

# First International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations

## Freshwater Governance beyond Rio +20: Meeting the Sustainability Challenge

DRAFT AGENDA

Co-convened by  
the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand



In partnership with:



International Association for Water Law  
*Association Internationale du Droit de l'Eau*  
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DU DROIT DES EAUX



# Draft Agenda

## President of the First International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations:

H.E. Mr. Preecha Rengsomboonsuk, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Royal Kingdom of Thailand

### Chair for Day 1:

Mr. Cletus Springer, Director, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States (OAS)

### Chair for Day 2:

Mr. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, Haut-Commissaire de l'Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS)

## DAY 1: 26 October 2011

### 08:30 – 09:00 Registration of participants

Plenary\* (Conference Room 3)

09:00 – 09:30 Official opening remarks

09:30 – 10:30 Keynote addresses on themes of the day - Mr. Raman Letchumanan, Head, Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat and Mr. Jeremy Bird, International Water Resources Management Expert and former CEO of the Mekong River Commission

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/Tea break

## Thematic sessions (in parallel)

### Theme 1 - Ecosystems and Biodiversity Conservation

(Conference Room 3)

11:00 – 12:30 Panel discussion

Moderated by: UNEP

Panelists include: The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the International Commission of Congo-Oubangui-Sangha, the Mekong River Commission, the League of Arab States, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 General discussion on the theme and the outcomes to be presented to the High Level Segment

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee/Tea break

Rapporteurs for Theme 1: The Orange-Senqu River Commission, IUCN and UNEP Secretariat

16:30 – 17:30 Closing plenary session for day 1

### Theme 2 – Adapting to Climate Change

(Conference Room 4)

11:00 – 12:30 Panel discussion

Moderated by: UNEP-DHI Centre for Water and Environment.

Panelists include: the Caribbean Water & Sewerage Association Inc, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Philippines, the International Association of Hydrogeologists, the International Network of Basin Organizations, and the Secretariat of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 General discussion on the theme and the outcomes to be presented to the High Level Segment

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee/Tea break

Rapporteurs for Theme 2: Niger Basin Authority, UNESCO-IHP, and UNEP Secretariat

\* Interpretation will be provided during plenary sessions and the High Level Segment in the following languages: English, French and Spanish.

## DAY 2: 27 October 2011

Plenary\* (Conference Room 3)

09:00 – 09:30 Opening remarks from the Chair

09:30 – 10:30 Keynote addresses on the themes of the day - Dr. Owen McIntyre, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, National University of Ireland, and Mr. Cletus I. Springer, Director of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/Tea break

### Thematic sessions (in parallel)

#### Theme 3 – Environmental Laws and Regulations

(Conference Room 4)

11:00 – 12:30 Panel discussion

Moderated by: International Association for Water Law (AIDA).

Panelists include: the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the Nile Basin Initiative, the Ministry of Environment of Argentina, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR, the International Bar Association, IUCN, UNEP, UNESCO-IHP, the University of Bologna.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 General discussion on the theme and the outcomes to be presented to the High Level Segment

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee/Tea break

Rapporteurs for Theme 3: the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Philippines, UNESCO-IHP and UNEP Secretariat

#### Theme 4 – Institutional Challenges

(Conference Room 3)

11:00 – 12:30 Panel discussion

Moderated by: Mr. Jeremy Bird, International Water Resources Management Expert and former CEO of the Mekong River Commission

Panelists include: the International Sava River Basin Commission, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, the Mekong River Commission, the Niger Basin Authority, the African Ministers' Council on Water, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the Asian Development Bank, the International Network of Basin Organizations, the Stockholm International Water Institute, and the Secretariat of UNECE Water Convention.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 General discussion on the theme and the outcomes to be presented to the High Level Segment

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee/Tea break

Rapporteurs for Theme 4: Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission, and UNEP Secretariat

16:30 – 17:30 Closing plenary session for day 2

#### Evening Programme:

Dinner reception hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand

\* Interpretation will be provided during plenary sessions and the High Level Segment in the following languages: English, French and Spanish.

## High-Level Segment\*

Basin organizations are vital constituents of the international environmental governance system. A High Level Roundtable will give high-level participants the opportunity to reflect on the role, challenges and opportunities of these institutions and to formulate the overall conclusions of the 1st International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations and recommendations for improved freshwater governance in the lead-up to Rio +20 and beyond.

The High Level Segment will be accessible to all participants. The High Level Roundtable will be composed of Ministers, heads of basin organizations and other invited high-level participants.

- 09:00 – 10:00 Opening Ceremony
- 10:00 – 10:45 Chairpersons' presentation of the outcomes and recommendations from the thematic sessions
- 10:45 – 11:15 Coffee/Tea break
- 11:15 – 12:30 Regional perspectives and discussion: How to strengthen freshwater governance beyond Rio+20?
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 14:30 Presentation of the outcome document
- 14:30 – 16:30 High-Level discussion on the outcome document
- 16:30 – 17:00 Adoption of the outcome document
- 17:00 – 17:30 Closing of the Forum

\* Interpretation will be provided during plenary sessions and the High Level Segment in the following languages: English, French and Spanish.

17:00 – 17:30 Press Conference (tbc)

## List of Partners

- African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- International Association for Water Law (AIDA)
- International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)
- International Bar Association (IBA)
- International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- The League of Arab States
- Mekong River Commission (MRC)
- The Organization of American States (OAS)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- UNECE Water Convention
- UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

For more information please visit: [www.unep.org/delc/forumbasinorganizations](http://www.unep.org/delc/forumbasinorganizations)