MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF HUNGARY
BUDAPEST WATER SUMMIT 2016 SECRETARIAT
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Good Water Governance – Important Not Only for Water

Convened by the United Nations Development Programme

Side Event - Budapest Water Summit 2016
28 November 2016, 15:30-16:30 - Tisza Gallery (Building D)

Water governance is key for successful and durable achievement of SDG6: Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Working with water governance – the rules, roles and human actions that determine who gets to use water when and how – helps not only to resolve water problems, but also builds peaceful and inclusive societies, by way of engaging stakeholders in participatory, accountable and transparent processes. This way, by underpinning several other SDGs and building democratic society, water governance will help achieve the full 2030 Agenda.

UNDP's work on water aims at eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities by way of assuring equitable access to basic services and water for livelihoods and sustainable growth. Working with partners in the support of locally, nationally and regionally owned development, UNDP fosters inter-institutional cooperation and coordination for producing solid development results. This event presents two cases of good water governance that contribute to sustainable development.

The UNDP GoAL WaSH programme (Governance, Advocacy and Leadership in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) aligns closely with partner government priorities to improve performance of the water sector as a whole. In Tajikistan, the project has supported tariff-setting methodologies and assisted the government in the broader pursuit of drinking water sector regulation. This involves balancing the roles of providers, including the private sector, with consumers and consumer organizations.

In the transboundary water management case of the Danube-Black Sea system, a platform between International Funding Institutions, donors and beneficiaries has leveraged investments for the protection of water and water-related ecosystems. International collaboration for water treatment and reduced pollution has, in turn, helped restore the marine life of the North-western shelf of the Black Sea including fisheries. This is an example of how water governance can protect ecosystems and support livelihoods, thus contributing broadly to the SDGs and society.

The session will distil take-aways from these initiatives, asking questions about integration, collaboration and coordination, human rights, capacity development and leadership. The overarching concern and contribution is to show how water governance provides tools for catalysing sustainable development.