

Ministerial Roundtable on Transboundary Waters
World Water Forum, Marseille
Tuesday, March 13
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Goal

To identify specific steps that can be taken to strengthen cooperation on transboundary water resources (both surface and ground) and to promote best practices which contribute to regional peace and stability.

Approach

A structured and interactive dialogue among senior officials from governments, international organizations, and select civil society organizations to review the challenges associated with shared waters management and the existing mechanisms to support cooperation and joint management and identify actions to address identified gaps. The three co-conveners – the United States, Zimbabwe, and Tajikistan – will also serve as moderators for each segment. A short background paper has been prepared, with support from UNDP and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), which is being circulated among the participants prior to the discussion. **Zimbabwe will act as Rapporteur for the entire roundtable and will report out to the plenary.**

Agenda

- 8:30-8:35** **Welcome -- United States**
- 8:35-8:45** **Introductions**
Each head of delegation and key NGO representative seated at the main table will briefly introduce himself or herself.
- 8:45-8:55** **Opening Remarks**
- Tajikistan (5 minutes)
 - Zimbabwe (5 minutes)
- 8:55-9:30** **Thematic Presentations (approx. 10 minutes each)**
United States will introduce key discussants
- United Nations Development Program - Current Status of Cooperative Efforts on Transboundary Waters
 - International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

**9:30-10:00 Discussion Round I: Existing Mechanisms and Tools for Managing Shared Water
– Best practices and lessons learned
Zimbabwe will introduce key discussants**

Key Questions to be addressed:

- What are the unique challenges of managing shared waters?
- What works and what doesn't work in the management of shared waters?
- Are these approaches able to address the potentially disruptive future impacts of climate variability, globalization and development?

(Initial discussants: SADC, International Boundary Waters Commission, International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), UNECE)

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-11:20 Discussion Round I (cont)

**11:20-12:20 Discussion Round II: Commitments to Action
Tajikistan will introduce key discussants**

Key Questions to be addressed:

- What steps are you (government, organization) willing to take to advance cooperation on shared waters?
- What can we do to develop or improve mechanisms to share and monitor information at the transboundary level?
- What can be done to improve sustainable management of water resources, both within transboundary basins and aquifer systems?
- How can we strengthen the institutional mechanisms for advancing cooperation on shared waters?

(Initial discussants: UN Water, WWF, GEF, AMCOW)

12:20-12:30 Wrap-up and Conclusions

- Remarks - United States