



Ministry for the
Environment, Land and Sea
of Italy



Workshop

Promoting transboundary water cooperation in the Middle East and Northern Africa region on the basis of the Water Convention

Monday 16 November 2015

Venue: Ministry of Agriculture, Kossuth Lajos tér 11, 1055 Budapest, Hungary
Meeting room: “Darányi”

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Draft Agenda

8:15	Transfer from Novotel Budapest City to the Ministry of Agriculture
9:00 - 9:30	Registration
9:30 - 10:00 Opening session	<p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. Massimo Cozzone, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Ms. Maria Galambos, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary– Ms. Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Center– Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chair of the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med)– Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) <p><i>The session will present the objectives, expected outcomes and work methodology.</i></p>
10:00 - 11:30 Session 1	<p><i>THE WATER CONVENTION IN THE MENA REGION – CURRENT PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCESSION</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. Massimo Cozzone, Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention</p> <p><i>Introduction:</i> Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Water Convention secretariat</p> <p><i>Panel discussion:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Luay Hussein, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq – Mr. Mohammad Al-Atrash, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan – Mr. Fadi Comair, Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon – Ms. Hayet Ben Mansour, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia – Mr. Deeb Abdelghafour, Palestinian Water Authority – Mr. Ylber Mirta, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>Facilitated discussion with participants</p> <p><i>The session will focus on the progress made in MENA countries in reflecting on the added value and challenges of accession to the Water Convention.</i></p> <p><i>The four countries will be invited to share their experiences on how the national processes of reflection have been conducted so far as well as to discuss the preliminary findings on expected benefits and challenges identified towards accession.</i></p> <p><i>The respondent from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will share the experience from the recent accession to the Water Convention, from both procedural and substantial points of view.</i></p>
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 - 13:30 Session 2	<p><i>THE WATER CONVENTION IN THE MENA REGION – COMMON ISSUES RELATED TO INTERPRETATION, ACCESSION AND IMPLEMENTATION</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. Kenty Richardson, Regional Environmental Center</p> <p><i>Introduction:</i> Prof. Michael Scoullos, GWP-Med</p> <p><i>Questions to and answers by the following panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Anne Schulte-Wülwer-Leidig, International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) – Mr. Gabor Baranyai, Ministry of Justice, Hungary – Mr. Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary – Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention – Mr. Ylber Mirta, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Mr. Alistair Rieu Clarke, University of Dundee <p><i>This interactive session will focus on the common issues related to interpretation, accession and implementation of the Water Convention in the MENA region. Based on the discussions in session 1 and on questions and answers with international experts, the session will foster exchanges on common challenges related to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Interpretation of the Water Convention, including in relation with the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses</i> – <i>Main obligations of the Water Convention (at national level and vis-à-vis riparian countries)</i> – <i>Legal, institutional and technical aspects related to the implementation of</i>

	<i>the Water Convention.</i>
13:30 - 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 - 16:00 Session 3	<p><i>PREPARING MENA COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES</i></p> <p><i>Chair and introduction:</i> Mr. Salvatore D'Angelo, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</p> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The draft 2016-2018 programme of work under the Water Convention, Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE – Introduction to the Implementation Committee, Ms. Anne Schulte-Wülwer-Leidig, member of the Implementation Committee – Other main decisions to be taken at the Meeting of the Parties and implications for MENA countries, Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE <p>Questions and answers</p> <p><i>This session will introduce the main items to be discussed during the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties and main decisions to be adopted. It will provide the opportunity to discuss the MENA countries' interest to get involved in the activities under the 2016-2018 programme of work of the Water Convention.</i></p>
16:00 - 16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30 - 17:45 Session 4	<p><i>ON GOING INITIATIVES, NEEDED ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS</i></p> <p><i>Chair and introduction:</i> Mr. Massimo Cozzone, Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention</p> <p>Facilitated discussion, with expected contributions related to on-going activities in the MENA region related to transboundary water cooperation</p> <p><i>This session will review lessons and messages from previous sessions, focusing on the identification of possible project ideas to support the implementation of the Water Convention in the MENA countries, which could become part of the 2016-2018 programme of work of the Water Convention, building on and not duplicating the many ongoing initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>Guidance documents developed under the Water Convention will be considered as possible tools to support the future implementation of proposed projects.</i></p>
17:45 - 18:00	<p><i>CLOSING STATEMENTS AND WRAP UP OF THE DAY</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. Massimo Cozzone, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</p>
18:00	Transfer to the Hotel Novotel Budapest City
19:30 - 21:30	<p><i>Dinner</i></p> <p>Rétesház Restaurant, 1051 Budapest, Október 6. u. 22. A shuttle will leave Novotel at 19:30.</p>

