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Università
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COORDINATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY COOPERATION – ITALIAN COOPERATION
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

“DIALOGUE ON WATER RESOURCES FROM RESEARCH TO LIVELIHOOD IMPACTS

Moving towards the implementation of WWF2012 and Rio+20 principles and outcomes in
the Mediterranean Area”

Aula Baratto, Ca' Foscari University, VENICE
27-28 September 2012

Rationale of the event

“Time for solutions” was the slogan of the World Water Forum 6 held in Marseille in March 2012. The “DIALOGUE ON WATER RESOURCES: FROM RESEARCH TO LIVELIHOOD IMPACTS” will bring together European and Mediterranean water researchers, decision-makers, managers, and consultants in an effort to **disseminate** and **build on solutions** developed for **reducing water insecurity** and **contributing to sustainable development** in the **Mediterranean Area**.

Water is a critical dimension upon which all social and economic activities and ecosystem functions depend. The nexus between **water, food production, and energy** can no longer be neglected in a world facing crucial, exacerbating and unresolved **challenges**: population growth and increasing urbanisation, growing natural resource constraints, high and volatile food prices, rising energy prices, biofuel expansion, and climate change.

2012 witnesses several very important global events which addressed these challenges, providing new insights and revised principles and paradigms, the World Water Forum in Marseille, the United Nation Conference for Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro amongst many others. All highlight the need for integrated management of **water, food, and energy** resources as a **prerequisite for sustainable development**.

The Fourth UN World Water Development Report, which was released during the World Water Forum in Marseille, points out the “major uncertainties about the amount of water required to meet demand for food, energy and other human uses, and to sustain ecosystems”. It concludes that the uncontrolled water resources exploitation could derail progress on development, with an especially harsh impact on the poorest and most vulnerable households. **Global change and recurrent crises** could be seen as manifestations of irreversible loss of control of socio-ecosystems by human societies, or, more positively and proactively, as opportunities for substantial rethinking of consolidated paradigms.

In the water sector, awareness is raising on the challenge to provide sustainable and equitable services, despite the by-now internationally acclaimed IWRM principles. Hence, the IWRM paradigm is questioned and alternative strategies have been proposed.

In order to move from theoretical discussions about principles to operational implementation, focus should be placed on the needs of decision-makers, and adaptable solutions provided.

Upon the above issue, the idea of launching a **new dialogue on water resources** emerged with a first event to be organised in Venice with a **workshop** focusing specifically on empirical **evidences**, operational **tools**, technological options, **lessons** learnt and their potential for **transferability**, in the attempt to identify avenues for implementing the **principles and guidelines** delivered by the international events mentioned above.

Thursday September 27, 2012

13:00 – 14:30 Registration of participants - light lunch

14:30 – 14:50 [Welcome address and introduction to the workshop](#)

Carlo Giupponi - Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change

Fabio Cassese – Deputy Director Italian Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

14:50 - 16:10 [Setting the scene](#)

Chair: Pasquale Steduto - Principal Office, Deputy Director, NRL Water Unit FAO

14:50 – 15:20 Water security in the Mediterranean

Mahmoud Abu Zeid - President of Arab Water Council

15:20 – 15:40 University Cooperation promoting strategies for natural disasters mitigation

Massimo Caneva - Coordinator of University Cooperation of Italian Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

15:40 – 16:10 Measures and actions against drought in southern Europe and the Mediterranean

Jaroslav Mysiak - Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei

16:10 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 19:00 [Brainstorming session on water policies and measures to deal with water scarcity, in a changing Mediterranean](#)

Chair: Jaroslav Mysiak - Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei

19:00 – 19:10 [Concluding remarks](#)

Rita Mannella - Head Office UN Agencies based in Rome - Italian Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

19:30 Social dinner at Ca' Foscari University

Friday September 28, 2012

08:30 – 09:00 Light breakfast

09:00 – 09:30 Implementing solutions for water security and sustainable development in the Mediterranean, with focus on food.

Carlo Giupponi - Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change

09:30 – 12:00 [Brainstorming session on transferring and implementing technical knowledge for water security and food production in the Mediterranean Basin](#)

12:00 – 12:30 [General discussion “Water Resources from research to livelihood impacts”](#)

12:30 – 13:00 [Concluding remarks](#)

Carlo Carraro - President of Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Elisabetta Belloni - Director General Italian Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

13:00 - 14:00 Light lunch

