



# UNWC Global Initiative Symposium



**Co-organised by IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science (under the auspices of UNESCO), University of Dundee and WWF**

***The 1997 UN Watercourses Convention – What Relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June 2012, University of Dundee, Scotland, UK**

## **Call for Papers**

In 1994 the UN General Assembly made the decision to elaborate a global framework instrument on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses (UN General Assembly Resolution 49/52). The resultant Convention was adopted in 1997 by more than 100 nations. Since the Convention's adoption over 14 years ago, there has been a heightened recognition of the numerous challenges humanity faces in securing water for all, and a widespread acceptance that governance plays a key role. However, the legal architecture for international watercourses remains fragmented, and the UNWC has not yet entered into force.

In recent years, a coalition of institutions under the general rubric of the *UNWC Global Initiative* has come together to examine the underlying reasons why the UNWC has not yet entered into force. Additionally, the *UNWC Global Initiative* has sought to further knowledge and understanding of the relevance of the UNWC in addressing the contemporary pressures on the world's freshwater resources. As part of the activities of the *UNWC Global Initiative*, the IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science in collaboration with WWF will be organising a global symposium on the UNWC between 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2011. The aim of the symposium is to gather together a wide and diverse range of experts from academia, government, international organisations, civil society, etc, to debate the existing and potential relevance of this global framework instrument.

Towards this endeavour the convenors of the symposium are inviting experts to submit papers on a range of topics related to the UNWC. Such topics include but are not limited to the relationship between the UNWC and:

- entry into force
- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- North America
- South America
- Surface water and groundwater linkages
- water security
- food security
- energy security
- international trade and investment
- human rights
- national law and policy
- hydropolitics
- economics
- hydrology
- governance
- IWRM
- multilateral

environmental agreements • compliance and enforcement • climate change adaptation • coastal zone management • ecosystem protection • hydropower development • treaty effectiveness • custom • international disputes and decisions of courts and tribunals • global environmental governance

Paper abstracts of no more than 500 words should be sent to Dr Alistair Rieu-Clarke ([a.rieuclarke@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:a.rieuclarke@dundee.ac.uk)) by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Abstracts will then be reviewed by a scientific steering committee, and participants will be notified by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012 whether their abstract has been accepted. Following the symposium the scientific steering committee will choose a set of papers to be published in a special issue of a journal.

The co-organisers have limited funding to cover the attendance of participants from developing countries. When submitting an abstract please stipulate whether your attendance is contingent on receiving financial support.

For more information please contact:

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The UNWC Global Initiative Symposium will precede the Annual International Law and Transboundary Freshwaters Workshop, which will run from 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – see <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/water/workshop/>. The IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science together with Global Water Partnership will offer scholarships for 30 participants to undertake the workshop and postgraduate module in international water law. For more details see: <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/water/gwpscholarship> or contact John McCaffery - [j.mccaffery@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:j.mccaffery@dundee.ac.uk).