



## SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY



International campaign

# Sahara and Sahel

## Role of Groundwater in Adaptation to Climate Change

### SIDE-EVENT

2 December 2015

11.30 - 1 PM

Civil society space

Room 1

### Programme

**Opening:** Mr Akinwumi Adesina, President of AfDB (tbc)

**Presentation:** "Groundwater and climate change in the Sahara and Sahel region" by Mr Khatim Kherraz, Executive Secretary of OSS

#### Panel discussion

**Facilitation:** Mr Jean Bosco Bazie, Director General, *Eau Vive* (NGO)

- Mr Rachid Taibi, Minister Advisor, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Algeria
- Mr Christophe Brachet, Deputy Director General, RIOB
- Representative of East Africa
- Representative of West Africa

**Summary and conclusion:** Mr Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Acting Director of UNECE



Dantiandou, Niger, 2009

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of December has been set as the "water and climate" day by the international community with a view to highlighting linkages between the two elements. Renewable and non-renewable water resources in the OSS zone of action could offer solutions to address climate change. These resources are at the heart of adaptation issues for the countries of the region.

[Simultaneous translation French-English]



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## Role of groundwater in devising adaptation options

Water is the primary element by which climate change affects ecosystems and hence the livelihoods and well-being of people. The impacts of climate change takes various forms, mainly temperature variations, changes in rain distribution which result in variations in soil humidity, watercourses, lakes and groundwater flow regimes, more frequent droughts and floods, and rise of the sea level, etc.



*Dantiandou, Niger, 2009*

The side-event aims to demonstrate the determining role non-renewable groundwater could play, when managed sustainably, in the economic and social development of the Circum-Saharan countries within a general context of water scarcity and climate change.

As for its action in the zone, OSS strives to strengthen the resilience of the population to climate change through:

- an improved knowledge of the region's water resources
- the development and implementation of management models
- the establishment of concerted and sustainable management frameworks



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