



United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 353 — 4-8 January 2010

## INLAND TRANSPORT SECURITY FORUM

28-29 JANUARY 2010

On 28-29 January 2010, the UNECE Transport Division will host a two-day inland transport security discussion forum. The forum builds upon the UNECE's 2006 "Transport Security Round Table", the 2007-2008 work of Multidisciplinary Expert Group on Inland Transport Security and the 2009 "Inland Transport Security Seminar".

The best way to enhance inland transport security is by sharing knowledge. In this context, UNECE contributes by providing a forum for governments, international organizations and the private sector.

Topics which will be dealt with during the Discussion Forum include:

- Is there a need to enhance inland transport security?
- Are the responsibilities of the public and private sectors clear?
- What are the costs and benefits of security norms, standards and procedures?
- Are risk assessment techniques well-known and used?
- Is there demand for practical tools to enhance inland transport security?

Visit [http://www.unece.org/trans/events/2010/inlandsecurity\\_forum10.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/events/2010/inlandsecurity_forum10.html) to see the agenda or contact [Robert.Nowak@unece.org](mailto:Robert.Nowak@unece.org) for more information.



## INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA



View of the Nurek power dam, Tajikistan.

lacking in fossil fuels, intend to use hydropower more intensively. The combined water, energy and food crisis of 2007–2008, caused by an unusually dry period coinciding with an extremely cold winter, highlighted the vulnerability of both the energy systems of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and the irrigation systems downstream.

Current regional institutions and legal frameworks are less and less able to guarantee the sustainable and integrated management of shared water resources. Recurring disputes over water have become the main stumbling block to cooperation in Central Asia. Finding solutions to the water and water-related energy issues is therefore a key need and security challenge for the region. The alarming effects of climate change and the expected increase in water use by Afghanistan, an upstream country of the Amudarya, are increasing the urgency of action.

The need to strengthen institutions and legal frameworks as a first step to finding solutions to these complex problems has been recognized by all the Central Asian Governments. At an April 2009 summit of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), the Presidents of the five States expressed their readiness to strengthen the institutional set up and legal basis for water cooperation in the region. They also mandated the Executive Committee of IFAS to elaborate the third Aral Sea Basin Programme (ASBP-3), a regional action programme for 2011–2015. This Programme is also expected to address the institutional and legal aspects of water resources management.

The UNECE Programme on Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources' Management in Central Asia provides assistance to the IFAS Executive Committee and other regional institutions regarding implementation of the

The economies of the five Central Asian States – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – are highly interdependent, particularly in terms of the Syrdarya, Amudarya and other transboundary rivers. Millions of people living along the lower reaches in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan need large quantities of water for irrigated agriculture. The upstream countries (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan), by contrast,

Summit's decisions. The project is financed by the Government of Germany through GTZ, in the framework of the Berlin Water Process.

The first meeting of the Working Group on Institutional and Legal Strengthening and ASBP-3 was convened by the IFAS Executive Committee on 10 and 11 December 2009 in Almaty (Kazakhstan) with the support of UNECE. The event was the first in a series of regional meetings and national consultations designed to elaborate a set of proposals for review and approval by the five Governments. With the support of international consultants, some 60 local experts prepared background papers, analysed current institutional and legal weaknesses and proposed a variety of solutions.

The Working Group comprises representatives of the five Governments as well as regional institutions. Chaired by UNECE experts to ensure impartiality, the meeting discussed a broad range of institutional and legal reforms set out by international consultants on the basis of inputs from local experts. The ideas presented during the discussions will form the basis for a consolidated set of proposals to be discussed at further meetings of the Working Group.

The Working Group also discussed modalities for developing ASBP-3 taking into account lessons learned during the elaboration and implementation of the first two Programmes. Close coordination with the donor community throughout the process will ensure a high level of professionalism and

sufficient funding. The new ASBP is expected to make an effective contribution to the sustainable development and environmental and social rehabilitation of the Aral Sea basin.

The UNECE Programme on Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources' Management in Central Asia combines activities in three closely related areas: (a) institutional and legal strengthening; (b) capacity-building in terms of international water law and the adaptation and dissemination of best practices; (c) better support for decision-making through improved water monitoring and data exchange. Regional promotion of integrated water resources management (IWRM) by the Programme is complemented by the National Policy Dialogues on IWRM – one of the main instruments of the EU Water Initiative, in which UNECE is a strategic partner. □



For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/cadialogue/cadwelcome.htm>.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

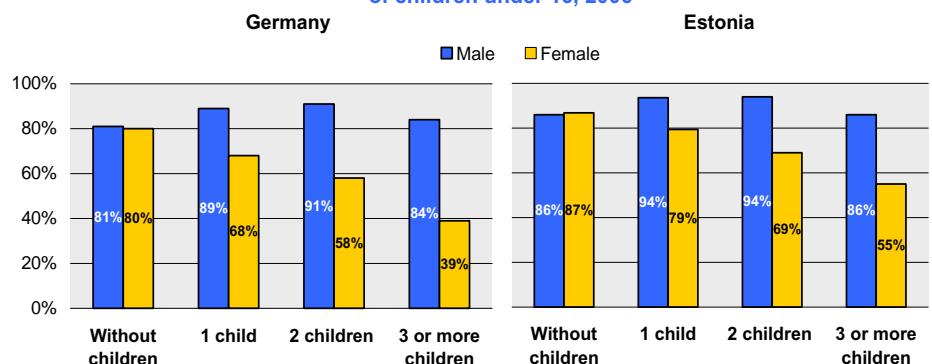
### IMPACT OF UNPAID CHILDCARE ON WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT RATES

In many UNECE countries women's participation in economic activity is significantly lower than that of their male counterparts. This in particular applies to households with children under 16 years old.

Family responsibilities and especially childcare can exert a significant constraint on women's participation in the labour force, since it is usually women who do most of the unpaid care work. For example, as shown on the graphs for Germany and Estonia, women and men share almost equally high employment rates before having children. However, the participation of women in employment decreases sharply as the number of children under 16 living in the household rises: from 80% to 39% in Germany and from 87% to 55% in Estonia. At the same time, employment rates for men remain steady or even pick-up slightly.

Employment rates by sex and number of children under 16, 2006

For women and men to be able to access the labour market on the same footing, some countries, and particularly countries of the European Union, have implemented reconciliation policies aimed at redistributing unpaid care responsibilities between men and women as well as within the state, between the market and society as a whole. However, reconciliation of family and work life still remains a challenge to be addressed by welfare states. □



Source: UNECE Statistical Database ([www.unece.org/stats/data](http://www.unece.org/stats/data)).