



**Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting**  
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 7/07  
FOLLOW-UP TO THE FIFTEENTH ECONOMIC AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM: WATER MANAGEMENT**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension,

Taking note of the work done in the ongoing process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic and Environmental Forum, and bearing in mind the importance of appropriate follow-up to Economic and Environmental Forums,

Taking into account the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003),

Recognizing the importance of co-operation on the management of water resources to the enhancement of regional economic and environmental co-operation and stability in the OSCE area,

Drawing upon the outcome of the Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum,

Noting the previous OSCE experiences with regard to integrated river basin management, for example in the Sava river basin and the Chu and Talas Rivers, as well as the lessons learned from the demand-driven Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC),

Welcoming the existing co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations, in particular with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and recognizing the importance of further strengthening co-operation with other relevant international organizations and institutions on a case-by-case basis, in close consultation with the participating States,

Considering that, within its comprehensive approach to security, the OSCE might make contributions, as appropriate and within its capacity, in the field of water management by, *inter alia*:

- Providing a framework for dialogue with regard to the possible further development of water management co-operation networks, where relevant, if so requested and agreed by the participating States concerned,
- Contributing to relevant international events related to water management, and in particular the Review Session on Water at the Sixteenth Session at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in May 2008, the International Expo on Sustainable Development and Water Management in Zaragoza, Spain, from June to September 2008, and the Fifth World Water Forum which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 15 to 22 March 2009,
- Encouraging continued partnerships between participating States and with relevant international organizations that focus on water management,
- Paying attention to transboundary issues of water management, where relevant, if so requested and agreed by all riparian countries concerned,
- Promoting a wide dissemination of best practices and facilitating the implementation of standards developed by relevant international organizations in the field of water management, as well as better co-ordination in this area among participating States and partner organizations,
- Striving to promote good public and corporate governance and combating corruption in the area of water management,
- Promoting wider public participation, as well as a better civil society and business community participation in the area of water management related matters, where applicable,

Decides to:

1. Endeavour to enhance the existing co-operation between the OSCE and the UNECE, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, as well as the existing co-operation with other relevant international organizations on water management related matters;
2. Encourage participating States to strengthen dialogue and co-operation on water management within the OSCE;
3. Task the OSCE structures, within the framework of their mandates, to support the participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, taking into account the role played by relevant international organizations;
4. Encourage participating States to consider the ratification of existing international environmental legal instruments related to water management and relevant to the OSCE region and support their full implementation by participating States that are parties to them.