



International High Level Conference
**Strengthening transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia:
 the role of international water law and the UNECE Water Convention
 and the Workshop on the Protocol on Water and Health**
Almaty, 25 – 27 October 2011
 in the framework of the UNECE-GIZ Programme “Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management”
 with organizational support from the
 Executive Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Preliminary Programme
Venue: Resort Hotel “Alatau”, Almaty

25 October: International High Level Conference	
Co-Chairs: Mr. Mazhit Turmagambetov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	
8.30 - 9.15	Registration
9.15 - 10.00	Opening session Mr. Mazhit Turmagambetov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe H.E. Ambassador Pierre Morel, EU Special Representative for Central Asia Mr. Volker Frobarth, Head of Transboundary Water Management Programme in Central Asia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Mr. Saghit Ibatullin, Chairman, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
10.00 - 11.00	Session 1: International water law: contemporary developments and the challenges for Central Asia International water law – setting the scene for long term sustainable and mutually beneficial cooperation, <i>Mr. Sergei Vinogradov, University of Dundee, UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science</i>

	Balancing different water uses in a transboundary basin, <i>Mr. Alexandros Kolliopoulos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Deputy Chair of the Legal Board of UNECE Water Convention</i>
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee-break
11.30 - 13.00	<p>The UNECE Water Convention: obligations and practical application – <i>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE</i></p> <p>Discussion: Application of international water law in transboundary water cooperation of Central Asian States <i>Under this item, each Central Asian country is invited to present a 7-10-min overview, answering the following questions:</i> -How international water law is applied in Central Asia? What are the implications - advantages and difficulties? -What needs to be done so that countries of the region would be better positioned to use international water law?</p> <p>Summary of discussion by Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser on Environment</p>
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 16.00	<p>Session 2: UNECE Water and Espoo Conventions: key issues for proper understanding and implementation</p> <p>Analyzing the two United Nations Conventions on water: the relationship between the 1992 UNECE Water Convention and the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, <i>Prof. Attila Tanzi, University of Bologna, Chair of the Legal Board of the UNECE Water Convention</i></p> <p>Transboundary water cooperation through specific agreements and joint bodies, <i>Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE</i></p> <p>Planning new activities in transboundary basins: the role of Water and Espoo Conventions, <i>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention, and Mr. Nick Bonvoisin, Secretary to the Espoo Convention, UNECE</i></p>
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee-break
16.30 – 18.00	<p>Session 3: International water law and the UNECE Water Convention: what is the way forward for Central Asia?</p> <p>Support and mutual assistance: at heart of UNECE Water Convention, <i>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE</i></p> <p>Discussion: Lessons learned and the way ahead: discussion among Central Asian countries and partners</p> <p>Conclusions</p>
19.00	Reception

26-27 October 2011: Workshop on the Protocol on Water and Health

Co-Chairs:

Mr. Mazhit Turmagambetov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and
Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE

26 October 2011

9.00 - 9.30	Registration (for new participants only)
9.30 - 10.00	<p>Opening remarks and introduction</p> <p>Mr. Mazhit Turmagambetov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Co-secretary to the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE</p> <p>Ms. Enkhtsetseg Shinee, WHO-Europe</p>
10.00 - 11.00	<p>Session 1: Water and health – global, regional and subregional challenges</p> <p>Realizing the basic human rights to water and health, <i>Ms. Enkhtsetseg Shinee, WHO-Europe</i></p> <p>The Protocol on Water and Health – a regional response to the global challenges and a practical tool to implement water-related Millennium Development Goals <i>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE</i></p>
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee-break
11.30 - 13.00	<p>Discussion: Water and health - challenges for Central Asia</p> <p><i>Under this item, each Central Asian country is invited to present a 10-min overview, answering the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>-What is the situation of water and health in each country?</i><i>-What are the challenges which require national, subregional and international solutions?</i><i>-What are the challenges for meeting the water-related Millennium Development Goals?</i> <p>Summary of discussion by Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser on Environment</p>
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 16.00	<p>Session 2: Benefiting from others' experience: Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health with focus on the target setting</p> <p>Guidelines on setting targets, evaluation of progress and reporting, <i>Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova, UNECE</i></p> <p>Implementation of the Protocol and target setting in the Republic of Moldova, challenges</p>

	<p>and lessons learned, <i>Ms. Valentina Tapis, Deputy Head, Ecological Inspectorate, the Republic of Moldova</i></p> <p>Planned activities on target setting process in the Kyrgyz Republic, <i>Mr. Erkin Orolbaev, expert, Kyrgyz Republic</i></p>
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee-break
16.30 – 18.00	Session 3: Surveillance of and response to water-related disease
	<p>Obligations under the Protocol related to surveillance of water-related disease, <i>Ms. Enkhtsetseg Shinee, WHO-Europe</i></p> <p>Surveillance of and response to water-related disease in Belarus, challenges and lessons learned, <i>Ms. Irina Zastenskaya, Deputy Director, Republican Scientific-Practical Centre of Hygiene, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus</i></p> <p>Discussion on the situation of the water-related disease surveillance in the five countries of Central Asia</p>
27 October 2011	
9.00 - 10.00	<p>Session 4: Implementation of the Protocol – a cross-sectoral and multistakeholder approach</p> <p>Cross-sector cooperation – the key to cooperation on water and health, <i>Mr. Mihaly Kadar, Head of department at the National Institute of Environmental Health, Hungary</i></p> <p>Public participation in the implementation of the Protocol and in setting targets in the Republic of Moldova and lessons learned from the process, <i>Ms. Tatiana Siniaeva, ECO-Tiras</i></p>
10.00 - 11.30	<p>Session 5: Next steps to prepare for the accession and implementation of the Protocol (working groups)</p> <p>Introduction to the working group sessions: objectives and issues for discussion</p> <p>Discussion in working groups</p> <p><i>Participants will be divided in five groups with national stakeholders from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. Each group will elect a rapporteur and discuss the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What are the 5 main issues related to water and health in each countries?</i> - <i>What are the existing policies? What are the challenges encountered? What are the results achieved so far?</i> - <i>What targets could be useful to address these problems?</i> - <i>How actions in different areas can reinforce each others? How can cooperation between agencies be improved?</i>

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee-break	
12.00 - 13.30	<p>Session 6: Strengthening national, subregional and international cooperation</p> <p>Water Quality in Central Asia: project outcomes, <i>Ms. Yekaterina Strikeleva, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)</i></p> <p>Working to improve access to water and sanitation: UNDP perspective, <i>Ms. Natalia Alexeeva, Water Programme Coordinator for Central Asia, UNDP, Regional Centre for Europe and CIS</i></p> <p>The role and experiences of the National Policy Dialogues under EU Water Initiative, <i>Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE</i></p> <p>Conclusion and the next steps</p>
13.30 – 13.45	Closing remarks