



WATER
CONVENTION



9th WORLD WATER
FORUM | DAKAR 2021

WORLD WATER FORUM 2022

Ordinary Thematic Session 3B2

Promoting peace by developing and implementing
legal frameworks for transboundary water
resources

Tuesday 22 March

13:30-15:00 UTC/Dakar time



UNECE





Session organizers

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE

The Geneva Water Hub

International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)



Overview of the guide



Practical information and logistics



Session description and programme



Speakers list



Panel discussions guide – general rules and information



Next steps and other business

Practical information and logistics

Date and time: Tuesday 22 March, 13:30-15:00 (UTC/Dakar time)

Location: Room 4, EXPO (TBC – subject to last-minute change)

- Participation **in person only** in Dakar

Register here: <https://signup.worldwaterforum.org/en/>

- Please, arrive in the room 20 minutes before the session starts for the final briefing

Session description – 1/2



The session will start with an analysis on how the legal and institutional frameworks at the global, regional, and basin level foster transboundary water cooperation, and discuss the gaps and challenges to cooperation based on the results of the second reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2. Session participants will then be introduced to the existing international processes, tools, and guidance materials, fostering transboundary water cooperation at the global level. These include: the accession to the global United Nations Water Conventions and the assistance provided by the Convention secretariat in acceding to the Water Convention, including from the perspective of a new Party; the tools and instruments available to different water management actors, such as the recent publication *Agreements for Transboundary Water Cooperation: A Practical Guide* that serves as an agreement-builder. Lastly, the session will proceed to the discussion of the examples of the application of international water law principles in practice at basin and regional levels. This session will thus provide an overview of how to advance transboundary water cooperation through the development of legal frameworks from the initiation to implementation stages.

Session description – 2/2



Key objectives

- Highlight the role of legal frameworks in providing an enabling environment for sustainable and integrated water resources management and conflicts prevention, and present concrete tools and instruments that support the development and implementation of such legal frameworks
- Present the experience of the new Parties to the Water Convention, latest developments regarding transboundary water cooperation at the sub-regional and basin level, and analyse the challenges, taking into account the basins with tensions over shared waters;
- Highlight the role the stakeholders can play in fostering progress towards the development and implementation of operational arrangements

Guiding questions

- ✓ How can the development and implementation of legal frameworks for transboundary water resources prevent conflicts and contribute to their sustainable management? What are the challenges ahead? Which processes, tools, and guidance materials are available at the global level for accelerating the progress towards the development and implementation of operational arrangements?
- ✓ What are the recent developments and examples of the successful application of international water law principles at the regional and basin level?



Opening

- **Introduction** by UNECE: overview of the session programme, key topic, and questions
- **Opening remarks:** Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE (4 min)
- **Keynote speech:** Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Union (5 min)

Introduction to the Session

- The state of transboundary water cooperation in light of the results of the monitoring exercise under SDG indicator 6.5.2: Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Secretary, Water Convention, UNECE and Ms Alice Aureli – Chief of Section, Groundwater Systems and Settlements, UNESCO (6 min)

Panel I: Tools for accelerating the progress towards the development of operational arrangements and their successful applications

Moderator: Mr. Bougonou K. Djeri–Alassani, Ag. Director, ECOWAS Water Resources Management Center (EWRMC)

Discussion on the following questions:

- Which processes, tools, and guidance materials are available at the global level for accelerating the progress towards the development and implementation of operational arrangements? What are the recent developments and examples of the successful application of international water law principles at the regional and basin level?

Panel Interventions (25 min). followed by O&A (9 min)

Accession to the UN global framework conventions: country perspective	Ms. Cecilia Abena Dapaah, Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana
Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation	Mr. Peter Kovacs, Water Director, Ministry of Interior, Hungary, Chair of the Practical Guide Drafting Group
Revising an Agreement on a Transboundary Basin	Mr. Phera Ramoeli, Executive Director, Okavango River Basin Water Commission
Application of Water Utilization Rules and Procedures: Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA) for mainstream hydropower projects in the Mekong River Basin	Mr. Sophearin Chea, Regional Water Policy Consultant, Secretariat of the Mekong River Commission
Lessons from World Bank support to the development and implementation of operational arrangements	Mr. Anders Jägerskog, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, World Bank Water Global Practice



Panel II (25 min): Progress, gaps and challenges in the development and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks for transboundary water cooperation

Moderator: Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Deputy Head of Section, Global Affairs, International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland

Panel discussion based on the results of the second reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2:

Progress, gaps, and challenges in the MENA region: the Case of Iraq	H.E. Mr. Mahdi Rashid Al Hamdani, Minister of Water Resources, Iraq (TBC)
Progress, gaps, and challenges in the Latin American region	Mr. Juan Carlos Alurralde, Secretary General, Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee for the La Plata River
Progress, gaps, and challenges in Africa	Mr. Christophe Brachet, Deputy-Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
Progress, gaps, and challenges: perspective of youth	Ms. Lyazzat Syrlybayeva, Central Asia Youth for Water Network
Progress, gaps, challenges, and the way forward: donor perspective	Mr. Steffen Hansen, Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF)



Interactive discussion (9 min)

Take away and concluding remarks



H.E. Danilo Türk, Former President of Slovenia, Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, Lead Political Advisor of the Geneva Water Hub

Speakers list

Opening

Name	Affiliation	Photo
Ms. Olga Algayerova	Executive Secretary, UNECE	
Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius	Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Union	

Introduction to the session



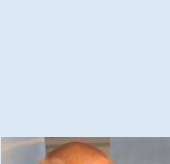

Name	Affiliation	Photo
Ms. Sonja Koepfel	Secretary, Water Convention, UNECE	
Ms. Alice Aureli	Chief of Section, Groundwater Systems and Settlements, UNESCO	



Speakers list

Panel I

Moderator: Mr. Bougonou K. Djeri–Alassani, Ag. Director, ECOWAS Water Resources Management Center (EWRMC)

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Ms. Cecilia Abena Dapaah	Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana	
Mr. Peter Kovacs	Water Director, Ministry of Interior, Hungary, Chair of the Practical Guide Drafting Group	
Mr. Phera Ramoeli	Executive Director, Okavango River Basin Water Commission	
Mr. Sophearin Chea	Regional Water Policy Consultant, Secretariat of the Mekong River Commission	
Mr. Anders Jägerskog	Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, World Bank Water Global Practice	



Speakers list

Panel II

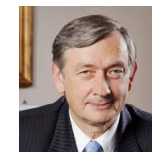
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H.E. Mr. Mahdi Rashid Al Hamdani	Minister of Water Resources, Iraq	
Mr. Juan Carlos Alurralde	Secretary General, Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee for the La Plata River	
Mr. Christophe Brachet	Deputy-Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)	
Ms. Lyazzat Syrlybayeva	Central Asia Youth for Water Network	
Mr. Steffen Hansen	Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF)	

Concluding remarks

H.E. Danilo Türk, Former President of Slovenia, Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, Lead Political Advisor of the Geneva Water Hub



Guide for panel discussions

Panellists:

- All panellists will have maximum 4.5 minutes for their intervention
- Panellists should link their project to the main topic or questions of the panel.
- Panellists should start the intervention by presenting themselves (name and affiliation) and proceed to their intervention

Next steps and other business

- Please **confirm** the name of the speaker coming from your organization (if not confirmed already) and kindly send your photo (if not included in slides 9-11 already)
- Please send us the text of your intervention/speaking points by **Friday, 18 March, COB.**
- If there is a specific question you would like to be asked, please inform UNECE as soon as possible, and latest by **Friday 18 March.**
- For any questions, contact by email or Whatsapp:
Komlan Sangbana - komlan.sangbana@un.org, +33 7 87 63 16 19 and
Indira Urazova - indira.urazova@un.org, +41 77 817 69 36
- Please send us your Whatsapp number for coordination during the session (Google form link: <https://forms.gle/RxteDXejFCkShZQu5>)
- Any other business? (Leave any comments in the Google form or send by email)