

# The Roadmap for a global Water Convention

**Massimo Cozzone**

Chair of the Bureau of the UNECE Convention  
on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes  
Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

Working Group on Integrated Water Resource Management  
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# Do we need a roadmap?

- High interest in the Convention by non-ECE countries, opening is beneficial for both sides
- The “opening” process is not a straightforward task, it has many aspects to be taken into account
- It is a medium-long term effort, it needs a “vision” on where to go
- UN 1997 Convention: where to go together?

## THEREFORE

- The Bureau decided in April to develop a draft, it will be discussed at its meeting tomorrow afternoon

# What the roadmap would provide

- Takes into account accomplished steps
- Identifies present and future needs and opportunities
- Defines practical steps, with timelines when feasible
- Foresees new strategic directions
- The Roadmap should be a “living document”, to be continuously adapted to changing circumstances

# Possible outline of the roadmap

- Foster ratification of amendment by „Madrid“ Parties
  - Promotion outside UNECE region
  - Relationship with UN 1997 Convention
    - Support to non-UNECE countries
      - Working in partnership
        - Financing

# Promotion outside UNECE region

- Promotion at different levels, incl. At Global events
- Subregional workshops (e.g. Latin America, Africa, Arab States, Asia/Pacific, etc.)
- Involving non-UNECE countries in Convention activities
- Use alternative channels (global processes, MoFAs)

# Relationship with UN 1997 Convention

- Promote synergy and coordination
- Sharing experience
- Start open debate on joining forces (capacity building, assistance programmes, financing, institutional framework)
- Common communication messages

# Support to non-UNECE countries

- Need for a guidance on how to cooperate with interested countries
- Possible factors to take into account:
  - Level of interest expressed in the Convention
  - Level of interest in technical activities under the Convention
  - Level of interest in cooperating with neighbours
  - Shared basins with UNECE region
  - Level of funding available/provided

# Working in partnership

- International organizations
- Global Conventions
- Global IFIs, GEF
- Other UN regional Commissions and UN agencies



# Financing

- Need for additional resources:
  - Participation of countries outside UNECE region
  - Resources for the Secretariat
  - Promotion initiatives at global level
  - Pilot projects outside UNECE region
- Opportunities:
  - Global financing mechanisms, GEF
  - Development cooperation agencies, MoFAs, other sources (global donor community)

# An example of application

**WORKSHOP ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION**

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- Workshop co-organized with ECLAC, UNESCO, GEF, IUCN, B.A. University of Bologna, IGRAC
- 89 participants from all but one Latin American countries plus two Caribbean countries (Haiti, Dominican Republic)
- Participants included lawyers, diplomats and technical experts

## Where Latin American Countries are already involved or expressed interest

- Three countries from the region participated to the Rome MoP in Nov. 2012: Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia
- A few countries already participating in technical activities (e.g. Workshops on Adaptation to Climate Change and Task Force on Climate and Water)

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- Making use of international legal instruments on water for advancing cooperation
- Jointly adapting water management to climate change and variability in transboundary basins
- Reconciling different interests and uses in transboundary basins, their requirements and compatibility for good water governance
- Fostering transboundary water cooperation in the Latin American and Caribbean region and UNECE region and between them

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**CONCLUSIONS:**

1. Convention recognized as a useful tool to enhance and channel cooperation across the region
2. Several countries expressed interest to know more about the benefits of using the Convention as framework for cooperation, other countries interested in participating in technical activities
3. LAC countries have already a long history of cooperation and mechanisms in place, benefit for the Convention as well (sharing experience)