

Water allocation and Transboundary agreements

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Challenge of Water Allocation

- * Water allocation between different sectors and uses is a big challenge in water management, particularly in regions with water scarcity
- * Increasing demands of water and climate change do not make allocation easier
- * Tranboundary context brings an extra dimension on water allocation – allocation has to be managed not only between sectors but also between countries

Water Allocation in the Programme of Work

Justification and synergies

- * In the Programme of Work formally under area 3 (nexus) but is closely linked to sharing benefits. Exploratory work called for. Links also to climate change work area also, drought response in particular (priorities of use).
- * Parties have important experience, but so do other regions of the world, hence a collection of experience globally aspired for
- * Allocation of groundwater at the transboundary level in particular not well documented

Proposed objectives and scope of the global workshop

A global workshop on water allocation will be organised 16-17 October 2017

The **overarching objective** of the workshop is to support efforts to develop sustainable and equitable transboundary arrangements on water allocation that strike a balance between robustness and flexibility.

Aims

- * increase understanding and knowledge of criteria, mechanisms, tools and good practices.
- * Discuss examples of water allocation arrangements and practices as well as on water allocation from the perspective of international water law
- * Share experiences, identify good practices and lessons learned
- * Formulate questions and identify needs informing possible future work on water allocation under the Water Convention.

Progress and activities in this area of work in late 2016-2017

- * Some initial thinking and brainstorming about relevant experiences by the Bureau, the secretariat and the Chair
- * Identification of some key publications, projects (notably the OECD work on national level water allocation, World Bank on flexibility in agreements from climate change point of view)
- * Enquiries with some potential partners

- * **Challenges and success factors to be discussed in the group work**
- * **Suggestions welcome for cases to be presented in the global workshop**

Planned future activities in this area in 2017-2018

- * Global workshop 16-17 October 2017 back-to-back with the 5th meeting of the Task Force on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (18 October 2017)
- * Gathering of the experience from the workshop on the Water Convention website
- * Proposal for possible further work in 2019-2021 (optional), e.g. working towards formulating principles on transboundary water allocation

Proposed structure of the global workshop: Day 1

Introduction to considerations in water allocation

- * Transboundary water allocation in light of the history and principles of international water law
- * Principles and considerations for water allocation
- * Data and monitoring requirements to allow water allocation rules and flexible management.

Prioritization between and among conflicting interests and uses in the transboundary context

- * The role of integrated water resource management, stakeholder consultations, addressing minimum environmental flow, the human right to water
- * Creating of a common baseline in terms of understanding water availability, the current level of use, outlook and variability

Water allocation mechanisms and tools

- * Existing solutions for water allocation challenges in the transboundary context.

Proposed structure of the workshop:

Day 2

Developing arrangements and agreements

- *Options for including water allocation arrangements in transboundary cooperation agreements, informal arrangements
- *Creating sustainable agreements in light of changing hydrological conditions

Implementing and revising agreements

- *Implementation and revision of water allocation arrangements; challenges, lessons learned and success factors

Next steps, possible future work (subject to means and interest)

Questions to be discussed by the Working Group

Group 1 (with sub-groups):

1. What are the challenges in developing water allocation mechanisms in transboundary basins?
2. Which topics would you like to see included in the programme of the workshop?

Group 2 (with sub-groups):

1. What are success factors in developing water allocation mechanisms in transboundary basins?
2. Which topics would you like to see included in the programme of the workshop?