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World Water Day on Transboundary Waters

High-level Roundtable: Adapting global changes in Transboundary Basins

UNESCO is leading World Water Day activities for 2009, with support from UNECE and the UN-Water Secretariat currently hosted in FAO.

A roundtable discussion will be held on 22 March to raise awareness and the political focus required for increased cooperation on shared water resources. It will address issues of adaptation and management of global challenges and changes, including climate change, in a transboundary water context. The event is intended to provide a platform for interactive dialogue between decision makers and key stakeholders to discuss current and emerging challenges with a focus on how to achieve a sustainable management of shared waters.

The discussion, based on both practical experiences and identified needs, will take place between ministers and experts on climate variability and transboundary water management (both surface and ground water).

Date: 22.03.2009 Hour: 8h30 to 10h30

Place: SUTLUCE Kagithane Room

Opening Speech:

- Mr András Szöllösi-Nagy, Representative of the Director General of UNESCO, Secretary of the International Hydrological Programme
- Ms Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission

Film projection:

 "One Water" by Ali Habashi, on the challenges of managing transboundary waters (20 minutes)

Round Table Moderators:

- Mr Johan Kuylenstierna, Chief Technical Advisor, UN Water, Food and Agriculture Organization, and
- Mr Jon Martin Trondalen, Chairman, Compass Foundation

Round Table Speakers:

- Mr Shaddad Attili, Chairman of the Palestinian Water Authority
- Mr Anders Berntell, Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute
- Ms Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environmental Programme
- Mr Alfred Duda, Senior Advisor, International Waters, Global Environment Facility
- Ms Sybille Vermont, Vice Chairperson of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Switzerland.

Final Statement:

• Pasquale Steduto, Chief, Water Development and Management Unit, Land and Water Divisor, Food and Agriculture Organization, Chair of UN Water.