

## THESSALONIKI DECLARATION

Recognizing that water resources in the globe are not evenly distributed;  
Considering that water demands for various purposes are growing at a different pace in different countries;

Considering that water resources are also subject to the threat of pollution and the adverse effects of natural disasters and, in particular, to the increasing influence of climate change;

Being aware of the need of broadening the scope of cooperation among states sharing water resources, by involving in this cooperation the various stakeholders;

Recognizing that in order to implement international legal obligations it is necessary for states to take action within their domestic contexts;

Noting that, in order to improve cooperation in the management of transboundary water resources it is necessary to enhance the knowledge of these resources and to promote an interdisciplinary approach,

### **WE, THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE IV INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS MANAGEMENT, HELD IN THESSALONIKI, GREECE, ON 15-18 OCTOBER, 2008, RECOMMEND THAT:**

1. The states sharing transboundary water resources should
  - a. adopt basic principles for cooperation in the management of these resources;
  - b. to this effect, enhance the knowledge base relating to these resources;
  - c. reflect the principles and the knowledge acquired into international agreements;
  - d. put in place adequate institutional arrangements at the river basin or aquifer level.
  
2. In order to implement international legal obligations within their national contexts, states should put in place adequate national water management policies, legislation and institutions.
  
3. States should enter into arrangements in order to build the capacity of their multilateral, bilateral and national administrations to implement the provisions of the agreements entered into, as well as organize multidisciplinary training programme.