On 21st November, the Chair of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), Professor Royal C. Gardner, attended the closing ceremony of the UN Secretary General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) at the UNHQ, New York, on behalf of the Ramsar Convention.

The UNSGAB, an independent advisory body, was established by former Secretary General Kofi Annan to advise on and stimulate action on water and sanitation issues for the period of the Millennium Development Goals (for more information see here).

The closing ceremony commemorated the end of this period, reviewing the Board’s achievements, successes and lessons learned. The final report of UNSGAB can be found here.

During his remarks at a high level panel, the STRP Chair noted that “it was encouraging to see the recommendation [of the Board] to make better use of existing international legal instruments within the water sector, including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands”. He provided background on the Convention and its three pillars, emphasizing that wetlands are intrinsically tied to the water cycle.

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