



Groundwater Governance

A Global Framework for Action

GEF Project “Groundwater Governance: A Global Framework for Action”

Fifth Regional Consultation (UNECE region)*

19–21 March 2013

*The Hague Institute for Global Justice
The Hague, Netherlands*

The UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP), in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), is organizing the **Fifth Regional Consultation* on Groundwater Governance**, in **The Hague, Netherlands**, from **19 to 21 March 2013**. The event is supported by the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO and the Netherlands’ IHP National Committee.

The Regional Consultations are a fundamental component of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project “**Groundwater Governance: A Global Framework for Action**”. The project is the result of the fruitful cooperation among the UNESCO-IHP, the GEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) and the World Bank. The main objective of the project is to raise awareness of the importance of groundwater resources for many regions of the world, and identify and promote best practices in groundwater governance as a way to achieve the sustainable management of groundwater resources.

The objectives of the regional consultations are: 1) to compile first-hand knowledge provided by direct local sources – groundwater experts, resource managers and actors in different areas – about the main features of the region; 2) to discuss the

* List of UNECE countries: http://www.unece.org/oes/nutshell/member_states_representatives.html.



different issues that arise from the specific characteristics, challenges and priorities of the region, based on case studies elaborated by national experts; 3) to build partnerships amongst cross-sectorial collaborating project agencies, stakeholders, decision-makers and specialists. The results of the regional consultations will contribute to the preparation of a “Global Groundwater Governance Diagnostic”.

In addition, the Recommendations collected during the Consultation will contribute to the development of a global "Framework for Action" (FA) with the objective of providing policy makers with science-based guidelines for informed decision making.

Four of the five foreseen Regional Consultations took place in 2012, in the following regions: Latin America and Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, Arab States, and Asia and the Pacific.

The Fifth Regional Consultation will be a 3-day event that will include both plenary and technical working sessions that will address the multidisciplinary nature of groundwater governance. Actors from a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the domain of groundwater governance will participate in the event, which will likewise be attended by members of the press.

The programme of the **Fifth Regional Consultation** will also include a Round Table on Public-Private Cooperation for Groundwater Governance, as a contribution to the celebration of “2013, International Year of Water Cooperation” (United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/154).

For more information:

- Ms Marina Rubio, UNESCO International Hydrological Programme, Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO HQ, Paris; email: m.rubio@unesco.org.

Project website: www.groundwatergovernance.org

