

Special Session SS-6-7

- **Title**

The complex issue of ‘Implementation’ – a call for a transformative international water law approach to transboundary water cooperation

- **Organiser**

Organisation: International Water Law Academy, CIBOS, Wuhan University

Representative: Professor Patricia WOUTERS

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- **Co-organiser**

None

- **Potential Presenter**

1. Presenter: Professor Patricia WOUTERS

Affiliation: Director, IWLA

Organisation: International Water Law Academy, CIBOS, Wuhan University

- **Alignment with Congress**

6. 6. Innovation for Water Governance and Management

- **Session description**

The peaceful management of the world’s shared freshwater resources involves seeking harmony between humans and nature, aligned with the fundamental tenets of sustainable development elaborated under the UN Sustainable Development Goals – but the hard question is how to implement these goals? This proposed special session explores the integral role of water law in implementation of effective transboundary water cooperation -- primarily international water law, but also joined up with relevant transnational and national water law regulatory regimes. The session will call for ‘transformative change’ in the design of the international water law framework in order to address the difficult implementation issues linked with effective transboundary water cooperation – across national and sub-national borders and layers of regulatory regimes. How are the complex challenges of global climate change, linked with transboundary water cooperation – from the adverse impacts of climate change, national economic crises and competing needs dealt with in a transboundary water context? What role does water law play in contributing to improved transboundary water management? How are the conjunctive uses of surface and groundwater managed given the dearth of legal instruments in this area? The session will focus on these hard issues through the lens of international water law and present a contemporary approach to devising an innovative and integrated transboundary water regulatory framework, aimed at integrating across sectors and layers of regulatory regimes in this domain so as to enhance meeting the UN SDGs in the area of transboundary water cooperation. The proposed session draws together the International Water Law Academy’s considerable body of research and practice in these fields, including the world-renowned research by its global Affiliates. The proposed programme: • Professor Wouters will set the scene for the Special Session, and the panel of speakers will offer expert insights into how the difficult challenges of implementation of transboundary water cooperation can be addressed by international, transnational, and national water law. The context includes the contemporary challenges posed by global climate change, the aims of the UN SDGs, and the complex regulatory

regimes involved in effective implementation. • Professor Sergei Vinogradov – will present the overarching international law approach to transboundary water cooperation. • Professor Alistair Rieu-Clarke – will survey the transboundary water cooperation reporting results under UN SDG 6.5.2. • Professor Chen Huiping – will focus on the transboundary water-related challenges across international economic law and explore the transnational legal elements. • Andrew Allan – will present the national water law challenges of devising an effective national water law implementation approach to transboundary water management. • Dr Dinara Ziganshina – will provide a contextual legal case study examining the issues related to the spectrum of water-law related issues regarding implementing transboundary water cooperation across layers of regulatory regimes. The session will finish with an interactive question and answer session and close with a proposed integrated international water law framework for transboundary water cooperation presented on behalf of the International Water Law Academy. - Professor Patricia Wouters, Director, International Water Law Academy, Wuhan University; Session Introduction/Chair of the Event – Implementing Transboundary Cooperation: The Integral Role of Water Law - Professor Sergei Vinogradov, Professor of the Academy, Founding Affiliate, IWLA; Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee (Scotland, UK); The Rules of International Law that govern transboundary waters – overview of the implementation framework - Professor Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Professor of Law at Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK; Founding Affiliate, IWLA. Implementation and monitoring of transboundary water cooperation – the important role of reporting under SDG 6.5.2 – how we use this tool to enhance implementation - Professor Chen Huiping, Professor of International Law at the School of Law of Xiamen University, Affiliate, IWLA; International economic law and transboundary water resources – implementing the right to water - Dr. Andrew Allan, Senior Lecturer at the School of Law, University of Dundee, Affiliate, IWLA; National Water Law challenges to implementing transboundary water cooperation – the important role of adaptive frameworks - Dr Dinara Ziganshina, Deputy Director at the Scientific Information Centre of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC) in Central Asia, Affiliate, IWLA; A regional case study on national water law challenges in implementing transboundary water cooperation – Central Asia Alignment with Congress: Theme #6, Innovation for Water Governance and Management