



## Break-out Session 3

# Water cooperation helps preserve water resources and protect the environment

World Water Day 22 March 2013, The Hague, The Netherlands



*Ecosystems don't know of any boundaries. Aquatic ecosystems are deteriorating at a faster rate than any other ecosystems, impacting water security severely. Furthering trans-national cooperation is crucial to address this.*

*Water cooperation helps the sharing of knowledge and expertise about the scientific and practical aspects of water, ecosystems and nature, which includes data and information exchange, management strategies for different uses, and best practices to preserve water resources and protect the environment.*

*Water is an ecosystem service! Therefore, it is important to cooperate and safeguard ecosystems which are fundamental to water security and sustainable development.*

*Cooperation around such a vital resource is inevitable.*

The development agenda for water must address complex challenges. Using nature pragmatically for water solutions in the development agenda will require that governments, donors and financing institutions make natural infrastructure part of their investments for water security. Investments should target both the maintenance and restoration of nature's services. Alongside, capacity building and policy development, establishing institutions, encouraging participation and accountability are needed to ensure that no one gets left behind, and that nature is not left out.

### Objectives:

- \* Highlight the need for water cooperation between all actors in society to preserve water resources and protect the environment.
- \* Exchange views, discuss concrete forms of water cooperation and identify good practices that are key for sustainable water use and effective water management to preserve water resources and protect ecosystems.
- \* Identify major opportunities related to cross-sectoral and transboundary water management, financial and legal cooperation, water education and water integrity and diplomacy, as to better preserve water resources and protect the environment.
- \* Discuss the relevance of improved water cooperation in water resources and ecosystem management to achieve the MDG's and the post 2015 development agenda.

**>> Develop recommendations and major opportunities for the High Level Forum on improved cooperation to preserve water resources and protect the environment**

### Structure:

This thematic session on preserving water resources and protecting the environment will comprise:

1. Kick off interviews by the moderator with a few selected speakers/debaters for reflection on the key messages of the session in light of the events of day 1 (21 March).

2. Round Table discussions in sub-groups: cooperation is important within the water sector, but also in relation to other sectors. "Outside of the water box" issues are the basis for the ca. 8-10 person table settings, taking into account sector,

region and gender representation. Each table will develop one provisional recommendation on how Water Cooperation helps to further improve the preservation of water resources and protect the environment.

3. Interactive plenary to distill opportunities and refine the major recommendations on water cooperation, to be presented to the afternoon High Level Forum.

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#### **Towards Recommendations and Opportunities:**

#### ***Session 3: Water cooperation helps preserve water resources and protect the environment***

<b>Conveners:</b>	UNEP & Deltares/Delta Alliance Thomas Chiramba & Cees van de Guchte
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**11.00-11h05** Short introduction by the chair and moderator  
Chair: **Ms. Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros** (UNESCO)  
Moderator: **Mr. Mark Smith** (IUCN)

**11h05-11.30** Kick off statements and interviews by the moderator on key theme messages and reflections on Day 1 presentations. Selected high level speakers/debaters are:

1. **Ms. Betty Maina** (HLP, Kenya)
2. **Mr. Pasquale Steduto** (FAO & UN-Water)
3. **Mr. Bertrand van Ee** (Netherlands Topsector Water – Private)
4. **Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias** (UN-CBD)
5. **Ms. Sabine von Wirén-Lehr** (Alliance for Water Stewardship)

**11h30-11h35** Introduction to the round tables

**11h05-12h10** Statements for discussion by the round table chair, with different perspectives on ***water cooperation to preserve water resources and protect the environment***

1. **Ms. Jane Madgwick**, Wetlands International  
on cooperation on ecosystem services, environmental flows and ecosystem conservation
2. **Mr. Jack Moss**, Global Water Partnership  
on surface water quality (chemical) and wastewater management
3. **Ms. Sharon Megdal**, USA, University of Arizona  
on different spatial and governance scales for green adaptation and restoration
4. **Mr. A.Tejada-Guibert**, Global Water for Sustainability  
on cooperation for water service delivery - Triple S: Sustainable Services at Scale
5. **Ms. Sonja Koepfel**, UN-ECE  
on transboundary instruments for cooperation on water management and policy development
6. **Mr. M. Fida A. Kahn**, Bangladesh, CEGIS  
on water allocation amongst multiple users/sectors, incl. economical issues, addressing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexuses
7. **Mr. Jose Luis Irigoyen**, World Bank, or: **Mr. Joppe Cramwinckel**, WBCSD  
on improving the cooperation of the water sector with financing institutions and private sector
8. **Mr. Wim van Driel**, Delta Alliance  
on world wide knowledge exchange for the resilience of deltas, and on land-ocean interactions

**12.10-12h25** Interactive Plenary  
Chair: **Mr. Mark Smith** (IUCN)  
Moderator: **Ms. Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros** (UNESCO)  
Reporting back from the Round tables > some 8 recommendations / opportunities, to be fueled into final recommendations / opportunities, to be presented to the afternoon High Level Forum

**12h25-12h30** Wrap up and closure by chair & moderator  
Incl. presentation of cartoon(s), which will be made during the session  
The session will be supported by rapporteurs, and on-line presentation of major statements and recommendations will be facilitated

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