
UN 2023 Water Conference – Side Event

Organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia

Committing to advance transboundary water cooperation worldwide for sustainable development, climate action, stability and peace

*18:30 – 19:45, 23 March 2023,
ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York*

Context

Transboundary waters account for 60 per cent of the world's freshwater flows. More than 3 billion people depend on them. Cooperation on shared resources is therefore essential to promote sustainable economic development, human and environmental health, biodiversity, climate action and resilience, disaster risk reduction, and peace. Unfortunately, cooperation in most transboundary basins is not fit to deal with future challenges and progress is too slow.

To sustain and advance cooperation, the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition, a diverse, multi-stakeholder coalition of actors from around the world with a wide range of functions and capacities, was formed. In preparation to the Conference, the Coalition has provided a catalysing framework for the submission of voluntary commitments on transboundary water cooperation as part of the Water Action Agenda.

The side event will highlight commitments by countries and organizations, including basin organizations, aiming to advance transboundary water cooperation.

Programme

18:30-18:35 Opening

*H.E. Mr. Uroš Brežan, Minister of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning,
Slovenia*

18:35-18:40 Presentation of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition

*Mr. Christian Frutiger, Assistant Director General, Swiss Agency for
Development and Cooperation, Switzerland*

Panel discussions moderated by Mr. Sergio Campos, Division Chief, Water and Sanitation Division, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

18:40-19:10 Panel discussion on advancing transboundary water cooperation through legal and institutional means, and data, information, knowledge and technical support

- *H.E. Ms. Maisa Rojas Corradi, Minister of Environment, Chile*
- *H.E. Mr. Sam Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda*
- *H.E. Ms. Bérangeère Couillard, Secretary of State in charge of Ecology, Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, France*
- *Ms. Astrid Schomaker, Director Green Diplomacy and Multilateralism, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission*
- *Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Chief of Transboundary Cooperation, United Nations Economic Commission for Economic Cooperation (UNECE)*
- *Mr. Phetsamone Khanopphet, Director of Environmental Management Division, Mekong River Commission (MRC)*
- *Ms. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Geneva Water Hub. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva*

19:10-19:40 Panel discussion on advancing transboundary water cooperation through capacity development and funding and financing

- *H.E. Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland*
- *Mr. Mourad Wahba, Officer in Charge, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)*
- *Ms. Marie-Thérèse Itongo, Secretary General, International Commission for the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS)*
- *Ms. Eileen Burke, Global Lead for Water Resources Management, World Bank*
- *Mr. Eric Tardieu, Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)*
- *Mr. Eddy Moors, Rector, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education*

19:40-19:45 Closing Remarks

Mr. Xing Qu, Deputy Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)