

Mr. Chairman, dear host, ladies and gentlemen,

This is the first time UNDP, BiH is taking part in the Meeting of Parties.

We appreciate the invitation very much, as well a good cooperation we have established with the Sava Commission and hope that cooperation will grow further especially in the area of flood protection and climate change adaptation.

UNDP has been very active in flood management in BiH, which can very seldom be divided from river basin management. Since 2014, UNDP, BiH has been implementing flood recovery operations in flood affected areas in all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Apart from that, we have been active in implementation of flood risk management measures in Vrbas river basin such as development of flood hazard and risk maps, establishment of FF EWS, torrents vulnerability model, support to water information system, infrastructural works, technical assistance to local authorities etc.

These are all activities which are complementary and will contribute to the work of the ISRBC.

We intent to stay active in the area of flood protection and we are planning to extend our activities to other river basins, mainly Sava tributaries, trying to apply nexus approach whenever possible.

Achievements and on-going activities of Sava Commission such as:

- development of the first Sava FRM Plan;
 - Development of a coordinated flood forecasting and warning system for the Sava River Basin;
 - hydrological and hydraulic modeling;
- are highly commendable and we are trying to contribute as much as possible.

Also, establishment of data and information exchange via Sava GIS and Sava HIS is quite an achievement in this area. All these activities are ground-breaking for BiH and we understand time and effort needed to implement them.

We have been supporting Youth Parliament since 2013. and we see that as an extremely important not only awareness raising activity, but rather as a capacity building activity for future generations.

We hope we will be able to further contribute to the quality of that work by improving situation on Sava River tributaries in BiH and providing technical assistance to BiH institutions.

We appreciate the basic principles on which FASRB operates, especially:

- cooperation based on regular exchange of information within the basin which is crucial not only for obtaining good technical results but also for their sustainability
- work in line with EU WFD and EU Flood Directive
- aiming at reduction of transboundary impacts caused by economic and other activities of the Parties, and respecting the "no harm rule"

As for challenges ahead especially when it comes flood management and cross-cutting issues, our opinion is that the main ones, at least for Bosnia and Herzegovina are:

- Lack of clear responsibilities of employees in institutions and use of their gained knowledge, rather than lack of human resources and technical staff
- Lack of smooth and constant data exchange
- Practical enforcement of adopted plans, policies etc.
- Closer cooperation with finance ministries
- Lack of understanding for holistic approach e.g. nexus approach and climate change adaptation

To conclude, work of Sava Commission should create a base for all our activities in Sava River Basin in BiH. Although such a holistic and cutting-edge approach is difficult to implement, it is the only one which will ensure sustainability and economic development.

Thank you

Raduska Cupac
Project manager
UNDP, BiH