



***NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
UNDER THE EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE COMPONENT FOR COUNTRIES OF
EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA***

**Report of the First Steering Committee meeting of National Policy Dialogue on integrated
water resources management in Georgia**

11 June 2012

The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in cooperation with Global Water Partnership Georgia.

The meeting was opened with welcoming remarks from Ms Katarina Nakashidze of the Ministry of Environment Protection, Mr Ramon Reigada of the EU Delegation, Mr Bo Libert, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Ms Tatiana Efimova of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Mr George Dzamukashvili, the National NPD Coordinator, gave an overview of the development of the dialogue in Georgia.

The first session of the Steering Committee meeting was devoted to institutional and legal reforms in the water management sector. After an overview of the water management situation in Georgia reflecting the challenges with regard to institutional arrangements as well as legislation presented by Ms Tamar Gugushvili, a concept for the development of new water legislation was presented by Mr Malkhaz Dzeneladze. The new legislation would apply principles of integrated water resources management as well as respond to the EU-Georgia Association Agreement that is under development. Experts from Finland commented on the proposed concept taking into account their and other countries' experiences and suggested to see the EU legislation as a longer term objective while focusing on some specific issues to begin with, such as water rights, the system of permitting for pollution and water use, and water monitoring. The participants confirmed the strong need for a revised legislation and discussed the initiation of a reform of the water management sector.

Presentations of Ms Nino Chkhobadze and Ms Khatuna Gogaladze highlighted the transboundary nature of water resources in Georgia, the extensive plans to develop hydropower and also transboundary water cooperation with Azerbaijan on the Kura river. A presentation on the 20th anniversary of the UNECE Water Convention by Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE, demonstrated the benefits of accession to the Convention, the main achievements made during these 20 years of work as well as plans for the future. The results of an OECD project on strengthening economic instruments in IWRM in the Southern Caucasus, including an overview of the use of economic instruments in Georgia were presented by Ms Tatiana Efimova and Mr Malkhaz Adeishvili.

In the following session Mr Alexander Mindorashvili reviewed work done and the steps to be made for Georgia if it would accede to the UNECE/WHO Euro Protocol on Water and Health.

The experience of the international organizations to support IWRM in Georgia and opportunities for cooperation between different projects were discussed in the following session. The projects presented were "Trans-Boundary River Management Phase III for the Kura River – Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan", the UNDP/GEF project - "Reducing transboundary degradation in the Kura-Aras river basin", the EC International Waters project – "Environmental Protection of International River Basins", "Integrated Natural Resources Management in Watersheds (INRMW) of Georgia Program" funded by



USAID, “Capacity Building on the Water Monitoring and Management in Georgia” funded by Finland and the REC Caucasus work on strengthening regional water cooperation.

After a presentation by Ms Tatiana Efimova OECD, participants expressed their interest to the experience in application of the economic instruments in other countries.

In the final session of the Steering Committee meeting the following conclusions for further work was highlighted:

1. The Steering Committee agreed that a concept for the further development of water legislation, developed on the basis of the document presented during the Steering Committee should be finalised and sent for review and future decisions to the Ministry of Environment Protection.
2. As to the possible accession to the UNECE Water Convention as well as the signing of the draft bilateral agreement on the Kura river the technical work has been done. At this stage political decisions are required to move forwards.
3. Preparative work has also been done with regard to the possible accession to the Protocol on Water and Health. To continue with the work in this direction a political decision on the accession to the Protocol would be needed.
4. The development of a National Water Strategy, including a cost and benefit analysis, should be considered. The Water Strategy would outline the application of IWRM principles and EU water-related Directives in Georgia.
5. It was agreed to consider including financial aspects of water management as an additional component of the National Policy Dialogue. The Steering Committee requested OECD to develop possible proposals to develop the use of financial instruments in water management as an additional component in the NPD.



Annex 1

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN GEORGIA

European Union Water Initiative, Component for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Organized by the Ministry of Environment Protection and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in cooperation with Global Water Partnership, Georgia

11 June 2012, Tbilisi, Georgia

The meeting will take place at Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel

Address: Rose Revolution Square 1

Languages: English and Georgian - simultaneous interpretation provided

AGENDA

09.30-10.00	Registration
10.00-10.30	<p>Opening. Adoption of the agenda. Chair – Mr. George Zedginidze, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia</p> <p><i>Welcoming remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. George Zedginidze, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia • Mr. Ramon Reigada, Head of Operations, EU delegation in Georgia • Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE • Ms. Tatiana Efimova, Project Coordinator, OECD • Mr. George Dzamukashvili, Project Manager at the National Water Partnership of Georgia, NPD National Coordinator <p>Purpose of the meeting and adoption of the agenda – Mr. George Zedginidze</p>
10.30-11.30	<p>SESSION I. INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL REFORM IN THE WATER MANAGEMENT SECTOR</p> <p><i>Presentations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tamar Gugushvili, National Expert – “Analysis of Current Water Management Situation in Georgia” • Mr. Malkhaz Dzeneladze, National Expert – “Concept for a New Water Law of Georgia” • Mr. Kari Kinnunen, Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) – “General comments on future water legislation in Georgia” • Mr. Antti Belinskij, Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) – “Comments concerning the legal perspectives” <p>Discussion</p> <p>Decisions by the Steering Committee</p>
11.30-12.00	Coffee break
12.00-13.00	SESSION II. TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND ACCESSION TO THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION



	<p><i>Presentations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nino Chkhobadze, National Expert – “Georgia and transboundary waters cooperation” • Ms. Khatuna Gogaladze, ENVSEC National Coordinator, OSCE – “UNECE/OSCE Project on Transboundary Water Convention and Bilateral Agreement on Shared Water Resources Between Azerbaijan and Georgia” • Ms. Tatiana Efimova, OECD, and Mr. Malkhaz Adeishvili, National expert, Georgia - Results of the OECD project “Strengthening the economic and financial dimension of IWRM in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia” • Mr. Markku Maunula, Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) – “Transboundary project on Jandari Lake” • Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE – “20 Years Anniversary of the Water Convention and the accession of Georgia to the Convention” <p>Discussion</p> <p>Decisions by the Steering Committee</p>
13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 14.30	<p>SESSION III. THE UNECE-WHO/EURO PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH AS A TOOL FOR INTEGRATED STRATEGIES</p> <p><i>Presentations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alexander Mindorashvili, Ministry of Environment Protection – “Setting targets and target dates under the Protocol on Water and Health in Georgia” <p>Discussion</p> <p>Decisions by the Steering Committee</p>
14.30-15.30	<p>SESSION IV. EXPERIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN IWRM IMPLEMENTATION IN GEORGIA AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE</p> <p><i>Presentations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mary Matthews, UNDP/GEF project - “Reducing transboundary degradation in the Kura-Aras river basin” • Mr. Zurab Jincharadze, EC International Waters project – “Environmental Protection of International River Basins” • Ms. Mariam Shotadze, USAID – “Integrated Natural Resources Management in Watersheds (INRMW) of Georgia Program” • Mr. Peter Roncak, Deputy of Team Leader - “Trans-Boundary River Management Phase III for the Kura River – Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan” • Mr. Ivane Tsiklauri, Government of Finland – “Capacity Building on the Water Monitoring and Management in Georgia” • Ms. Malak Shukurova, REC Caucasus – “Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Water Sector in Caucasus” <p>Discussion</p> <p>Decisions by the Steering Committee</p>
15.30 – 16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.00-17.00	SESSION IV. (Continuation)
17.00-18.00	SESSION V. CONCLUSIONS AND ADOPTION OF DECISIONS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE. Chair – Mr. George Zedginidze



	<p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser for Environment, UNECE – “UNECE-led EUWI NPD activities in Georgia: current status and future areas of work”• Ms. Tatiana Efimova, Project Coordinator, OECD - “OECD-led EUWI NPD activities in Georgia: current status and future areas of work” <p><i>The Chair will recall the decisions taken under the previous agenda items.</i></p>
19.00	Dinner



Stakeholder Meeting

12 June, Tuesday

Tbilisi, 12, Metekhi str., Hotel PENTHOUSE

National Water Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Georgia

Organised by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in cooperation with Global Water Partnership Georgia

Programme

Languages: English and Georgian, simultaneous interpretation provided

09.45-10.00

Registration of participants

10.00-10.30

Opening of the meeting

- Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE
- Mr. George Dzamukashvili, Project Manager at the National Water Partnership of Georgia, NPD National Coordinator
- Ms. Mariam Makarova, Head of Water Resources Management Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection

10.30-12.00

Institutional and legal reform in the water management sector

- Mr. Malkhaz Dzeneladze, National Expert – “Concept for New Water Law of Georgia”
- Ms. Tamar Gugushvili, National Expert – “Analysis of Current Water Management Situation in Georgia”
- Mr. Kari Kinnunen, Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) – “General comments on future water legislation in Georgia”
- Mr. Antti Belinskij, Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) – “Comments concerning the legal perspectives”

12.05-12.15

Coffee break

12.15-13.30

Water cooperation and application of EU water legislation in Finland

- Mr. Kari Kinnunen, Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) – “Finnish Transboundary Water Co-operation”



- Mr. Markku Maunula, Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) –
“Implementation of Water Framework Directive and Flood Directive in
Finland”

Questions, comments and discussion

13.30-14.30

Lunch



**National Water Policy Dialogue on
Integrated Water Resources Management in Georgia**

The First meeting of the Steering Committee
11 June 2012

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**National Water Policy Dialogue on
Integrated Water Resources Management in Georgia**

Stakeholder Meeting
12 June 2012

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