



Webinar on preventing water conflicts through improving transboundary water cooperation in the Pan-European region

25 October 2021, 10.00- 11.30 (Geneva time)

Concept note

Background/rationale:

Since its launch in March 2020, the Task Team on Water Management under the Inter-Agency Issue-Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change (IBC) has organized two webinars related to the water theme. These were a webinar on the 2020 World Water Development Report (WWDR) on Water and Climate Change, 27 May 2020, and webinar on transboundary water cooperation and nexus issues, 7 July 2020, based on examples from the Drin and Drina river basins in South-eastern Europe. The two webinars highlighted the importance of water management issues in the region. The first one initiated a discussion on the WWDR with RCs and UNCTs by providing them with data, tools and recommendations on how to assist member States in managing their water resources in the climate change era. It was organized by UNESCO and UNECE, in coordination with DCO for Europe and Central Asia. The latter webinar was organized in response to a request by RCs and in collaboration with them; the primary target audience were RCOs and UNCTs.

The topic of water management is given high priority by some of the RCs and UNCTs in their country-level work. In the meeting between RCs and co-chairs of IBCs on 6 April 2021, RCs highlighted the importance of transboundary water issues particularly in the context of persistent issues in the region such as conflict prevention. Furthermore, RCs welcomed support from IBCs to translate regional resources, including the various global, regional and sub-regional programmes, into actionable initiatives adapted to the context of the subregions and countries.

To respond to the above request, the IBC Task Team on Water Management is organizing a webinar on linking global water processes to UN country work, as well as presenting tools for preventing water conflicts through improved transboundary cooperation.

Target audience: RCs, RCOs and UNCTs, members of the Result Groups on environment- and climate change-related outcomes

Objectives of the webinar:

- Inform about global high-level water related events and their implications for the regional level (or input from the region to the global processes)
- Present results for the region or subregion of the second reporting cycle on the SDG 6 indicators carried out in 2020, in particular on the SDG 6.5.2 indicator on transboundary water cooperation and discuss how to use the results to strengthen transboundary and subregional cooperation as part of CCA at country level.
- Present international instruments on water management as a conflict prevention tool with examples of transboundary water cooperation and conflict prevention



Provisional agenda:

Time: 1.5 hours (25 October 2021, 10.00-11.30 Geneva time) Via: Microsoft Teams

10.00 - 10.05 Welcoming words from the co-chairs of the Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change and setting the scene for the webinar –
Ana Luiza Massot Thompson-Flores, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Moderated by Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia

10.05 - 10.15 Global high-level water-related events and processes including on water conflict prevention – and how to engage at country and regional level
Klas Moldéus, UN-Water

10.15 - 10.25 Results of the second reporting cycle on the SDG 6 indicators, in particular on the SDG 6.5.2. indicator on transboundary water cooperation
Francesca Bernardini, UNECE and Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO

10.25 – 10.35 Q & A and discussion

Moderated by Françoise Jacob, UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia

10.35 - 10.45 The Water Convention as a conflict prevention tool: recent work by the Implementation Committee regarding Albania and Montenegro
Sonja Koepfel, UNECE

10.45 - 10.55 Science for conflict prevention: transboundary groundwater cooperation in the Balkans (DIKTAS), and Central Asia and Southern Africa (GGRETA)
Alice Aureli, UNESCO

10.55 - 11.20 Discussion and experience sharing

11.20 - 11.30 Conclusions and key take-away messages
Mona Folkesson, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, UN Development Coordination Office