



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and  
International Lakes**

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

Sixth session

Rome, 28-30 November 2012

Items 1 to 3 of the provisional agenda

MOP-6/2012/INF.3

**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT ON  
THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVENTION  
AND ITS OPENING TO ALL UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Wednesday 28 November 2012, Chamber of Deputies, Rome

**Note by the secretariat**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The high-level segment, dealing with items 1 to 3 of the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, will be held in the morning and early afternoon of Wednesday, 28 November, starting at 10 a.m.

The segment will be divided in three main parts: the opening session and the parts on the main achievements and remaining challenges for the Convention, and on the views on and expectations for a globalized Convention.

**II. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

**Session 1: Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**

**10.00-10.50**

- Opening by Mr. Rocco Buttiglione, Vice-President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies
- Address to the Meeting by Mr. Corrado Clini, Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy
- Message of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General, to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention
- Speech by Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Adoption of the agenda of the meeting

**Session 2: Status of ratification of the Convention and its protocols, and report on credentials**

**10.50-11.00**

**Session 3: Special session on the twentieth anniversary of the Convention and its opening to all United Nations Member States** **11.00- 16.00**

**Moderator:** Mr. Johan Kuylenstierna, Executive Director, Stockholm Environment Institute

**Part 1: Main achievements and remaining challenges for the Convention** **11.00–13.00**

This part will consist of statements by the high-level panellists focusing on the specific achievements under the Convention since its adoption in 1992, the remaining challenges and the prospects for the future, in particular in view of the global opening of the Convention, followed by a moderated discussion. Representatives of Parties, non-Parties and other important actors under the Convention will be invited to make interventions from the floor.

Introductory panel

- Ms. Lea Kauppi, Director General of the Finnish Environment Institute, Finland
- Mr. Ahmet Muhammedov, Deputy Minister of Water Economy, Turkmenistan
- Mr. Peter Kovacs, State Secretary for Water, Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary
- Mr. Uladzimir Tsalka, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus
- Mr. Arben Demeti, Deputy Minister of Environment, Forests and Administration of Waters, Albania
- Ms. Marina Seliverstova, Head of the Federal Agency for Water Resources, Russian Federation

Debate: interventions from the floor

The interventions from the floor should focus on the following questions and last 2 – 3 minutes:

- How has the Water Convention helped your country/organization to improve transboundary cooperation on the ground?
- What direction should the Convention head in for the next 20 years? I.e., what should be done to address the remaining challenges for transboundary water management at the basin, regional and global levels?

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

This part will consist of statements by the high-level panellists focusing on the views and expectations for the Water Convention in view of its forthcoming globalization, followed by a moderated discussion. Representatives of ECE- and (mostly) non-ECE countries will be invited to make interventions from the floor.

Introductory panel

- Mr. Mohanad Al-Shaibani, Minister of Water Resources, Iraq
- Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sen, Minister of Water, Bangladesh
- Mr. Moncef Rekaya, Director, Water Resources Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia
- Mr. Sujiro Seam, Deputy Director of Global Public Goods, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
- Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, Global Environment Facility Secretariat
- Mr. Alejandro Iza, Head of the Environmental Law Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature:

Debate: interventions from the floor

The interventions from the floor by ECE and (mostly) non-ECE countries should focus on the following questions and last 2 – 3 minutes:

- What does your country/organization expect from a global Water Convention? What are your needs?
- How can your country/organization contribute to improving transboundary cooperation at the basin, regional and global levels using the framework of the Water Convention?