

## **Resume for 5 October 2011**

The third day of the conference commences with the second regional session (Session 7), focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean and convened by Caridad Canales from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Although the region possesses abundant water resources, availability varies greatly and inadequate governance is a major challenge. A number of instruments and tools are highlighted which have demonstrated success in tackling the region's water problems. A discussion with panellists from Peru and Guatemala highlight some of the key ingredients for success:

- In Peru, the economic regulator of the water sector has proactively implemented an array of economic and policy instruments which boost efficiencies in services provision, promote environmental protection, and support poverty alleviation. These include water footprinting, the economic valuation of environmental costs of water utilities and a sustainable water tariff initiative.
- A case from Guatemala showcases the comprehensive national 'Multi-annual Sectoral Plan for Water and the Environment', which provides a strategic path for the management of the country's water resources and natural assets.

Session 8 presents the water planning as a powerful social tool for identifying the best way to use water resources to meet the competing needs of different users, and maximising water's potential to facilitate green growth. Planning is essential for aligning water use with development, and for coping with environmental challenges such as water scarcity, pollution, and climate change. The Chair of the Ebro River Basin Authority, Rafael Romeo García provides an overview of the critical issues around planning and poses questions to representatives of cases from Laos PDR, Korea and Peru:

- River basin planning in Laos PDR has been a key instrument for addressing pressures on water resources. The planning framework focuses on participatory planning and involves cooperation between neighbouring countries that share the Mekong River Basin. The implementation of well devised plans has led to improvements in water quality and the reduction in flood risk.
- In Korea, multiple ministries have joined efforts to design and implement a comprehensive river restoration plan for four major rivers in the country. The plan has multiple objectives, including tackling water scarcity, providing flood control, restoring ecosystems, and fostering regional development through cultural and historical tourism.

The conference closures with an plenary wrap-up session, with key UN figures reflecting on the key messages and lessons learnt over the course of the three days, and the steps ahead on the roadmap to Rio+20. There will be contributions from Adeel Zafar (Chair of UN-Water), Ambassador Sirodjidin Aslov (Permanent Mission of Tajikistan to the United Nations), Tariq Banuri (former Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, UNDESA), Bert Diphorn (UN-Habitat) and Alexander Otte (UNESCO).