



# The Conference

Information brief

## WHY a conference on water cooperation NOW?

This conference is preparatory for the **International Year of Water Cooperation 2013**, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. The objective of this International Year is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. **World Water Day 2013** will also be dedicated to the theme of water cooperation.

## WHEN and WHERE does the conference take place?

**Date:** 8-10 January 2013

**Venue:** Ebro River Basin Authority, Sala del Consejo  
Paseo Sagasta 24-28, Zaragoza, Spain

## WHAT is the FOCUS of the conference?

The conference focuses on processes that make cooperation happen. It does so by:

- Identifying the **best approaches** to promote effective cooperation processes at different scales.
- Identify **how we can do 'better'** in water cooperation through sharing lessons from experiences, and inspiring participants to do 'better'.

### Themes

- Mediation
- Participatory approaches
- Water diplomacy

### Focus areas

- Transboundary cooperation
- River basin cooperation
- Rural areas
- Cities

## Building on...

- **October 2011.** Preparatory Conference "Towards the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20): Water Cooperation Issues". Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Organizers: Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, UN-Water, UNDP and OSCE Offices in Dushanbe.
- **June 2012.** Thematic Session on Water Cooperation at UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Organizers: Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Hungary, UN-Water.
- **November 2012.** 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. Rome, Italy. Organizer: UNECE



## WHO are the organizers?

The conference is organized by the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC) in collaboration with:

- Government of Spain, Ebro River Basin Authority (CHE), Government of Aragon and Municipality of Zaragoza
- Global Compact CEO Water Mandate
- Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance (GWOPA)/UN-Habitat
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC)
- UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Bank

## What are the expected OUTCOMES?

The conference contributes to the International Year of Water Cooperation by delivering:

- Documented **case studies** that illustrate how different tools and approaches for dispute resolution are implemented in practice.
- A synthesis on **lessons learnt** on the use of approaches for dispute resolution and how to improve water cooperation.
- **Proceedings** of the conference capturing the main debates and discussions.
- **Information briefs and visual materials** to be used during the International Year.
- Feedback on the main **messages for World Water Day 2013**.

## Participants

- Key experts in water cooperation.
- Representatives from government authorities.
- Representatives from case studies.
- UN-Water partner organizations.
- Media.



## Mark your CALENDAR!

Milestone events on water cooperation in 2013:

January	Kick-off Meeting of the International Year @UNESCO HQ Paris, France
22 March	World Water Day @The Hague, The Netherlands
22 March	High-level dialogue at UN General Assembly @New York, United States
August	High-level international conference @Dushanbe, Tajikistan
September	World Water Week 'Water Cooperation – Building Partnerships' @Stockholm, Sweden
9-11 October	Budapest Water Summit 2013 @Budapest, Hungary

## WHERE to look for further INFORMATION

- Conference website  
[www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water\\_cooperation\\_2013/](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_cooperation_2013/)
- Section on 'Water cooperation' on the Water for Life Decade website  
[www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water\\_cooperation.shtml](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_cooperation.shtml)
- Website of the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013 and World Water Day 2013  
[www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013/](http://www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013/)

## References

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- International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), Global Water Partnership (GWP), 2012. The Handbook for Integrated Water Resources Management in Transboundary Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers [www.inbo-news.org/IMG/pdf/MGIREB-UK-2012-2.pdf](http://www.inbo-news.org/IMG/pdf/MGIREB-UK-2012-2.pdf)
- Participants in the in the Dushanbe Preparatory Conference. Recommendations of the Preparatory Conference 'Towards the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20): Water Cooperation Issues' (Dushanbe, October 2011) [http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/Recommendations\\_Dushanbe%20Prepcom%20Conference\\_final\\_12\\_eng-1.pdf](http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/Recommendations_Dushanbe%20Prepcom%20Conference_final_12_eng-1.pdf)
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- World Bank, 2012. Reaching Across the Waters: Facing the Risks of Cooperation in International Waters, Water papers. <http://water.worldbank.org/sites/water.worldbank.org/files/publication/WaterWB-Reaching-Across-Waters.pdf>