – 13:00 Session 2: Recent developments in international water law

Chairperson: Sarra Touzi, GWP-Med

The complementarity between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) of 1992 and the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UN Watercourses Convention)

Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary to the Water Convention

Jointly promoting the two conventions for cooperation on transboundary waters

Mr. Fabien Dupuis, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France

The Draft Framework Convention on Shared Water Resources between the Arab States

Ms. Chahra Ksia, President of the Center of Water Studies and Arab Water Security

Moderated open discussion

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 17:30 Session 3: Overview of the 1992 Water Convention – Interactive session
(with coffee break)

Facilitated by: Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE

1. Definitions and scope: drainage basin, groundwater/surface water

Questions and Answers

2. Substantive norms: equitable and reasonable use, no significant harm, protection of ecosystems

Questions and Answers

3. Procedural and institutional aspects: duty to cooperate, notification and consultation, environmental impact assessment (EIA), exchange of data and information, agreements, joint institutions, institutional frameworks

Questions and Answers

4. Dispute settlement mechanism: fact-finding, negotiation and arbitration

Questions and Answers

19:30 Dinner

Restaurant *Au Bon Vieux Temps* - Sidi Bou Said

Transfer will be organized from Hotel Belvedere Fourati to the restaurant.

Thursday 12 June 2014

9:00 – 10:00 **Session 4: Groundwater management challenges and response — International law and its application to groundwater**

Chairperson: Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA

2008 draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifer: major principles and obligations, and application of the UNECE Water Convention to groundwater: the 2012 Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters
Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE

Cooperating on groundwater management in the Arab region: the case of the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System

Mr. Djamel Latrech, OSS

Moderated open discussion

10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee break**

10:30 – 11:45 **Session 5: Some perspectives on the 1992 Water Convention**

Chairperson: Ms. Chahra Ksia, League of Arab States

Iraq: A country view on the Water Convention

Mr. Murtadha Juma'a Al-Sudani, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq

An Arab perspective on the applicability of the Water Convention in the Arab region

Mr. Khaled Abu Zeid, CEDARE

Moderated open discussion

11:45 – 13:00 **Session 6: Implementing the Water Convention on the ground**

Chairperson: Representative of Tunisia

How the UNECE Water Convention promotes transboundary water cooperation on the ground
Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE

International water law supporting cooperation in the Drin Basin

Ms. Sarra Touzi, GWP-Med

Jointly adapting to climate change in transboundary basins: example of the Neman River basin

Mr. Egidijus Rimkus, Vilnius University, Lithuania

Moderated open discussion

13:00 – 14:15 **Lunch break**

14:15 – 16:15 *Session 7: Moving forward - Making cooperation happen in the Arab region*

Chairperson: Ms. Lena Salame, UNESCO

Group exercise: Challenges and benefits of the 1992 Water Convention for the Arab countries

Reporting back from the groups

Possible support at the national and regional level

Key messages and recommendations

16:15 – 16:30 *Closing*

Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary to the Water Convention

Ms. Sarra Touzi, Global Water Partnership Mediterranean

Ms. Chahra Ksia, President of the Center of Water Studies and Arab Water Security, League of Arab States