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MINISTÈRE DE L'EAU ET DE L'ASSAINISSEMENT

Pavilion on Transboundary Water Cooperation at the 9th World Water Forum

Accelerating cooperation on transboundary waters with water diplomacy: perspectives and tools

Finland, Senegal, Slovenia and Switzerland

Tuesday 22 March 2022, 12.00-13.30 Dakar time

Venue: Diamniado, Abdou DIOUF International Conference Centre, Dakar Arena,

Exhibition Centre, Hall D, D 35

Water diplomacy refers to the prevention and resolution of political tensions over water and its use by drawing on water expertise and diplomatic tools. Fair and well-governed management of water resources and its institutional frameworks support cooperation and peacebuilding.

In transboundary contexts, development of water resources and different priorities over them can create tensions but cooperation on water also unites, creates shared benefits and opportunities. Efforts in water diplomacy can support cooperation across boundaries at all levels but transboundary cooperation also provides various tools (policy, legal, technical...) for diplomacy. Such tools have been developed and experience acquired in various bilateral, river basin and regional cooperation frameworks but also worldwide under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

The objective of the event: Share views and experience about the potential and value of water diplomatic efforts to support cooperation and to reduce tension over the use of transboundary waters. Discuss needs for action and opportunities for partnerships.

Programme

Opening: Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Chief of Transboundary Cooperation Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Speakers/presentations:

Mr. Bojan Dejak, Director General, Directorate for Water and Investments, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia: Elements for efficient water diplomacy regarding transboundary cooperation: 1) the importance of understanding the local context; 2) identifying the right entry points; 3) framing solutions / or transforming conflicts. Examples of Sava and of the Karavanken aquifer.

Mr. Simon Zbinden, Head of Global Programme Water, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland: Blue Peace & Global Observatory For Water and Peace

Mr. Niokhor Ndour, Director, Directorate of Water Resources Management and Planning, Ministry of Water and Sanitation/Coordinator of initiative "Pôle Eau de Dakar", Senegal: Water diplomacy in the frameworks of African regional organizations, the Water Convention and river basin commissions. Examples of the Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer and/or OMVS, OMVG

Interactive discussion – Introduction and moderation by Mr. Turo Hjerpe, Senior Specialist, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Interactive discussion about the potential of water diplomacy to move forward cooperation and reduce conflicts, and about concrete tools that can be used.

Conclusions – Mr. Antti Rautavaara, Senior Policy Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland