

United Nations experts, representatives from case studies and key professionals from all around the world meet in Zaragoza, Spain, to prepare the International Year of Water Cooperation

7 January 2013. Zaragoza, Spain – United Nations experts, representatives from case studies and key professionals from all around the world will convene in Zaragoza, Spain, from **8 to 10 January** to prepare for the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013. Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 February 2011, 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.

To ensure that water security and sustainability is achieved, concerted efforts must be made to promote water cooperation at river basin and local scale, including in transboundary river basins, irrigation districts and cities. Cooperation is necessary to deal with some of major issues such as water allocation decisions, upstream and downstream impacts of water pollution and water abstraction, construction and management of new infrastructures, dealing with illegal abstractions and overexploitation of surface and groundwater, deciding on financing management of water resources and water services, among others. In this regard, negotiation, mediation and other dispute resolution mechanisms, including the role of water diplomacy as well as participatory tools or procedures, will be the main themes of discussion in the conference. The conference will introduce the key skills required, with particular attention to their important role in the process of negotiation and mediation, with examples of their application in national and international water settings.

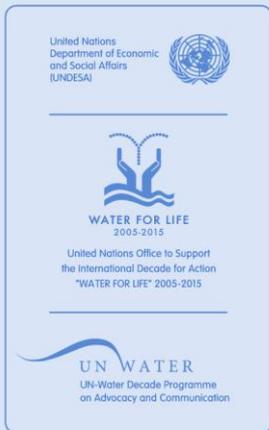
The International Annual UN-Water Zaragoza Conference 2012/2013 **“Preparing for the 2013 International Year. Water Cooperation: Making it Happen!”** focuses on how to make cooperation happen. It will do so by:

United Nations Office
to Support the International
Decade for Action
“Water for Life” 2005-2015

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- Identifying the best approaches to promote effective cooperation at different scales. What are the lessons from recent implementation experiences and how they have been contributing to improved water management?
- Identifying how can we do 'better' in water cooperation through sharing lessons from experiences, and inspiring participants to do 'better'. Cases will illustrate experiences on how effective cooperation can be facilitated aiming to inspire others and highlight some of the crucial ingredients for success. They will also identify the general and locally specific difficulties, challenges, barriers and failures that we cannot ignore and can learn from.

Follow the conference:

The conference will be webcasted and can be followed online on real time at the following address:

http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_cooperation_2013/

Please use the hashtag #iywc to follow the conference on Twitter

The Conference is organized by the United Nations Office to support the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015/UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC).

The Water for Life Decade 2005-2015. *The primary goal of the 'Water for Life' Decade is to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments on water-related issues by 2015. These commitments include the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015, and to stop unsustainable exploitation of water resources.*

www.un.org/waterforlifedecade

The United Nations Office to support the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015 based in Zaragoza, Spain, implements the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC). UNW-DPAC facilitates and implements communication, information and awareness-raising activities in the framework of the 'Water for Life' Decade. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) hosts and leads the Office www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/unwdpac.shtml