

IWC7 Roundtable, October 30th, 14.30h to 16.15h.

The Political Economy of Regionalism and International Waters

Session Coordinator: Jakob Granit, GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

Panel members: Robin Mahon, University of the West Indies; Anya Thomas, CARICOM; and Max Campos, OAS

Key Messages:

- The roundtable discussed the concept of new regionalism, its benefits and challenges, and how it is replacing a bipolar world order. Regionalism is occurring at a fast pace in many parts of the world in the wider context of globalization. Evidence was discussed on how regionalism and regional cooperation influence both the context and quality of transnational policy-making in most policy fields, ranging from economic development, trade, health, education, to peace and security and how it can strengthen country ownership.
- International waters interventions support multiple benefits at different scales and collective action is necessary to unlock these benefits. It is imperative to synchronize efforts to promote regionalism with national concerns, incentives and benefit recognizing multiple layers of governance.
- A regional governance baseline analysis that analyses the role and function of regional institutions should be undertaken when planning transboundary water and environmental interventions and their design.