

High Level Segment MoP 6, Rome

Thursday 29 November 2012, Chamber of Deputies, Rome

Part 2: Views on and expectations for a globalized Convention, 15.00–16.00

Debate: interventions from the floor

Côte d'Ivoire

Introduction

Le réseau hydrographique de la Côte d'Ivoire comprend quatre (4) principaux bassins :

- le Cavally à l'Ouest, long de 700 km avec un bassin versant de 15 000 km² ;
- leassandra long de 650 km pour un bassin de 75 000 km² ;
- le Bandama formé du Bandama blanc, du Bandama rouge ou Marahoué et du N'zi, d'une longueur 1 050 km avec un bassin versant total de 97 000 km² ;
- la Comoé à l'Est, qui prend sa source au Burkina Faso, dont le lit d'une longueur de 1 160 km, draine un bassin versant de 78 000 km².

Trois (3) des quatre (4) principaux cours d'eau que compte la Côte d'Ivoire sont en partage avec les pays voisins (Comoé,assandra, Cavally).

Pertinence de la gestion des bassins transfrontaliers

Afin de promouvoir la coopération entre les Etats et d'assurer un développement intégré de ces bassins dans tous les domaines, deux organismes publics ont été créés. Ces organismes sont :

- l'Autorité du Bassin du NIGER (ABN) créé le 21 novembre 1980 et regroupant neuf (9) Etats membres : *le Bénin, le Burkina Faso, le Cameroun, la Côte d'Ivoire, la Guinée, le Mali, le Niger, le Nigeria et le Tchad.*
- l'Autorité du Bassin de la VOLTA (ABV) créé le 17 Juillet 2006 et regroupant six pays d'Afrique occidentale : Bénin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali et Togo.

Par ailleurs, la «Déclaration de Ouagadougou» sur la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau (GIRE) a adopté en 2008 une résolution portant sur la promotion de trois (3) nouvelles Organisations de Bassins Transfrontaliers. Ce sont :

1. le Bassin du Mono (Togo, Bénin) ;
2. le Bassin Comoé-Bia-Tanoé (Burkina, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali) (les études de création ont été validées en Juin 2012);
3. le bassin Cavally-Cestos-assandra (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée, Libéria).

Problèmes

Les effets conjugués du changement climatique et d'une forte pression démographique se traduisent par une dégradation très avancée de l'environnement des bassins avec une réduction drastique des ressources naturelles et l'apparition et/ou l'aggravation de certains phénomènes qui prennent l'allure d'une menace à l'existence humaine, notamment :

- La dégradation des Terres et des Eaux (érosions, ensablement, pollutions d'origines diverses) ;
- La prolifération des plantes aquatiques envahissantes ;
- La perte de la biodiversité ;
- Le déficit pluviométrique de 20 à 30% ;
- La réduction des écoulements de surface de l'ordre de 20 à 55% suivant les localités au détriment des zones humides ;
- La prolifération des végétaux aquatiques flottants.

Défis

- l'utilisation durable et équitable des ressources en eau par tous les usagers;
- la protection de l'environnement et des écosystèmes;
- la réduction de la pauvreté et l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations;
- la sécurité alimentaire;

- le partage des bénéfices mutuels (ouvrages communs, ...);
- le développement économique et l'intégration régionale;

Attentes

- Partage d'expériences pour faire face aux défis ci-dessus ;
- Appuis techniques, matériels et financiers pour la mise en œuvre des différents programmes et projets initiés dans le cadre de la mise en valeur des bassins transfrontaliers.

European Union

Excellences, Distinguished guests,

On behalf of the European Union I would like to express to the representatives of the countries participating in the Water Initiative our appreciation for the progress made so far in the reform of the water sector at national level. The results achieved in the past two years have been encouraging and so has been the political commitment towards the National Policy Dialogues through which the Water Initiative is implemented.

That is why in 2012 the EU decided to double its financial support to the Water Initiative in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: this was raised from the initial EUR 1.7 million in the 1st phase to EUR 3.2 million of the current second phase. On top of these figures we also have to consider the contributions of other donor countries and organisations that have teamed up their human and financial resources to support the water sector reform process in the region.

An inclusive approach based on resource efficiency principles and on the environmental and economic viability of water use is essential to manage such a scarce resource. Nevertheless, the promotion of better water governance is not a fixed-term process and it needs to be sustained by each country.

The preparation of a National Strategy on Water Resources Management in Azerbaijan and the reform of the economic instruments for water management in Armenia are proofs of such dynamism by partner countries. However, the majority of the actions undertaken at national level in this context should not be implemented in isolation but as part of a wider regional perspective.

That is the reason why the EU strongly supports regional cooperation in the water sector by promoting a river-basin approach in trans-boundary waters following the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive.

The Water Framework Directive is particularly relevant to those countries that will sign, in the future, an Association Agreement with the EU as this is part of the negotiation process. In those countries where this is not the case, it is important that the EU Water Framework Directive and the UNECE Water Convention keep complementing each other and provide added value to the countries' efforts to reform their national water management systems. In this context, the EU Water Initiative offers a unique common framework for cooperation to the benefit of all partners involved.

The future of the Initiative beyond 2014 is currently being reviewed by the European Union. We should be able to provide you with more detailed information in the coming months. However, a key requisite for the continuation of this process is the achievement, by partner countries, of tangible results in the framework of the National Policy Dialogues. I therefore encourage you to continue on the reform path that you have undertaken and I renew the EU's commitment to work with you in the water management field.

I wish you a successful meeting and I hope we can continue our fruitful cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.

European Union statement on the vision for the future of the Convention

The European Union's water policy has been successful in helping to protect our water resources. The main piece of legislation protecting Europe's waters, the Water Framework Directive, sets a central goal of attaining good status for Europe's waters by 2015. But as the deadline approaches, the water environment in the European Union is still under pressure from economic activities, urban and demographic developments, and climate change. The European Union has recently reviewed its water

related policies and their implementation and published the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources. The objective is to ensure that a sufficient quantity of good quality water is available for people's needs, the economy and the environment throughout the EU. The Blueprint aims to tackle the remaining obstacles which hamper action to safeguard Europe's water resources and is based on an extensive evaluation of the existing policy.

The Blueprint is a package composed of several elements:

- a) The "Blueprint" Communication itself
- b) A Review of the EU policy on Water Scarcity and Droughts
- c) A Report on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive including a European overview and individual assessments for each Member State.

The Blueprint states that there is no need for a fundamental overhaul of the current policy framework, as the legislative framework is largely complete and fit for purpose. But better implementation and closer integration with other policies such as agriculture, energy, transport and integrated disaster management are clearly required. The "Blueprint" emphasises key themes to consider which include: improving land use, addressing water pollution, increasing water efficiency and resilience, and improving governance by those involved in managing water resources.

The Blueprint highlights the need for Member States to improve implementation of the Water Framework Directive and reduce pressure from agriculture, energy production and navigation, for instance by using green infrastructure such as wetlands, floodplains and buffer strips along water courses. This would also reduce the vulnerability to floods and droughts. The Blueprint stresses the need to tackle over-allocation of water and to respect the needs of nature by safeguarding the ecological flow.

The Blueprint also addresses the role water efficiency can play in reducing scarcity and water stress. Water pricing based on volumetric metering is a powerful tool to increase water efficiency and its full potential is not yet realised.

In agriculture, the Blueprint supports improving irrigation efficiency together with a reduction in water use.

Another Blueprint proposal concerns the development of a regulatory instrument setting EUwide standards for water re-use to improve the take up of this alternative water supply. This would help alleviate water scarcity and reduce vulnerability.

The Blueprint highlights that preserving water is not only about environmental protection, health and well-being, but also concerns economic growth and prosperity. It is a way of ensuring that all economic sectors in Europe have the water available they need for creating growth and jobs. The Blueprint is supported by the European Innovation Partnership on Water launched in 2012.

At the international level, the European Union has undertaken a number of water related commitments under Agenda 21, the three Rio Conventions, the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and most recently the Rio+20 conference. This engagement will continue to be a high priority for the EU.

The focus of water management in European Union development cooperation will be to ensure access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation services and to support sustainable agriculture via the nexus water-agriculture-energy-environment. In addition, the EU will promote water governance improvements since an effective institutional setting leading to good water governance at river basin level is key to achieve peace and political stability.

Honduras

Dear Sirs,

a) What does your country/organization expect from a global water convention? What are your needs?

We expect to learn from your countries, the countries who have political and technical experience in this topic, Honduras have 21 basins and we have 4 transboundary basins; the real problem is not the willingness, the real problem is how to accept the other countries politics about how to use the resources, because each country thinks that has the right to utilize their own resources as they wish, they think that they are the owner of the water, and in the future this can be a national security

problem . So, we hope your experience will enlighten us to take the best path in the joint solution and allow us to improve and move faster towards the use of shared water resources.

b) How can your country/organization contribute to improving transboundary cooperation at the basin, regional and global levels using the framework of the water convention?

The framework of the water convention is an excellent instrument to share experiences, to learn and improve using the other countries experience.

Right now, this month, we are reviewing the Honduran law about basins to decide, because if we are going to sign the statement for the transboundary basins, due to the actual law in our country we cannot sign it. So we have work to do, and we know that it is necessary to have an agreement between the countries

Maybe with our participation, we can mention some positive and negative aspects that we are studying about the law of the country about transboundary basin.

One important point on any negotiation is to remember the "polluter pay".

Our experience after the review can help other countries to check other scenarios in the transboundary basin and his legislation and joint use.

Yours truly,

Fernando Ochoa

Morocco

Shared water resources between Morocco and its neighbour countries are not important. In case of problem, the development of those resources is done in a concerted and rational integrated management.

- Related to surface water resources, especially the resources of Guir-Bouanane basin, management must be conducted in the same integrated concerted framework.
- Related to groundwater resources, a new exploitation strategy aquifers, admittedly difficult to implement between Morocco and his neighbours countries should be considered.

In French/En français : Les ressources en eau partagé entre le Maroc et les pays voisins ne sont pas importantes. En cas de problème, le développement de ces ressources se fait de manière concertée afin d'assurer une gestion intégrée et rationnelle de ces ressources.

- En ce qui concerne les ressources en eau de surface notamment le bassin versant de l'oued Guir - Bouanane, la gestion doit être menée dans le même cadre intégré et concerté.
- Pour les ressources en eau souterraine, une nouvelle stratégie d'exploitation des aquifères, entre le Maroc et les pays voisins doit être envisagée.

Namibia

a) Expectations from the world convention

- Information sharing on new world trends with regards to water and other natural resources management
- Technical support on the development of the River Basin Institutions and the operationalization thereof
- Techniques of mediation in case of disputes
- Mechanisms for ensuring equitable sharing of the resources
- Sharing experiences for the protection of the environment and ecosystems

b) Namibia's needs

- Capacity building in natural resources management, negotiation skills, dealing with climate change issues
- Support for flood management

c) Contribution to improving transboundary cooperation

- Experience from being a member of river basin organizations such as ORASECOM, OKACOM, PJTC, ZAMCOM.

- Namibia has several basin Management institutions established and the process can be a lesson to other countries
- Being a member of the convention will thus strengthen the vision of improved management of water resources

Nicaragua

The government of Daniel Ortega Saavedra, drives a Government of National Unity and Reconciliation, guided by Christian values, solidarity and respect for life in all its expressions, survival and the balance of the ecosystem that supports it, working in partnership between the national government, local government and civic power, restoring the right of citizens to live in a better quality of life, to build a new model for the good of all the people living in harmony with the Common Good of Mother Earth and Humanity.

Today climate change is the most dangerous environmental phenomenon worldwide, in Nicaragua and Central America, is manifested through the increased frequency and intensity of extreme events such as droughts, hurricanes and heavy rains, causing impacts recurrent food security, human health, water and sanitation, hydropower and destroying roads and homes.

In Nicaragua, we have a National Human Development Plan, which defines as one of its national guidelines, "Protection of Mother Earth, Adaptation to Climate Change and Integrated Disaster Risk" also a National Environmental Strategy and Climate Change and National water Law, which defines the legal and political framework for the integrated management of water resources in the country.

We also have a law to promote agroecological production or organic (Act No. 765) and we are developing a National Strategy for Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation of Nicaragua (RPP-NSDS), which facilitates implementation of integrated environmental management, informed, participatory, making it synonymous with good economic management, to reduce vulnerability to climate change, enhancing the integrated watershed management, massive reforestation, promoting productive conversion systems by extending agroecological production and multiplication and adoption of good manufacturing practices, conservation of protected areas, protection of biodiversity and the reduction of environmental pollution.

In Central America there are 23 transboundary basins, with an estimated area of 191.449 km, representing approximately 36.9% of the regional territory. Two major are located in Nicaragua: San Juan River, including Lakes Managua and Cocibolca and Rio Coco or Segovia.

Nicaragua's participation in the sixth session of the meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, UNECE, provides a platform for the exchange of experiences on adaptation strategies to climate change in transboundary basins, best practices, success factors and lessons learned.

Using the framework of the Water Convention, in Nicaragua a project we can work together with Honduras, to the upper middle part of the Coco River Basin comprising Nicaragua, the municipalities of Nueva Segovia (12 municipalities) and Honduras, the border municipalities of the department of El Paraíso (four municipalities), in order to address cross-border management of droughts and floods, taking into account both current climate variability and long term climate change impacts.

The upper river middle basin comprises municipalities Coco associated with the Association of Municipalities of Northern Paradise (MANORPA) and the Association of Municipalities of Nueva Segovia (AMUNSE) Twinning members Interfronterizo Honduras-Nicaragua Binational in the departments of El paradise in Honduras and Nueva Segovia in Nicaragua, its catchment area covers an area of 11.648 km² and has a population of over 666.741 inhabitants. As illustrious banner of the territory, the Cordillera raises Dipilto-Jalapa, it acts as a natural border between the two countries.

To implement this project, we need access to funding opportunities, you already know this Water Convention, and others like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to apply to the resources listed in the International Waters focal area of the current cycle of the GEF -5 2010-2014.

Palestine

- Last night was a historic night for the Palestinian people. Last night, the United Nations General Assembly voted in overwhelming favor for elevating the status of Palestine at the United Nations from a 'permanent observer' to a 'non-member observer state'.
- On behalf of Palestine, kindly allow me to convey our deepest thanks to all those countries who voted in favor of this momentous resolution and for those countries that are avid supporters of the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state.
- Palestinians are prevented from accessing their rightful share of water under international law and thus opportunities for Palestinian economic growth and prosperity are greatly hindered.
- Because of this, only a solution that restores basic water rights and control to Palestinians can end Palestine's water crisis.
- Allow me to reiterate that Palestine is committed to the principles of international water law and has declared its intention to join the 1997 UN watercourses convention.
- Palestine also favorably welcomes the UNECE Water Convention and commends the Parties' amendment making it possible for any UN member state to accede to this convention.
- The enhanced institutional arrangements for transboundary water management presented in the Convention may well be used as a basis for alleviating or possibly resolving the water conflict and transboundary water management issues in our region.
- Bearing this in mind, we reiterate our request to the Parties to support Palestine in terms of technical assistance, capacity building, and any other efforts from which Palestine may benefit from this convention.
- Additionally, in recognition of the principles and objectives underpinning the convention, we hope that the understanding of the amendment is that it will be open to all states. We consider this to be the intention of the Meeting of the Parties when the decision was made to open the Convention to UN member states. Considering that membership in the UN is universal, all but for one single exception, Palestine, whose full membership is has been blocked for purely political reasons; this should not stand in Palestine's way to accede to this important convention. So we ask the Parties to consider approving Palestine's interest in joining the Parties in accession to the Convention.

European Environment Agency

Statement by David Stanners, Head of International Cooperation

"Mindful of the Lessons Learnt paper from the preparation of the 2nd assessment combined with the results of the Assessment of Assessments report published last year (which analyzed the broad landscape of water assessments across the pan European Region), the EEA would like to offer the Convention some comments and suggestions which we believe will be of importance for your work on assessments over the next years.

As I said yesterday, environmental information is an essential component of the environmental policy process and the landscape of environmental information and assessments is become increasingly populated.

Many assessments are now found at regional levels covering for example transboundary river basins, other ecological units such as mountains ranges (Carpathians for example), or lakes and inland seas including the Aral, Caspian, Baltic and Black Seas.

These, and the plans on the table for the new water-food-energy nexus report and third comprehensive assessment of all transboundary waters in 6-8 years' time, show how this need and appetite for assessments continues.

The assessment process involves setting objectives for the assessment, collecting relevant data and information, analysis and aggregation of the data and information, interpreting and assessing this information in the context of the policy questions and finally disseminating and communicating the results.

If we are going to be able to service these assessments needs efficiently and effectively and produce high quality assessments which are policy relevant, credible and legitimate, we need at the same time to

put effort into building the necessary information infrastructure, following the principles of the shared information system (SEIS) and of the regular assessment process. Building such an interconnected water information infrastructure will be beneficial for multiple purposes at national, regional and European levels and also help contributions to be made effectively and efficiently to global assessment needs. Building such a shared information infrastructure, is especially critical for cross-sectoral assessments, (as is being proposed for the nexus report) and will, across the board, significantly help in avoiding duplication of efforts.

[Prepared but not spoken:

“The SEIS principles need to be promoted at the level of each river convention secretariat as they have a clear role in collecting and analyzing data and information from the riparian countries. The principles address how data and information need to be:

- *managed as close as possible to its source;*
- *collected once, and shared with others for many purposes;*
- *readily available and easy accessible*
- *accessible to enable users to make comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale*
- *fully available to the general public at national level in the relevant national language(s)*
- *supported through common, free open software standards*

Following these principles, this information can be reused by other partners (e.g. transboundary water convention) for aggregation and further analysis without putting in place new data collection mechanisms. In this shared approach the riparian countries play a key role and once applied these countries can take advantage of the potential benefits of a shared information system.]

“European, national and basin assessments would also benefit from a closer co-operation between countries and European organizations (EEA, UNECE and many others) supporting, among other things, the harmonization of methods and approaches across countries.

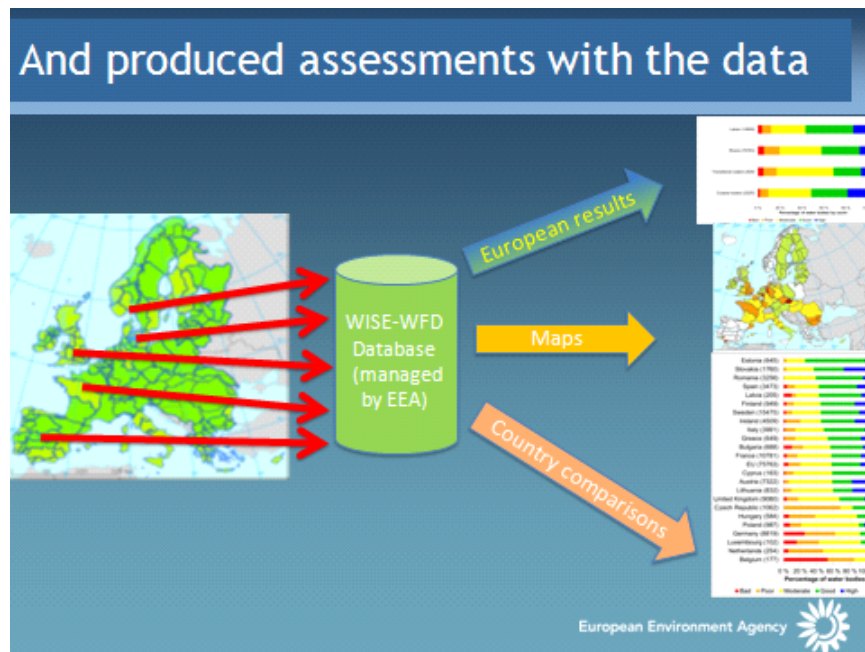
Over the coming years across the EU, a data exchange system, with direct access to information/assessments stored at national and river-basin levels is being developed (making it compliant with the SEIS principle that information should be managed close to its source).

This system will, amongst others things, ensure that, through the shared water assessment system, there is access to relevant national assessments which can be used for up-to-date European assessments.

The direct access that this system will give to existing data and assessments, will reduce data reporting and transfer costs, ensure that there is access to disaggregated data to promote multiple use of information, and help avoid duplication of efforts.

[The illustrations below illustrate the use and application of such a linked system of assessments based on SEIC principles.]

We strongly recommend these comments and proposals to you, which we believe will help address the gaps and shortcomings recognized in the lessons learnt paper from the preparation of the 2nd assessment and provide a strong basis for your future assessment activities. The EEA looks forwards to collaborating with the Convention on the development of these activities in support of your assessments in the future.



Nitrate in rivers

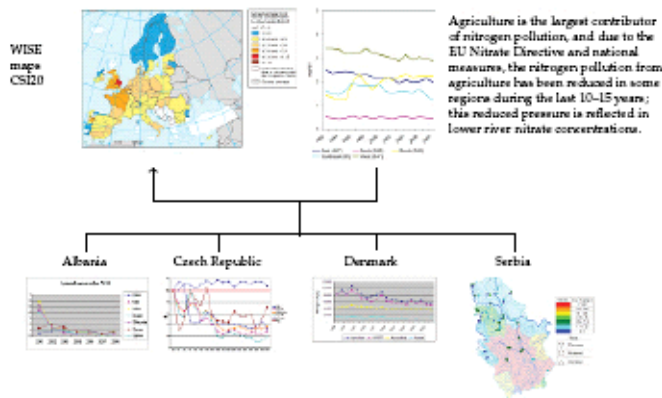


Figure 2.16 Example of linking information from country assessments to European information.

Executive Secretary of SSO (Sahara and Sahel Observatory)

Il faut tout d'abord rappeler que l'Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel intervient dans la zone de l'Afrique du Nord et de l'Afrique Sub Saharienne. C'est une région riche en aquifères partagés souvent pas ou peu renouvelables et dans laquelle nous agissons depuis plus d'une dizaine d'années en parfaite cohérence avec les objectifs et les méthodes de la convention, en menant à la fois des études pour une meilleure connaissance de ces aquifères et de leur évolution en quantité et en qualité, mais aussi en encourageant le dialogue transfrontalier par la mise en place des mécanismes de concertation entre les pays pour le suivi et la gestion de ces aquifères. Une première expérience réussie est celle de l'aquifère du saharaseptentrional, expérience que nous essayons d'étendre aux autres aquifères de la région. Il est important de noter que l'OSS intègre peu à peu dans son action les principes de la résolution de l'Assemblée générale des nations Unies sur les aquifères transfrontaliers.

Nous attendons plusieurs choses de ces conférences des parties et plus globalement de la Convention Eau :

- D'une part qu'elle adopte une résolution d'ouverture aux pays non membres de la CEE-ONU, et notamment, pour ce qui nous concerne, aux pays engagés dans une démarche volontariste de résolution des problèmes de leurs aquifères partagés. L'OSS a ainsi proposé à ce que le Système aquifère du Sahara Septentrional intègre le réseau de bassin « adaptation aux changements climatiques » géré par la CEE-ONU et le RIOB.

- Ce réseau permettrait à la fois des échanges d'expériences, mais aussi l'identification de bonnes pratiques adaptables à notre zone d'action.
- Nous attendons aussi de cette convention, qu'elle aide à mobiliser de plus en plus de partenaires techniques et financiers, pour que les projets puissent être menés à bien. Il ne sert à rien que des propositions soient faites, et qu'elles restent lettre morte parce qu'impossibles à mettre en œuvre.
- Enfin, Les groupes de travail précédemment constitués pourraient avoir la possibilité d'examiner différents projets qui leur seraient soumis, et d'apporter leur aide ou leur concours à ceux qui leur paraîtraient les plus dignes d'intérêt

Republic of Moldova

Statement by Mr. Gheorghe Salaru, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins

Уважаемый председатель, уважаемые коллеги,

Изменение климата оказывает негативное влияние на водные ресурсы и в ближайшем будущем будет иметь катастрофические экономические, социальные и экологические последствия. Осознавая серьезность этой проблемы, страны должны разработать меры по адаптации к изменениям климата, снижению отрицательного воздействия природных катаклизмов, а также использованию новых технологий для устойчивого использования водных ресурсов.

И здесь я хотел бы напомнить о том, что за последнее время Молдова, Румыния и Украина сталкиваются с большими непрогнозируемыми деструктивными явлениями на наших реках, такими как наводнения. Это явление бесспорно связано с глобальным изменением климата, и мы, естественно, должны быть готовы к принятию должных превентивных совместных мер в трансграничном контексте, поскольку непринятие мер одной стороной повлияет негативно на другую сторону или обе стороны одновременно.

Мы должны вместе принимать согласованные меры по снижению уязвимости к таким экстремальным ситуациям в бассейне, поскольку наводнения влияют на экономическое развитие наших стран, на гидрологический цикл, на разные сектора экономики, на рекреационный режим и безопасность в бассейне.

Следует отметить, что в рамках совместного с Украиной пилотного проекта «Снижение уязвимости к экстремальным наводнениям и изменениям климата в бассейне реки Днестр («Днестр-III - наводнения и климат») при поддержке ЕЭК ООН, ОБСЕ и ЮНЕП, мы оценили уязвимость в отношении наводнений, были согласованы сценарии и модели для оценки последствий наводнений, частоты и масштабов экстремальных наводнений.

Важно, что эта работа основывалась на данных результатов гидрологических и метеорологических наблюдений, собранных в молдавской и украинской частях бассейна. По молдавской части реки были выполнены профили для реализации моделей и карт наводнений по Днестру. При выполнении карт будет учитываться и трансформация паводковой волны, и перелив через плотину ниже Дубоссарской ГЭС, что важно для приближения к реальным границам наводнения. В рамках проекта предусматривается также улучшение менеджмента и мониторинга вод Днестра, путем установления автоматизированных станций для мониторинга, что улучшит и инфраструктуру обмена данных с Украиной. Как мы видим, проект создает реальные инструменты и механизмы для управления рисками в трансграничном контексте. Правда, есть необходимость в консолидации наших сил по разработке Плана оповещения о рисках наводнений на разных уровнях - подбассейновом, локальном. Также необходимо запланировать совместные мероприятия по снижению риска на основе имеющихся данных проекта.

Сотрудничество с Украиной по Днестру позволило вовлечь в него и заинтересованных лиц нашего приднестровского региона, а также установить тесное сотрудничество с неправительственными организациями. Так, сотрудничество содействует установлению мер доверия, вовлечению всех заинтересованных лиц обеих прибрежных стран.

Вполне понятно, что для стран с переходной экономикой, финансовые возможности для выполнения вышеперечисленных мероприятий только в рамках бюджетных средств весьма ограничены. Поэтому, я хотел бы поблагодарить всех наших партнеров по проекту «Снижение уязвимости реки Днестр» - ЕЭК ООН, ОБСЕ и ЮНЕП, - за помощь, оказанную нам при разработке и выполнении этого проекта, и хочу выразить надежду, что проект усилит еще больше наш потенциал по сотрудничеству в рамках управления водами реки и управления рисками. Считаем, что этот проект своевременно вносит свой определенный вклад в прогресс по снижению уязвимости к изменению климата на региональном уровне.

Кроме того, для снижения риска наводнений необходимо укрепить правовую базу трансграничного сотрудничества в сфере управления паводками в рамках бассейнового договора по Днестру и его бассейновой комиссии.

Я благодарю всех за внимание.

Statement by Mr. Gheorghe Salaru, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova on European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

Уважаемый председатель, уважаемые коллеги,

Национальный диалог по водной политике (НДВП) в рамках Водной Инициативы ЕС - это механизм, применяемый в Молдове, начиная с 2006 года, для улучшения управления водными ресурсами и водным хозяйством страны. Молдова имеет обязательства по гармонизации национального законодательства с Директивами ЕС в рамках Плана «Молдова - ЕС». Поскольку в водном секторе пересекаются интересы нескольких министерств и ведомств, необходимо найти и согласовать подходы к решению многих проблем, включая охрану и использование водных ресурсов, управление трансграничными водами, обеспечение качества поверхностных и подземных вод, модернизацию и развитие водоснабжения и водоотведения, управление рисками.

В Диалог вовлечены Министерство окружающей среды, Министерство здравоохранения, Министерство регионального развития и строительства, члены Парламента, национальные и международные эксперты, неправительственные организации, ведущие донорские организации и другие заинтересованные министерства и ведомства.

Европейский Союз, Европейская экономическая комиссия ООН и Организация по Экономическому Сотрудничеству и Развитию всемерно способствуют проведению диалога, в том числе путем оказания помощи при разработке проектов нормативных документов, аналитических отчетов и рекомендаций, Планов действий и т.п. Эта работа финансируется ЕС и донорами, включая Австрию, Германию, Швейцарию, Чешскую республику и другие страны и организации.

Конкретные мероприятия в рамках НДВП в Молдове были направлены на решение приоритетных проблем водной политики, включая интегрированное управление водными ресурсами, водоснабжение и водоотведение, укрепление институтов и нормативно-правовой базы. В частности, за эти годы:

1. Был разработан и принят Парламентом новый Закон о воде (2011), который вступит в силу в октябре 2013 года и заменит существующий Водный Кодекс;
2. Были пересмотрены нормативы при сбросе сточных вод (2008) и разработано Положение по сбросу сточных вод в природные водоемы (2008);
3. Была разработана и утверждена Правительством Стратегия водоснабжения и канализации населенных пунктов Республики Молдова (2007). На данный момент Стратегия пересматривается при помощи программы ЕС по поддержке водного сектора;
4. Был разработан среднесрочный План действий и Инвестиционный план для водоснабжения и водоотведения (2011), как среднесрочный элемент будущей обновленной отраслевой Стратегии;

5. Разрабатывается Стратегия адаптации водоснабжения и водоотведения к изменению климата, которая войдет составной частью в Национальную стратегию адаптации и в обновленную Стратегию правительства по водоснабжению и водоотведению;
6. Наконец, в рамках Диалога ведется большая работа по внедрению в Молдове Протокола по проблемам воды и здоровья;
7. Были разработаны целевые показатели по Протоколу, утвержденные в 2011 году совместным приказом министров здравоохранения и окружающей среды. В продолжение этого направления работы, на заседании НДВП 21 ноября с.г. подписан Меморандум о взаимопонимании и начат новый Проект по реализации установленных целевых показателей при поддержке Швейцарского агентства по сотрудничеству.

Национальный Диалог был и остается эффективным и полезным механизмом взаимодействия различных государственных структур, общественности, частного сектора с целью улучшения водной политики в стране и продолжения необходимых реформ. Молдова заинтересована в его продолжении и рассчитывает на помощь ЕС, ЕЭК ООН, ОЭСР и доноров. У нас есть ряд приоритетов и конкретных предложений по дальнейшим темам диалога, на 2013 год и далее, которые мы в ближайшее время представим партнерам на обсуждение.

Благодарю за внимание!

Switzerland

Item 4 (a): Mechanism to support implementation and compliance

- Switzerland would like to thank the large number of lawyers that drafted such an excellent implementation mechanism.
- It is fully acceptable for Switzerland.
- Nine candidates are to be elected by MOP6. They need to form a balanced committee with all the sides of water management, legal, and managerial as well as the monitoring
- Switzerland could accept that work on a reporting mechanism is initiated in the framework of the programme as long as resources are available for this. Such a possible reporting mechanism could be decided at MOP 7.

Item 4(c): Transboundary Groundwater

Switzerland appreciated very much the preliminary study on the application of the principles of the Water Convention to groundwater. It has been an excellent basis for the model provisions which Switzerland is ready to adopt. We believe that the work on transboundary groundwater is very important given that groundwater as a water resource is going to be increasingly used under the pressure of climate change. It is therefore the right moment to test the model provisions. Switzerland is interested to know whether countries are already planning agreements on transboundary groundwater.

Item 4(g): Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

Switzerland is glad to announce that it will join the Netherlands in co-chairing this activity of the work programme. We are ready to share our ample experience on water and climate change especially in an alpine environment with you. But we also just as much interested in listening to your experiences and practices. The proposed platform will be global one and in this regard we hope that in a medium term it will be considered as the centre of excellence for water experts to discuss and find a common voice to address climate change.

Item 4(d): Assessment of the Status

Switzerland fully agrees with a third comprehensive assessment of all transboundary waters in the ECE region in 8–10 years. The 2012 special thematic assessment edition focusing on the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus in a limited number of basins can be a cornerstone for transboundary cooperation because the integration of the different policies comes here into play. I would like to emphasize the significance of the ecosystem within the nexus. I missed it among the scopes listed in slide 5b. Moreover I have the pleasure to announce that Switzerland will continue its financial contribution to the assessment's work. At this point we thank Finland for leading this activity.

Item 4 (h) EU Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

- First, Switzerland would like to thank the European Union and the organizations involved for having engaged in what is an essential activity for countries in the region and we would like to congratulate the countries for their great efforts and achievements.
- Cooperation does not go without a dialogue not reserved only to water experts but to all the sectors together.
- We believe the NPDs in EECCA countries are a true asset of our programme.

Item 5: Opening of the Convention

- Switzerland also strongly supports the “automatic approval” of upcoming Non-UNECE parties at this Meeting of the Parties given that the para. 3 is secured by para. 4 of the Module A.
- Switzerland prefers Module A.

Item 7: Cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements and international partners

- Switzerland can fully support both decisions.
- The GEF will play an important role in the globalisation of the convention.
- In this regard, I would like to thank the GEF and especially Mr Mish Hamid for the great opportunity that was offered to present the convention at the last GEF workshop in Addis Ababa
- UNESCO has been a long time partner. We are also very glad that links can be tightened

Item 8: Vision for the future of the Water Convention

- Switzerland would like to congratulate the secretariat for this excellent document
- It will be one of the key documents for awareness-raising and communication on the convention on other continents.

Item 9: Programme of work for 2013-2015

- Switzerland much appreciates the new format of the programme of work.
- Switzerland will support especially the work on the opening of the Convention, on quantifying benefit, on climate change and water and on the nexus assessment.

Item 10: International Water Assessment Center

- Switzerland would like to thank the Slovak government for having supported the convention during these years through IWAC. We really regret that this important pillar to the Convention’s work has difficulties to be continued by this country and we really hope that a solution could be found in the next future.
- Switzerland would like to warmly thank Mr Boris Minarik who has been heading the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) for the excellence of his work. Mr Minarik has been a true ambassador to the convention and he has moved much on the ground through all the seminars he organized.

Statements by Hugo Aschwanden, the Chair, at the Side Event on Adapting to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins – Future Work Guided by Lessons Learned (28 November 2012)

Opening

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues

On behalf of the future co-chair Switzerland-Netherlands a warm welcome from my side. My name is Hugo Aschwanden, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment - Water Division. A special greeting goes today to members of the Mekong River Commission. We are very pleased that they start their Europe roundtrip for an exchange of knowledge and experiences at this Meeting of the Parties. We wish you fruitful and successful discussions with your partners in Europe.

And now I have the pleasure to open this side event on Adapting to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins – Future Work to be guided by Lessons Learned.

First of all I would like to thank the Governments of Germany and Netherlands for their outstanding leadership over the last 6 years. The work programme of the Convention since 2007 has included

climate and water as one of its pillars. I also warmly thank Ms Sonja Koeppel who has been the lead in the Secretariat for this activity.

The Task Force on Water and Climate as well as the Platform have brought together specialists, not only from the UNECE region but far beyond, from Africa, South America, Asia, sharing wide experience and practices. In addition, the guidance on Water and Climate Adaption to Climate Change remains a key document to implement climate and water strategies. It is being tested under the Convention through a large number of pilot projects.

Closing

Dear Colleagues

I would like to thank for the interesting contributions to the panel.

This Morning the High Level Segment showed clearly the climate change is a general concern. The leadership of the UNECE Water Convention is unquestionable and thanks to you it will further develop.

I would like to thank Germany for co-leading the Task Force up to now. Switzerland as a new partner will do its best to replace in the team with Netherlands.

Thank you for participation. Please apologize the inconveniences at the beginning due to the lack of interpretation. I wish you a fruitful afternoon.