



24<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/  
GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM, 5-9 February 2007, Nairobi

**EU WATER DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, UNEP WATER POLICY AND STRATEGY  
&  
The CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE NON-NAVIGATIONAL USES OF  
INTERNATIONAL WATERCOURSES**

**WWF/UNEP/UNESCO Side Event: Thursday, Feb.8, 2007, 1:45pm—2:45pm., Room 14,**  
Lunch will be served.

The event will address:

- **Regional Value of the UN Watercourses Convention:** Dr. Alistair Rieuclarke (UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science) will explore how the convention would contribute to European Union's interests, by supporting water development cooperation around the world.
- **UNEP Water Policy and Strategy:** UNEP will present its Water Policy and Strategy and outline how it relates to, applies and implements key principles of the UN Watercourses Convention.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** 60% of the world's 263 transboundary basins have no cooperative management framework; 80% of the existing water treaties involve only two of the basin countries (GIWA Final Report 2006). These basins are home to 40% of the world's population, generate 60% of global freshwater flow and cover half the Earth's surface, in the territories of 145 countries (Atlas of International Freshwater Agreements 2002).

The UN Watercourses Convention is in line with the overall goal and principles of UNEP's Water Policy and Strategy and will further EU Water Development Cooperation in that it offers a global policy framework in support of interstate cooperation on the integrated, ecosystem-based management of transboundary river basins. Bringing the convention into force with the 20 pending ratifications is a crucial step in enabling basin-wide freshwater conservation and achieving the Millennium Development Goals through enhanced schemes of regional cooperation that provide for vital human needs (see Compendium of Actions, UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation).

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:** The Side Event will seek to better inform participants about the application of key principles enshrined in the UN Watercourses Convention in the context of the EU Water Initiative and the Water Policy and Strategy of UNEP.

WWF urges GC-24/GMEF to incorporate the promotion and interim application of the UN Watercourses Convention into "Component 2.1 – Creating an enabling environment" of the 2007-2012 UNEP Water Policy and Strategy.

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