



## **Agenda of the Session** **“Lessons in Transboundary Integrated Water Resources”**

### **IV World Water Forum**

**March 16 -23, 2006**

**Mexico City**

**Convening Organization:** Organization of American States

**Head of organization** Scott Vaughan

**Position:** Director of the Department of Sustainable Development

**Type of organization:** Intergovernmental Institution

**Co- convening Organization:** International Joint Commission

**Contact person / people:** Murray Clamen / Lisa Bourget

**Position:** Secretary, Canadian Section / Secretary, U.S. Section

**Address:** 1250 23<sup>rd</sup> Street N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20440

**Country:** Canada / United States

**Title of the session:** Transboundary Waters in the Americas: Lessons in IWRM

**Package:** FT2.08

**ID:** TS0511RAMFT2

**Date:** March 18, 2006

**Time:** 11:15 -13:15

**Venue:** Centro BANAMEX, room Iturbide 2

**Framework theme:** Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

**Crosscutting perspective(s):** Institutional Development and Political Processes

**Geographical scope of the session:** Americas

**Session Chair:** Scott Vaughan, Director, Department of Sustainable Development,  
Organization of American States

### **Presentation of Local Actions (30 min.)**

ID LA0839: Gestión Integrada de la Cuenca Transfronteriza del Río Apa - Pantanal Sur

ID LA1435: Ribeirao Preto pilot project

ID LA0293: The Great Lakes of North America - an ecosystem perspective

**Discussion Panel:** leaders of regional and international initiatives **(60 min.):**

- Allen Olson, Commissioner, International Joint Commission
- Andrea Merla, Program Manager, International Waters, Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
- Rosalía Arteaga, General Secretary, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.
- Basil Fernandez, Managing Director, Jamaica's Water Resources Authority

**Discussion** - (20 min.)

**Objective and expected outputs of the session:**

The Americas are characterized by a general abundance of surface and groundwater resources, although some arid regions experience water scarcity. The objective of this session is to strengthen capacities of local actions in managing shared, international water basins. More than 60 major river basins in Latin America and the Caribbean are shared by two or more countries. Approximately 70 percent of all surface waters in the Western Hemisphere are produced within transboundary basins. Given the central role of transboundary freshwater resources, this session will examine on-the-ground experience in managing international waters. It will identify the success of tools, legal structures and common standards, lessons in institutions and governance, and the pivotal role of civil society in supporting integrated water resources management (IWRM) at the transboundary level.

Finally, the session will examine the cost-effectiveness of transboundary water management in the context of developing countries and the overarching objective of poverty alleviation and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

**Draft key recommendations related to strengthening local action implementation in the field of the session (to be discussed with participants at the session):**

Four key recommendations will be identified and elaborated during the session: First, the session will identify technical tools that are beneficial in the management of transboundary water basins. These tools include data common baselines and the development of certain indicators, as well as the usefulness of transboundary diagnostic analysis and related tools.

Second, the session will identify international legal structures, including formal treaties (there are 27 existing treaties dealing with transboundary water resources in the Americas) and other legal mechanisms, as well as the role of common international (or equivalent) standards and norms covering a range of water quantity (flows) and water quality targets. The session will identify on-the-ground experience in translating legal norms into programs and cooperative actions, supported by on-going monitoring and enforcement systems.

Third, the session will examine the importance of institutions at the international level, and recommend some key indicators and proxies that comprise "good" institutions and related good governance targets. A focus on institutions is especially germane; with

increasing demands and resulting increasing scarcity of water resources, it becomes necessary to more formally allocate the goods and services represented by these resources. In the broadest sense, therefore, institutions represent the “rules of the game,” being society’s way of responding to water scarcity or degradation problems.

Finally, the session will recommend different processes to support transparency and meaningful public engagement and public participation and partnerships in managing transboundary water basins. The session will identify different approaches to supporting public participation, including consultations with civil society.