

**Joint Declaration
of the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Framework Convention on the Protection and
the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (represented by UNEP Vienna –
Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention) on the sustainable development
of the Tisza River Basin Within the Carpathian region**

Taking into account the fact that five members of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Tisza Group come from the States being Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention),

Acknowledging that the Carpathians are headwaters of major rivers, including the Tisza River whose basin constitutes a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreation and living environment within the Carpathian region,

Recognizing the importance of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan (ITRBM) for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Biodiversity Protocol, in particular on water, and on wetlands (Art. 6),

Referring to the mutual observership between ICPDR and the Carpathian Convention, the invitation of the participants to the Ministerial Meeting for the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, hosted by Ukraine in Uzhgorod on 11 April 2011 for the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention to further strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest,

Declare their readiness to:

Strengthen their cooperation, especially in the areas highlighted in the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region;

Cooperate in the field of education and awareness raising of the local communities in the Tisza River Basin;

Strengthen relationship between mountain sustainable development in the Tisza river basin and Tisza river basin management by further elaboration the topics of the future enhanced cooperation to develop and implement joint, coordinated and complementary activities and projects;

Provide a platform for cooperation through joint meetings and information exchange between the ICPDR Tisza Group and the competent bodies of the Carpathian Convention, with the support of the Secretariat of the ICPDR and UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.