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INSIGHTS ON THE EIGHT MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES

WEBINAR

Friday, 23 November 2018
from 13:00 to 14:00

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
7 bis Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 2nd floor, De Mello Auditorium

The Geneva Water Hub's Platform for International Water Law, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and DiploFoundation are pleased to invite you to the webinar on "Insights on the Eight session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes". This webinar is organized in the framework of the Distance Learning Course on "International Water Law & The Law of Transboundary Aquifers" delivered through the Continuing Education and e-Learning Centre of the University of Geneva.

The eight session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (the Water Convention) took place from the 10th to the 12th of October 2018 in Astana (Kazakhstan). This MOP was the first one held in Asia. Around 90 countries, Parties and Non-Parties to the Convention participated. During the meeting, more than 15 countries from outside the Pan-European region announced their interest to accede to the Convention.

This Webinar aims at presenting some **insights on the 2018 MOP of the Water Convention focusing on the results of the first reporting exercise on the implementation of the Convention.**¹ In accordance with the Decision VII.2, adopted in 2015 at the seventh session of the MOP to the Water Convention, a pilot reporting exercise started in 2017.²

The introduction of a reporting mechanism marks an important milestone in the Convention's evolution. For the first time, Parties have a mechanism to systematically review the implementation of the Convention on a regular basis. Moreover, States that are either in the process of accession or are

¹ UNECE, Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation under the Water Convention. Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 2018, https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/publications/WAT_51_report_on_the_Implementation/ECE_MP.WAT_51_ENG_pdf_web.pdf

² See Decision VII/2 Reporting under the Convention, in ECE, Report of the Meeting of the Parties on its seventh session, 7 July 2016 (UN Doc. ECE/MP.WAT/49.Add.2).

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considering accession to the Water Convention might also benefit from the reporting exercise as it provides an insight into what implementation of the Water Convention entails. The “Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes” (available at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49805&L=0>) offers a synthesis of all national reports submitted during the pilot reporting exercise.

A further **benefit of Reporting under the Water Convention is that it supports reporting under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2** for which UNECE and UNESCO have been designated as “custodian agencies”.

During the 2018 MOP, Parties and non-Parties shared their experience on reporting under the Water Convention and under SDG indicator 6.5.2. The results on the first reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2 were presented (see Progress on transboundary water cooperation: Global baseline for SDG indicator 6.5.2 available at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49605&L=0>). Participants discussed how to address gaps and strengthen transboundary water cooperation worldwide, also on the basis of the Water Convention.

Programme

The Water Convention: normative and institutional aspects

Dr Mara Tignino – Reader and Coordinator of the Platform for International Water Law/Geneva Water Hub, Faculty of Law and Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva.

The results of the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2.

Ms Chantal Demilecamps – Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

13:30-14:00 – Q & A

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