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AXI 73 R

Le Projet de Traité de

Bellagio définit un cadre juridique global
en vue d'une réglementation internationale
des ressources en Eaux Transfrontalières.
Etant donné la différence des niveaux de dé-
veloppement entre les Etats, certains ont tendance
(en l'absence d'une règle de gestion) à solliciter
d'une façon importante des ressources en Eaux.
Les perturbations qui s'en suivent au droit des
réservoirs situés dans les Etats voisins sont
sources de conflits qui sont souvent difficiles
à gérer, surtout à régler, étant donné l'ab-

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Revised and Augmented by
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Transboundary Groundwaters: The Bellagio Draft Treaty

International Transboundary Resources Center

Centro Internacional de Recursos Transfronterizos

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Transboundary Groundwaters: The Bellagio Draft Treaty

ABSTRACT

Increasing populations and industrial and agricultural development worldwide are placing much greater demands on groundwater supplies. Many of these groundwater basins or aquifers underlie two or more countries and are, thus, international or transboundary. Withdrawals from one country can drain life-giving water from a neighboring country and, as a consequence, be the source of severe and protracted conflict. Unfortunately international law and treaty practice are only at a beginning stage. With the goal of advancing international law and institutions on the matter, a multi-disciplinary group of specialists over an eight-year period have developed a draft international groundwater treaty.

The draft provides mechanisms for the international aquifers in critical areas to be managed by mutual agreement rather than continuing to be subjected to unilateral taking. The treaty addresses contamination, depletion, drought and transboundary transfers as well as withdrawal and recharge issues. The fundamental goal is to achieve joint, optimum utilization and avoidance or resolution of disputes over shared groundwaters in a time of ever-increasing pressures upon this priceless resource.

The "black letter" provisions delegate only a limited amount of substantive discretion to the joint agency, but above all they instruct the Commission to take the initiative, subject to the Governments' approval, in preparing for and confronting the full range of problems involving the Parties' transboundary groundwaters.

FOREWORD

Rapid population growth, and industrial and agricultural development are putting steadily increasing demands on groundwater resources worldwide. Cities from North Africa to Northern Europe, to Asia to North and South America have become critically dependent on groundwater. Irrigation use is widely on the rise. Potentially explosive international groundwater situations are escalating from places as diverse as India and

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