

Dear excellences, organizers and participants,

Lot of words and lot of actions are already said and done regarding the initiative that brings us together for several years. As a team with stakeholders support, we crossed many crucial questions and actions to promote joint cooperation for developing the Drin River Basin management. Those actions were done on political, technical and expert level. Having in mind that we crossed through Drin Dialogue process. Signing of joint Memorandum of Understanding and applying to GEF for support, we must conclude that the process of Drin management is successful one. Drin Core Group did a lot in the meaning of coordination between 5 countries and for the developing of ideas and processes. The Shared Vision becomes our main objective and goal because we obliged our self to promote joint action for sustainable management of the river Drin Basin. Joint action plan will help us to succeed in that vision.

After success with the first step, several processes become active in the Region promoting more and more ways of cooperation in protecting the natural values. Since all those values and basins are connected with the one River our goal become wider and more enthusiastic .That's why with support of WFD we opened the process of extending joint cooperation on entire Drin river basin featuring all three Lake basins inside. Significant role was done by UNECE, Sweden, GWP-Med, GEF to support the establishment of the Dialogue and more of that to support signing of the Joint Memorandum for Shared vision which helped in process of building the trust among all Riparians. Mutual trust becomes crucial for planning the future. Build on that trust main objectives are to promote joint action for the coordinated integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin and implementation of the WFD in the following period. The fact that institutions in the Basin are built is an opportunity that we must take, the fact that international initiatives are in the Basin is an chance to be used , the fact that political will is on higher level is a momentum we must use.

I suppose that we need to concentrate now on GEF Drin Project since, as we know, the Project in approved from GEF council. 2014 is a crucial year because we will enter the implementation phase of the project. That will require even stronger cooperation, dynamic and more activities and actions. I am sure that we will use all the knowledge and take all the support to enter another period of successful management of the joint Basin. I expect that next meeting will be the one where we will discuss on first results of the GEF Project and make decisions about all necessary steps. With this expectation I wish you successful meeting and proclaim dedication and support to the Drin management process.