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USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES
AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

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Third meeting,
Madrid, Spain, 26-28 November 2003

**TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IN
THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES**

Prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Agency for
Environmental Assessments "ECOTERRA", with the support of the United Nations
Environment Programme Regional Office for Europe, the Ministry for Natural Resources of
the Russian Federation and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	4
2. Transboundary waters in the NIS region	5
3. Regional and global conventions	5
4. Transboundary water agreements before and after the dissolution of the Soviet Union	8
4.1 Transboundary water agreements of the Soviet Union	8
4.2. Development of cooperation after 1991	8
5. Trends and bottlenecks	9
6. Recommendations for further development of cooperation on transboundary waters	11
6.1 Legal and regulatory framework and its implementation	11
6.2 Establishment and strengthening of institutions	13
National institutions	13
Joint bodies	13
Institutional and administrative arrangements for consultations and mutual assistance	14
6.3 Monitoring and assessment	14
6.4 Access to information and public participation	15
6.5 River basin management planning	15
6.6 Demonstration projects	16
6.7 Recommendations for development of projects co-funded by donors	16
7. Mechanisms for implementation and follow-up	17

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Transboundary water basins and relevant agreements in the NIS	18
Annex 2. Map of transboundary rivers and lakes in the NIS	22
Annex 3. Bilateral and multilateral agreements in the NIS on transboundary waters	23

Annex 4. Examples of environmental agreements in the NIS	43
Annex 5. Examples of draft agreements proposed or under negotiation in the NIS	45
Annex 6. Participation of NIS in UNECE multilateral environmental agreements	46

1. Introduction

The project “Transboundary Water Cooperation in the newly independent States (NIS)” aims at examining approaches to, establishing the status of and proposing measures for strengthening, bilateral and multilateral cooperation in a specific sub-region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The sub-region in the focus include the following 12 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. This group of countries will be referred hereinafter as to as the sub-region of newly independent States or NIS region.¹

Partners in the implementation and funding of the project are the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE), the Ministry for Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (RF MNR), the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, and the Agency For Environmental Assessments “Ecoterra”.

This document and its annexes are the major output of this project. It builds on and develops further conclusions from the High Level Meeting on the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development in Moscow, 5-6 March 2003 (see below). It aims to define the status, trends and further needs with regard to the transboundary water cooperation in the NIS, and between NIS and other neighbouring countries. The analysis and recommendations of the document will provide a basis for future actions and projects on the development of cooperation in the NIS on transboundary waters, in particular within the work programme of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development.

A draft of the document was discussed during the workshop “Transboundary Water Cooperation in the newly independent States” (Moscow, 31 March - 1 April 2003), organized within the framework of the project (Annex 7). The Centre for International Projects (CIP) was responsible for the practical arrangements of the workshop.

Representatives of 15 countries of the UNECE region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan,), as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environment Programme, Global International Waters Assessment (UNEP/GIWA) and representatives of NGOs (Agency “ECOTERRA” and Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation) took part in the Workshop (Annex 8).

The document has been finalised and agreed upon by the project partners on the basis of the discussions during the Workshop. Responsible for drafting have been Nikolay Grishin, Director of Agency “ECOTERRA”, as UNEP consultant, and Francesca Bernardini, Rainer Enderlein and Bo Libert from the UNECE Secretariat. The document will be made available during the Fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Kiev, Ukraine, 21-23

¹ All of these countries are members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

May 2003) and presented to the 3rd Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention (Madrid, Spain, 26-28 November 2003).

The project has been developed within the work programme of the UNECE Water Convention and the preparation to the Ministerial Conference in Kiev. It contributes to the following two initiatives that will be presented at the Ministerial Conference:

- ✓ Ministries of Ukraine and Georgia have taken the initiative to develop an Environmental Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. One of the issues that will be approached in the strategy is integrated water resources management in transboundary river basins;
- ✓ In parallel to the development of the Environmental Strategy, the European Union, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (Johannesburg, September 2002) has formally launched the global “Water Initiative: Water for Life - Health, livelihoods, economic development and security (EUWI)”. As part of the EUWI, a partnership was established in Johannesburg between EU and Ministers of the NIS: the “Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development”. An important component of the Partnership involves transboundary water cooperation in the NIS. The development of the Environmental Strategy and the EU Strategic Partnership in the NIS is a coordinated effort.

2. Transboundary waters in the NIS region

In Annex 1, the major transboundary rivers and lakes shared by the NIS, and the relevant existing agreements, are listed ². There is a considerable inter-dependence between countries with regard to water resources. In particular in Central Asia, cooperation between countries sharing rivers such as Syr Daria and Amu Daria is crucial for life, economy and political stability. The reliance of Azerbaijan on drinking water from the transboundary river Kura is another example.

Many water allocation and pollution problems that were previously national issues within the Soviet Union are now transboundary issues. This requires a new and negotiated legal and regulatory framework for water resources management between sovereign States, which will take some time to achieve. There is generally a positive attitude towards establishing good cooperation on transboundary water issues in the NIS, and a lot has been achieved since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. However, examples can be found where there are difficulties in establishing a good cooperation. In some cases agreements have not yet been established between countries. If there are agreements, these are not always fully implemented, and may not be effective tools to tackle the relevant issues, nor address social, economic and environmental aspects.

3. Regional and global conventions

The NIS sub-region is part of the UNECE region, the only region where a unique legal environmental framework has been put in place. These legal documents provide a basis for the establishment of cooperation on specific rivers and lakes.

² At this stage no inventory of shared groundwater resources has been made.

The *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* was signed in Helsinki (17 March 1992). This Convention was developed under the auspices of UNECE, and entered into force on 6 October 1996. It plays an important role in the development of transboundary water cooperation in many parts of the UNECE region. Its Protocol on Water and Health addresses the prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases.

A decade has passed since the signing of the Convention, and there are issues that were not fully dealt with during the negotiations and which need to be further developed. Landscape protection, ecosystem approach, flood protection and water allocation are a few examples. Future work under the Convention could deal with these issues as well as with the possibility to extend the Convention's scope outside the UNECE region, as it is already the case for several UNECE protocols.

Two other regional Conventions and their future protocols are also of importance for the cooperation on transboundary waters: the UNECE *Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents* and the UNECE *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*.

These regional Conventions are complementary and have provisions dealing with such important issues as public participation, environmental impact assessment, activity of joint bodies, etc.

The legal framework is developing and at the Ministerial Conference in Kiev a Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and to the 1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, as well as a Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context will be open for signature.

The NIS have been active at the international level, participating in the negotiations of UNECE environmental conventions, ratifying many environmental conventions and protocols and developing sub-regional cooperation on the basis of various bilateral and multilateral agreements. An inventory of agreements on transboundary rivers and lakes in the NIS is presented in Annex 3. Annex 4 lists some examples of environmental agreements in force in the NIS. In Annex 5 is given a list of examples of draft agreements proposed or under negotiation. The situation with regard to ratification of the UNECE Environmental Conventions is found in Annex 6.

There are four borders between NIS that are Parties to the Convention, where provisions of the Convention for the respective basins should be followed: the borders between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, Ukraine and the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan, and the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan.

With regard to borders between NIS and other Parties to the UNECE Water Convention, there are eight other borders, where provisions of the Convention should be kept: the borders between the Russian Federation and Finland (Party to the Convention from 21.02.1996); the Russian Federation and Estonia (16.06.1995); the Russian Federation and Latvia (10.12.1996); the Russian Federation (Kaliningrad region) and Lithuania (28.04.2000); the Russian Federation (Kaliningrad region) and Poland (15.03.2000); Ukraine and Poland;

Ukraine and Hungary (02.09.1994); Ukraine and Romania (31.05.1995); and the Republic of Moldova and Romania.

Belarus intends to become a Party to the Convention³, which is important as then there will be a continuous space from the north coast of the Baltic Sea (Finland) to Kazakhstan through the Russian Federation - Estonia - Latvia - Lithuania - the Russian Federation (Kaliningrad region) - Belarus - Poland - Ukraine - Hungary - Romania - Republic of Moldova - Ukraine - the Russian Federation - Kazakhstan, where provisions of the Water Convention will be in force.

Some countries in the Caucasian sub-region (Armenia, Georgia) and in Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan) have not yet ratified the Convention.

The Water Convention is essentially made up of two main parts. Part I contains provisions relating to all Parties, whereas Part II sets out provisions relating to Parties that are riparian to a given transboundary watercourse.

Important provisions of the UNECE Water Convention for the development of water cooperation in the NIS are found in Part II of the Convention. There are provisions concerning Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation (Article 9), Consultations (Article 10), Joint Monitoring and Assessment (Article 11), Common Research and Development (Article 12), Exchange of Information between Riparian Countries (Article 13), Warning and Alarm Systems (Article 14), Mutual Assistance (Article 15) and Public Information (Article 16). Some of these provisions will be discussed in this document.

The number of NIS that becomes Parties to different UNECE international treaties is increasing from year to year (Annex 6). The role of the UNECE environmental legislation, and in particular of the UNECE Water Convention, is increasing in the NIS. This trend is positive, also as the UNECE Environmental Conventions may contribute to the harmonization of legislation between the EU and the NIS.

The EU Water Framework Directive⁴ is an important addition to the legal framework even if it is not legally binding for the NIS. It can be seen as a sub-regional response to implement the Water Convention, and it will foster the development of transboundary cooperation on shared water basins inside and on the borders with the European Union. The EU Water Framework Directive will have a significant and broad effect on the development of integrated water resource management and water cooperation also in NIS, one reason being the linkage that is already being made between the Directive and assistance provided by the EU. In general the Directive has become a reference for most NIS countries which are aligning their national legislations towards it, especially those countries that are aiming to become EU members.

The UN Convention on the Law of the Non Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997) is a global convention providing a framework for cooperation on shared water resources. This Convention is focussing more on water allocation but is in other parts "softer" than the Water Convention, for example with regard to the obligation of concluding river basin agreements. It has been discussed as an alternative for a framework for transboundary cooperation in Central Asia. None of the NIS has yet ratified this Convention.

³ Belarus has acceded the Water Convention on 29 May 2003.

⁴ Directive 2000/60/EC of 23.10.2000, published in the Official Journal L 327 of 22/12/2000.

4. Transboundary water agreements before and after the dissolution of the Soviet Union

4.1 Transboundary water agreements of the Soviet Union

The Soviet Union signed some agreements dealing with transboundary waters regulating different aspects of use and protection of these waters. Examples of such agreements are found in some earlier UNECE publications ⁵ and in Annex 3.

In some cases Joint Commissions were established under the agreements. Joint Commissions have been set up between Armenia and Turkey as well as Georgia and Turkey according to the Turkey-Soviet Agreement of 1927; Joint Commissions between Poland and Belarus, Poland and Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation, Poland and Ukraine were established according to the Polish-Soviet Agreement of 1964. On the other hand, no commission was established under the Norwegian-Soviet Agreement of 1957. Commissioners appointed by the relevant Ministers of the Contracting Parties worked together under the Norwegian-Soviet Agreement of 1959.

Some of these agreements were prolonged after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, as they had been working successfully for decades. For example, the Governments of Finland and the Russian Federation developed the Protocol concerning inventory making of legislative background bilateral Russian-Finnish relations. This Protocol, in which some transboundary water agreements were prolonged ⁶, was signed on 11 July 1992, in Helsinki.

4.2. Development of cooperation after 1991

There has been a certain activity with regard to negotiating and signing water basin agreements during the past years. In many cases these agreements have followed the principles of the Water Convention. New agreements were concluded between the Russian Federation and Estonia on the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe - River Narva basin, between the Russian Federation and Belarus, Russian Federation and Kazakhstan and between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on the rivers Chu and Talas. The agreement of 1992 between the States in Central Asia to continue the cooperation on and allocation of water in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya basins according to practices and quantities employed during Soviet times, and its implementation have been very important for a region where access to water is restricted. ⁷

The first international multilateral agreement on transboundary waters in the NIS region - the Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on Cooperation in Joint Management of Use and Protection of Water Resources of Interstate Sources ⁸ was signed in Almaty (Kazakhstan), on 18 February 1992. Under this agreement the Inter-State Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) ⁹ of Central Asia was established. ICWC is responsible for the development of water-management policy in the region, taking into

⁵ Bilateral and multilateral agreements and other arrangements in Europe and North America on the protection and use of transboundary waters (ECE/ENVWA/32, ECE/ENVWA/32/Add.1 and ECE/ENVWA/32/Add.2).

⁶ Annex 3, Agreements 4, 7, 14.

⁷ Annex 3, Agreement 15.

⁸ Annex 3, Agreement 15.

⁹ Other sub-regional organizations involved in cooperation on water and environment are the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD).

account needs of all branches of industry and economy, rational use of water resources, and perspective programme of water supply for the regions and measures for its realization (Article 8). Article 9 of the Agreement defines the executive and control bodies of the Commission - the Basin Water-Management Joint Companies "Amu Darya"¹⁰ and "Syr Darya"¹¹, responsible for activities in these two main rivers of the region.

A Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between the Ministry of Environment of Georgia and the State Committee for Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijani Republic on collaboration in the development and implementation of the pilot project on monitoring and assessment in the Mtkvari / Kura river basin¹². However, further progress has not been made for other parts of the catchment area (i.e. the area shared by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Iran, the sub-basin of the river Araks).

The agreement on General Principles of Interaction in Rational Use and Protection of Transboundary Water-bodies of the CIS Member States was signed in Moscow in 1998¹³, and it entered into force on 6 June 2002. There are three Parties to this CIS Transboundary Water Agreement (CIS TWA): Belarus (from 06.11.1998), the Russian Federation (06.06.2002) and Tajikistan (16.01.2001). The Agreement is based on provisions from the UNECE Water Convention (Preamble of the Agreement), but also deals with other important problems.

In particular, Parties to this Agreement have obligations to (Preamble):

- ✓ Use common methodological background for assessment of damage for water bodies;
- ✓ Avoid carrying out water management measures with likely negative effect on water bodies;
- ✓ Determine general principles of use and distribution of water resources (of transboundary watercourses).

The future application of the CIS TWA is not clear, and may depend on the further development of the cooperation in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Annex 3 gives a more detailed account of the present situation with regard to transboundary waters agreements.

5. Trends and bottlenecks

It is a general and positive trend that cooperation in many transboundary river basins is developing well in the NIS region. Several new agreements have been concluded and joint commissions have been established (Annex 3).

The increasing influence of the UNECE Water Convention in the development of new transboundary water agreements in the NIS region is one of the main trends. The Convention is directly referred to in the Preamble of several recent agreements and its provisions are used in substantive articles.

¹⁰ Annex 3, Agreement 16.

¹¹ Annex 3, Agreement 17.

¹² Annex 3, Agreement 33.

¹³ Annex 3, Agreement 37.

Another important trend is the increasing interest of international organizations and donors in the issue of transboundary water cooperation. There are several examples of international projects promoting cooperation on transboundary waters. Pilot projects under the UNECE Water Convention in the NIS on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters (rivers Kura, Pripyat, Severski Donets and Tobol), are funded by the EU TACIS programme¹⁴. In Central Asia there are numerous projects funded by different donors aiming to improve cooperation on water issues. The projects under the Aral Sea Basin Programme are just a few examples. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency funds a programme on transboundary waters discharging into the Baltic Sea.

The overall economic situation makes it at this stage very difficult to finance capital investment for water protection such as building of water treatment installations, or more efficient irrigation systems. It is also difficult to find resources to decrease risks for accidents in hazardous installations, tailing dams, etc. In addition, there are several bottlenecks in the further development of the transboundary water cooperation in the NIS region.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, many of the NIS struggle with matching their available administrative resources with the tasks of a sovereign country. In some cases there is a lack of human resources and also of specific expertise of staff involved in the transboundary cooperation.

A fully integrated management of water resources, where the interests of different sectors as well as ecosystems are taken account of and the water basin principle is applied, is gaining ground but is generally not yet the basis for national water policy. Lack of dialogue, of coordinated action and cooperation between different national authorities with regard to water management is a significant problem in the countries, which also has a negative impact on the cooperation between different countries. The lack of cooperation between Ministries responsible for water management and environmental protection in Central Asia is one obvious example.

In some cases, conflicting situations between countries have a negative impact on the development of cooperation. Competition among water users on how to share water both within countries, and internationally between upstream and downstream countries is in many cases not resolved. In Central Asia, for example, upstream countries may prioritise the use of water for hydroelectricity generation in winter whilst downstream countries mainly use water for irrigation in summer. Reasonable and equitable use of water resources does not seem to be agreed on in river basins such as the Kura basin (shared between Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Turkey and Iran) or the Samur basin (between the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan). Difficult cooperation is also experienced with countries outside the NIS region, as for instance between the Russian Federation and China or between Georgia and Turkey.

Lack of legal and regulatory framework for bilateral or multilateral cooperation is frequently a bottleneck. It is a demanding process to start and to conclude a negotiation process, in particular when there are significant conflicts that have to be solved underway.

In some cases authorities responsible for management of transboundary waters are not strong enough and/or do not have the mandate to develop a good cooperation.

¹⁴ Other pilot projects on the rivers Bug (Belarus, Poland, Ukraine) and Latoriza/Uhz (Slovakia, Ukraine), financed under the TACIS programme, are in their final stage and will be completed by 2003.

Monitoring programmes are often a weak point in the water management process. Data available are insufficient, not reliable and not harmonized between countries, impeding the definition of strategies for the improvement of water management. Shortage of information, and lack of exchange of information between countries and to the public are difficult issues in the present situation. Furthermore, the lack of public participation is a very weak link.

6. Recommendations for further development of cooperation on transboundary waters

Cooperation on transboundary waters cannot be seen as a task separate from other national and international tasks of authorities responsible for water management. In the development and implementation of cooperation on transboundary waters, prioritisation and cost-efficiency are factors that should be taken into account. The allocation of resources should reflect an in-depth analysis and clear, agreed joint targets. There are instances where cooperation on several shared water basins is made within the framework of one agreement (e.g. agreement between the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan), which is one approach towards making cooperation more efficient.

A fully integrated management of water resources, where the interests of different sectors as well as ecosystems are taken account of, should be applied. The water basin should be used as the framework of cooperation.

Experience shows that it is positive to adopt a step-by-step approach in the development of cooperation. This approach contributes to the establishment of mutual confidence, and to an active prioritisation of what would be the most important issues to focus on, within the available resources.

To take advantage of achievements of cooperative work and reach the objective of the regional agreements, it is recommended that NIS as a priority ratify and implement the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and its Protocols on Water and Health and Civil Liability, the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, as well as the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. An overview of the ratification status of NIS is given in Annex 6. The ratification of the Conventions and their Protocols is also important to show commitment to international cooperation and build trust in the international community, including donors. In the following the principal components of cooperation on transboundary waters are accounted for. The overall recommendation is that all these components, in case they have not yet been developed, should be developed in the river basins that are found in Annex 1. Establishment of River Basin Agreements (6.1) and establishment of Joint Bodies (6.2) should be seen as a first priority.

6.1 Legal and regulatory framework and its implementation

In accordance with the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health, Riparian Parties - on the basis of equality and reciprocity - are recommended to draw up bilateral or multilateral river basin agreements or other arrangements, where these do not yet exist, or adapt existing ones, where necessary, to eliminate the contradictions with the basic principles of these legal instruments and to define their mutual relations and conduct regarding the aims of these instruments. It would be appropriate to reflect the relevant

obligations of Global and Regional Conventions in the river basin agreements. Where a river basin includes both countries of the NIS region and EU accession countries, the drawing up of the agreements should take into account, as appropriate, the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.

Attention should be given to drawing up/developing existing agreements in the following river basins:

- ✓ Amu Darya, shared by Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan;
- ✓ Syr Darya, shared by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan;
- ✓ Zeravshan, shared by Uzbekistan and Tajikistan;
- ✓ Kura, shared by Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran;
- ✓ Samur, shared by Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation;
- ✓ Psou, shared by the Russian Federation and Georgia;
- ✓ Bug, shared by Poland, Ukraine and Belarus, no agreement exists between Belarus and Poland;
- ✓ Daugava/Zapadnaya Dvina, shared by the Russian Federation, Belarus and Latvia, no agreement exists between Belarus and Latvia; and
- ✓ Nemunas, shared by the Russian Federation, Belarus and Lithuania, no agreement exists between Belarus and Lithuania.

The establishment of river basin conventions on the Dnieper and Dnestr would be of value for the further development of cooperation, also as this might give the cooperation a higher political status.

A dialogue and information exchange should be established between China and the Russian Federation on the Irtysh River.

There is also a need to formalise cooperation of smaller rivers, for example in the Fergana Valley of Central Asia and smaller rivers shared by Turkmenistan and Iran.

It is of particular importance to revise existing water basin agreements in Central Asia, and negotiate and agree on agreement(s) in the Caucasian States. It is a weakness of some existing agreements and cooperation (for example in Central Asia) that water quality and protection of ecosystems is not seen as a central issue, and is frequently not even considered.

All water basin agreements should define mutual relations and conduct of the countries sharing the basin regarding integrated water resources management and water-related diseases. They should define duties of the riparian countries with regard to unilaterally planned water utilization, procedures for transboundary environmental impact assessment and responsibilities in case of floods, drought or emergency situations. It should provide consultation arrangements and operational mechanisms to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact including identification of pollution sources, water pollution abatement, monitoring of water quality, health risks and water-related disease, public information and participation, liability regime for damage, and dispute settlement. Recommendations and guidelines, adopted by the Parties to the Convention, could provide further guidance on the

drawing up of sub-regional agreements and the implementation of regional environmental conventions and protocols.

The establishment of agreements facilitates further development of cooperation. Revision, adaptation and further development of the agreement are made easier if a framework for cooperation and dialogue is in place. The Finnish-Russian agreement¹⁵ is a successful example where the scope of cooperation has been progressively extended.

Cooperation should also aim at harmonizing national water policies, and in particular the norms and standards for water in the national legislation between countries sharing water basins. In the longer term, it would be an option for countries to move towards the norms and standards shared by the EU countries.

6.2 Establishment and strengthening of institutions

National institutions

The coordination of different institutions dealing with water management is of utmost importance. Gaps and overlaps in responsibility between institutions should be removed, and proper coordination mechanisms be established.

A specific national authority should have the overall responsibility for the management of transboundary waters. This authority should involve different stakeholders and sectors in the development and implementation of the cooperation. The framework of the bilateral or multilateral cooperation should facilitate local cooperation on water between countries.

To be effective, institutions should have adequate human resources; sufficient financial resources; clear jurisdictional boundaries and appropriate powers; and a broad stakeholder involvement.

Joint bodies

Agreements or other arrangements shall provide for the establishment of joint bodies. A joint body is any bilateral or multilateral commission or other appropriate institutional arrangements for cooperation between the Riparian Parties, such as meetings of Plenipotentiaries. To deal with specific issues of cooperation, working groups could be established under the joint bodies.

In Annex 3, the status with regard to the establishment of joint bodies in the different river basins/lakes is accounted for. There is an immediate need to develop the existing joint bodies (ICWC, BVOs), responsible for the rivers Syr Darya and Amu Darya.

It should be emphasised that, if there are different joint bodies in the same river basin, institutional and administrative arrangements should be made for cooperation between these joint bodies. Similarly, cooperation among joint bodies established for the protection of inland waters and the protection of the marine environment should be established.

¹⁵ Annex 3, Agreement 4.

Staff of joint bodies should have a broad competence, including inland water and groundwater management, technical and legal issues.

There is a need for capacity building and exchange of experience and information between different river basins on issues such as regulatory, scientific, methodological and other aspects of integrated management of transboundary rivers and transboundary cooperation, as well as practical results achieved in this field.

To take advantage of the considerable regional experience and expertise, it is proposed to establish a network of experts and decision makers for the cross-fertilization between the different bodies acting in the region and, at the same time, to allow transfer of capacity from successful institutions from outside the region.¹⁶

Institutional and administrative arrangements for consultations and mutual assistance

In critical situations, such as accidental pollution of transboundary waters, floods and droughts, the Riparian Parties should provide mutual assistance upon request. Mutual assistance should also be provided in responding to outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease and significant threats of such outbreaks and incidents, especially from water-pollution incidents or extreme weather events. Consultations shall be held between the countries in the river basin, on the basis of reciprocity, good faith and good-neighbourliness, at the request of any such country. Institutional and administrative arrangements should be made among the riparian countries that are supportive of conducting consultations and providing assistance. These procedures should include:

- ✓ The direction, control, coordination and supervision of assistance;
- ✓ Local facilities and services to be rendered by the Party requesting assistance, including, where necessary, the facilitation of border-crossing formalities;
- ✓ Arrangements for holding harmless, indemnifying and/or compensating the assisting Party and/or its personnel, as well as for transit through territories of third Parties, where necessary;
- ✓ Reimbursement of assistance services.

Positive experiences from joint management on accidental pollution and flooding can be drawn from the Ukraine-Russian cooperation on the river Severskij Donets.

¹⁶ This could be achieved through a series of workshops, each focusing on specific aspects of cooperation (e.g. legal, regulatory and institutional framework; joint monitoring and assessment, including exchange of information, information systems, early warning and alarm systems; pollution prevention, control and reduction; allocation of water resources and sustainable use of water; river basin management plans and relation with the EU Water Framework Directive - integrated water resources management including the ecosystem approach, environmental objectives and public participation; relation and policy integration with regional seas; flood prevention and flood protection). During the workshops, the situation in the different river basins and the level and development of cooperation related to the theme should be analyzed, participants be brought to review their approach and propose solutions. As an outcome, general recommendations for the region, as well as specific recommendations for specific river basins should be drawn and deadlines for their implementation set.

6.3 Monitoring and assessment

A fundamental feature of transboundary cooperation is the design and establishment of joint monitoring and assessment programmes. This process requires countries to define common information needs on the basis of their water management policies, and thereafter to design and operate monitoring programmes, agree on assessment strategies and review their water management strategies on the basis of the assessment results. Effective monitoring programmes should include exchange of harmonized data and information.

In the design of the monitoring programmes the need of integrated assessment should be taken into account. Cost-effectiveness and a stepwise approach are also important.

Experience already available in this field, such as the work developed by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the UNECE Water Convention¹⁷ or the TACIS funded pilot projects (see footnote 14), should be used.

6.4 Access to information and public participation

With a few exceptions, such as the cooperation between Estonia and the Russian Federation on the Lake Peipsi/Narva basin, on-going cooperation on transboundary waters in the NIS do not take measures to involve the public properly. It is a challenge to significantly improve this situation.

Countries should enhance public participation, also at the transboundary level, by establishing specific procedures, including communication strategies, and by supporting the formation and activities of NGO associations, on the basis of transparent and reasonable criteria. Increased use of Internet would facilitate an efficient distribution of information. An effective means to promote distribution of information on transboundary waters, to the public and to the experts in the field, would be to establish an international journal on transboundary water issues, also available on the Internet.

The involvement of the public should receive particular attention in designing monitoring and assessment programmes, for environmental impact assessments, as well as organization of institutions and promotion of compliance.

Also the development and implementation of international documents (e.g. water management and contingency plans) and response measures should be open to public participation. Riparian States are encouraged to provide for participations of all stakeholders in the preparation and development of agreements, and NGOs should be invited to participate in intergovernmental negotiation meetings and comment on draft texts. Due account should be taken of such input.

Involvement of water users associations and NGOs, e.g. as non-voting participants in meetings and other activities of competent authorities, will enhance the quality and the implementation of policies for sustainable integrated water management.

¹⁷ See also the "Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Waters" of the UNECE Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment.

6.5 River basin management planning

Development of river basin management planning, including decision-support systems and integration of land and water management (concerted action plans), comes at a stage where the cooperation within a river basin has developed significantly. Among issues that should be prioritised at this stage of cooperation are:

- ✓ Joint targets for the standards and levels of performance that need to be achieved or maintained for a high level of protection against transboundary impact and water-related disease;
- ✓ Joint or coordinated water-management plans for the purpose of preventing, controlling and reducing any transboundary impacts;
- ✓ Joint or coordinated systems for surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities as part of, or to complement, the national systems for the purpose of responding to outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease and significant threats of such outbreaks and incidents, especially from water-pollution incidents or extreme weather events;
- ✓ Agreed ways and means to jointly carry out environmental impact assessments of different economic development strategies and sectoral policies, plans, programmes and legislative proposals that have an impact on the water environment in river basins.

6.6 Demonstration projects

In many cases, the most difficult step is initiating the cooperation, establishing a transboundary relation and building mutual trust. A useful tool to establish and strengthen cooperation are specific demonstration projects with clear terms of references, clear implementations responsibilities and time schedule. These projects should be designed to tackle specific common issues, such as flood prevention and flood protection, stress on small transboundary watercourses, etc.

6.7 Recommendations for development of projects co-funded by donors

In the present economic situation, funding from donors is of significant importance to support development of cooperation on transboundary waters. To improve chances of attracting funding and to make sure that projects funding is used efficiently, receiving countries and donors should consider the following recommendations:

- ✓ Before initiating any projects to support the transboundary cooperation in a river basin a thorough analysis of the situation in the basin is recommended.
- ✓ Before starting projects it should be ensured that there is political commitment, clear mandates for the project participants, access to data and a constructive approach towards interagency cooperation among project partners.
- ✓ In case of political difficulties projects with a more technical focus might be the most efficient to initiate.

- ✓ External support is often best directed to complement the technical work that the management institution requires to develop policy and provide guidance on specific issues.
- ✓ Donors must not take over the responsibility for the cooperation, but restrict themselves to providing assistance for initiatives that promote the cooperation.
- ✓ The countries sharing the water basin should fund basic cooperation on transboundary waters. Outside funding should be focused on the development of the cooperation.
- ✓ Building capacity is generally of fundamental importance, in particular if there are capacity imbalances among the cooperating partners.
- ✓ National capacities should be used as much as possible in the implementation of projects.
- ✓ It could be useful to arrange a meeting of representatives of donors working in the NIS region for coordination of their activities on transboundary water cooperation. If such a meeting would take place the NIS should prepare their priorities in transboundary water cooperation.

7. Mechanisms for implementation and follow-up

This document and additional material from the workshop “Transboundary Water Cooperation in the newly independent States” (Moscow, 31 March - 1 April 2003) will serve as a background for the further work on transboundary waters within the EU Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development. Donors and NIS are invited to use this material in the development of future activities.

It is proposed that this document and its Annexes 1 and 3 are used to follow the progress in development of cooperation on transboundary rivers. The UNECE and UNEP/ROE Secretariat may update these Annexes, in collaboration with the NIS and report the progress to the fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and to the following Ministerial Conference of the Environment for Europe-process.

Annex 1**TRANSBOUNDARY WATER BASINS AND RELEVANT AGREEMENTS IN THE NIS**

N.	Transboundary river / lake	Countries concerned	Length of river, km	Area of water basin / lake, 10³ km²	Water discharge, m³/s	Reference to Agreements (Annex 3)
1	River Pasvik (Paatsojoki)	Russian Federation / Norway / Finland		18,3	172-195	2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9
2	River Kem	Russian Federation / Finland	191	27,7	275	4
3	River Vuoksa	Russian Federation / Finland	156	52,4	600	4, 7, 14
4	River Tuloma	Russian Federation / Finland	64	6,25	241	4
5	River Narva	Russian Federation / Estonia	77	56,2	41,5	32
6	Lake system Chudskoje / Peipsi – Pskovskoje	Russian Federation / Estonia		3,55		32
7	River Neman / Nemunas	Russian Federation / Lithuania Belarus / Lithuania	937	98,2	678	
8	River Dnieper	Russian Federation / Belarus Belarus / Ukraine Ukraine / Russian Federation	2200	504	1670	37, 41 40 19
9	River West Dvina (Daugava)	Russian Federation / Belarus Belarus / Latvia	1020	87,9	700	37, 41
10	River Pripjat	Belarus / Ukraine	775	11,4	460	40
11	River Bug	Belarus / Poland Ukraine / Poland	831	73,5		- 29
12	River Tisza	Ukraine / Slovakia Ukraine / Hungary	966	157	810	11, 21, 22 11, 22, 36

N.	Transboundary river / lake	Countries concerned	Length of river, km	Area of water basin / lake, 10 ³ km ²	Water discharge, m ³ /s	Reference to Agreements (Annex 3)
13	River Prut	Ukraine / Romania Republic of Moldova / Romania Ukraine / Republic of Moldova	967	27,5	80	22, 34 10 21, 22
14	River Dnestr	Ukraine / Republic of Moldova	1352	72,1	310	22, 23
15	River Danube	Ukraine / Hungary Ukraine / Republic of Moldova	2850	817	6430	22, 36 22, 23
16	River Seversky Donets	Ukraine / Russian Federation	1053	98,9	190	19
17	River Psou	Russian Federation / Georgia		0,42	17,3	
18	River Alazani	Georgia / Azerbaijan	351	10,8	98	
19	River Iori	Georgia / Azerbaijan	320	4,65		
20	River Kura	Georgia / Azerbaijan Georgia / Turkey	1364	188	575	33 ¹⁸
21	River Choroh (Choroki)	Georgia / Turkey	438	22	285	1
22	River Samur	Azerbaijan / Russian Federation	213	7,33	75	
23	River Araks	Azerbaijan / Iran Armenia / Turkey	1072	102	285	1 1
24	River Bolshoy Uzen'	Russian Federation / Kazakhstan	650	15,6		18
25	River Maliy Uzen'	Russian Federation / Kazakhstan	638	18,2		18
26	River Irtish	Russian Federation / Kazakhstan	4248	1643	2830	18
27	River Ural	Russian Federation / Kazakhstan	248	231	400	18, 27

¹⁸ Memorandum of Understanding (1997): only monitoring and assessment.

N.	Transboundary river / lake	Countries concerned	Length of river, km	Area of water basin / lake, 10 ³ km ²	Water discharge, m ³ /s	Reference to Agreements (Annex 3)
28	River Tobol	Russian Federation / Kazakhstan	1591	426	805	18, 28
29	River Ishim	Russian Federation / Kazakhstan	2450	177	56,3	18, 31
30	River Volga ¹⁹	Russian Federation / Kazakhstan	*	*	*	18
31	River Chu	Kazakhstan / Kyrgyzstan	1067	6265	70	38
32	River Talas	Kazakhstan / Kyrgyzstan	661	52,7		38
33	River Syr Darya	Kazakhstan / Kyrgyzstan / Uzbekistan / Tajikistan / Turkmenistan Kyrgyzstan / Uzbekistan	2212 (3019)	219	446-703	15, 16 30
34	River Amu Darya	Kazakhstan / Kyrgyzstan / Uzbekistan / Tajikistan / Turkmenistan Uzbekistan / Turkmenistan	1415	309	2000(?)	15, 17 25
35	River Zerafshan	Uzbekistan / Tajikistan	877	1767	* ²⁰	15
36	River Murgab	Turkmenistan / Afghanistan	978	46,9	52	
37	River Atrek	Turkmenistan / Iran	669	27,3		
38	River Tejen (Gerirud)	Turkmenistan / Iran	1150	70,6	30 ²¹	
39	River Pjanj	Tajikistan / Afghanistan	971	114	1000	
40	River Black Irtish (Irtish)	Kazakhstan / People's Republic of China				39
41	River Ili	Kazakhstan / People's Republic of China	1001	140	329	39
42	River Selenga	Russian Federation / Mongolia	1024	447	> 900	24
43	River Amur	Russian Federation / People's Republic of China	2824 (4480) ²²	1855	10900	13, 20, 35

¹⁹ Only east branches of Volga delta.

²⁰ Total discharge used for irrigation.

²¹ Near Polekhatum.

²² From river head of Argun'.

N.	Transboundary river / lake	Countries concerned	Length of river, km	Area of water basin / lake, 10 ³ km ²	Water discharge, m ³ /s	Reference to Agreements (Annex 3)
44	River Argun'	Russian Federation / People's Republic of China	1620	164	340	13
45	River Ussury	Russian Federation / People's Republic of China	897	193	1200	20
46	Lake Khanka	Russian Federation / People's Republic of China		4,19		26
47	River Tumannaya (Tumin'tszjan / Tumangan)	Russian Federation / Korean People's Democratic Republic	521	41,2		

Annex 2

MAP OF TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS AND LAKES IN THE NIS



Annex 3

Bilateral and multilateral agreements in the NIS on transboundary waters

ANNEX 3. Bilateral and multilateral agreements in the NIS on transboundary waters

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
1	CONVENTION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING WATER USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Irrigation, water supply, regulating	Kura-Araks, Coruh	Surface waters which form or cross the frontiers between Armenia and Turkey as well as Georgia and Turkey, respectively	Armenia (USSR), Turkey as well as Georgia (USSR), Turkey	Signed 08.01.1927 at Kars; entered into force 26.06.1928 ²³	Joint Commissions are being set up between Armenia and Turkey as well as Georgia and Turkey, respectively	ECE/ ENVWA/32
2	AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON THE UTILIZATION OF WATER POWER ON THE PASVIK (PAATSO) RIVER	Hydropower production	Pasvik	River Pasvik in the area of the State frontier	Norway, Russian Federation (USSR)	Signed 18.12.1957 at Oslo; entered into force 27.06.1958	No commission established	ECE/ ENVWA/32

²³ Three protocols concerning detailed implementation of the convention signed 01.09.1953

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
3	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND CONCERNING THE REGULATING THE LAKE INARY BY MEANS OF THE KAITAKOSKI HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION AND DAM	Regulating; water supply; hydropower production	Pasvik (Paatsojoki)	Lake Inary, River Pasvik (Paatsojoki)	Russian Federation (USSR), Norway, Finland	Signed 29.04.1959 in Moscow; entered into force the same date	Commissioners appointed by the relevant ministries of the Contracting Parties	ECE/ENVWA/32/Add.1
4	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND CONCERNING FRONTIER WATER SYSTEMS ²⁴	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources; water supply, regulating, hydraulic development	Pasvik, Tuloma, Kem', Olanga, Oulu, Vuoksa	All frontier waters, including lakes, rivers and brooks	Russian Federation (USSR), Finland	Signed 24.04.1964, at Helsinki; entered into force 06.05.1965	Joint Commission on the Utilization of Frontier Waters	Russian Federation

²⁴ Agreement is in force due to the Protocol between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Finland concerning inventory making of legislative background bilateral Russian-Finnish relations (Helsinki, 11.07.1992, item 40 of Annex I to the Protocol)

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
5	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING THE USE OF WATER RESOURCES IN FROMTIER WATERS	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources, regulating, hydraulic development, water supply, flood, irrigation erosion control	Neman, Pregel, Wisla	All transboundary waters which form or cross the frontiers between USSR (Belarus, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Ukraine) and Poland	USSR (Belarus, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Ukraine) and Poland	Signed 17.07.1964 at Warsaw; entered into force 16.02.1965	Joint Commissions are being set up between Belarus and Poland, Lithuania and Poland, Russian Federation and Poland, Ukraine and Poland, respectively	ECE/ ENVWA/32

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
6	AGREEMENT REGULATING THE FISHING AND CONSERVING THE FISH STOCKS IN THE GREENSE JAKOB RIVER (VORIEMA) AND PASVIK RIVER (PATSOJOKI)	Fishery	Jakobs, Pasvik	River Jakobs (Voriema), River Pasvik (Paatsojoki)	Norway, USSR (Russian Federation)	Signed 07.12.1971 at Oslo	-	ECE/ ENVWA/32
7	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF FINLAND CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC POWER IN THE PART OF THE VUOKSA RIVER BOUNDED BY THE IMATRA AND SVETLOGORSK HYDROELECTRIC STATIONS ²⁵	Hydropower production	Vuoksa	Sub-basin of the River Vuoksa between the hydroelectric power stations of Imatra and Svetlogorsk	Russian Federation (USSR), Finland	Signed 12.07.1972, at Helsinki; entered into force 07.02.1973 ²⁶	Joint Commission	Russian Federation

²⁵ Agreement is in force due to the Protocol between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Finland concerning inventory making of legislative background bilateral Russian-Finnish relations (Helsinki, 11.07.1992, item 43 of Annex I to the Protocol).

²⁶ Amendment signed 07.09.1983.

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
8	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING WATER ABSTRACTION BY NORWAY FROM THE UPPER RESERVOIR OF THE BORISOGLEBSK HYDROPOWER PLANT AT THE TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER PASVIK	Water supply	Pasvik	Reservoir of the Borisoglebsk Hydropower Plant on the River Pasvik	Norway, USSR (Russian Federation)	Signed and entered into force 20.05.1976	No commission established	ECE/ ENVWA/32
9	PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON THE PARTICIPATION OF SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS IN PISCICULTURE MEASURES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE FISH STOCKS IN LAKE INARY	Fishery	Pasvik	Lake Inary	Finland, USSR (Russian Federation)	Signed 14.12.1983 in Moscow	-	ECE/ ENVWA/32

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
10	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources, flood, hydropower production	Danube	River Prut and its tributaries and transboundary watercourses and drain into the catchment area of River Tisza, respectively	USSR (Moldova, Ukraine), Romania	Signed 09.04.1986 in Moscow	Joint Commissions are being set up between Moldova and Romania as well as between Ukraine and Romania respectively	ECE/ ENVWA/32
11	AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE RIVER TISZA AND ITS TRIBUTARIES AGAINST POLLUTION	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources	Danube	River Tisza and its tributaries	Hungary, Romania, USSR (Ukraine), ChSSR (Slovakia), SFR Yugoslavia	Adopted 28.05.1986 at Seged	International commission is being set up	Russian Federation
12	TREATY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON WATER MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS IN THE FROMTIER REGION	Regulating, water management of transboundary waters	Danube	All surface waters which form or cross the frontiers between the two States	Hungary, USSR (Ukraine)	Signed 22.06.1986; Entered into force 20.11.1986	Joint commission is being set up	ECE/ ENVWA/32

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
13	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON WATER MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Management of transboundary waters	Amur	Rivers Amur and Argun' upstream of Khabarovsk where they form the frontier between the two States	Russian Federation, People's Republic of China	Signed 23.10.1986	Government Plenipotentiaries	ECE/ ENVWA/32/ Add.1
14	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND ON THE RULES OF REGULATING THE LAKE SAIMAA AND THE VUOKSA RIVER ²⁷	Regulating	Vuoksa	River Vuoksa, Lake Saimaa	Russian Federation (USSR), Finland	Signed 26.10.1989 at Helsinki	Joint Commission	Russian Federation

²⁷ Agreement is in force due to the Protocol between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Finland concerning inventory making of legislative background bilateral Russian-Finnish relations (Helsinki, 11.07.1992, item 49 of Annex I to the Protocol)

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
15	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN, REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN AND TURKMENISTAN ON COOPERATION IN JOINT MANAGEMENT OF USE AND PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES OF INTERSTATE SOURCES	Regulating; qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources; water supply, irrigation;	Basins of Rivers Amu Darya, Sir Darya, Aral Sea	All transboundary watercourses and lakes between Parties of the Agreement, basin of the Aral Sea	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan	Signed 18.02.1992, at Almaty; entered into force on the same date	Inter-State Coordination Water-management Commission	Tajikistan
16	STATUS OF THE BASIN WATER-MANAGEMENT JOINT COMPANY "AMU DARYA"	Regulating of the use of waters in the basin of Amu Darya	Amu Darya	Rivers, lakes interstate channels, hydro-technical installations in basin of Amu Darya	Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	Signed 06.04.1992, at Ashgabat; entered into force the same date	Head of the Joint Company appointed by Inter-State Coordination Water-management Commission	Turkmenistan

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
17	STATUS OF THE BASIN WATER-MANAGEMENT JOINT COMPANY "SYR DARYA"	Regulating of the use of waters in the basin of Syr Darya	Syr Darya	Rivers, lakes interstate channels, hydro-technical installations in basin of Syr Darya	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan	Signed 06.04.1992, at Ashgabat; entered into force the same date	Head of the Joint Company appointed by Inter-State Coordination Water-management Commission	Tajikistan
18	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN CONCERNING THE USE AND PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS ²⁸	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources; water supply, irrigation; floods; regulating	Ob, Ural, Volga	All surface waters and groundwaters which form or cross the frontier between the two States, including transboundary waters in the catchment areas of the Rivers Ishim, Irtish, Ural, Tobol and Volga (eastern part of the delta)	Kazakhstan, Russian Federation	Signed 27.08.1992 at Orenburg; entered into force on the same date	Joint Russian-Kazakhstan Commission on Transboundary Waters	Russian Federation

²⁸ Protocol Decision on prolongation of this Agreement was made in Pavlodar on 26.06.1997.

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
19	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONCERNING THE JOINT USE AND PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources, regulating, water supply, flood and other water management activities	Dnieper, Don	Transboundary sections of all surface waters and groundwaters in the catchment area of the River Desna and the River Seversky Donets	Ukraine, Russian Federation	Signed 19.10.1992 at Kiev; entered into force on the same date	Government Plenipotentiaries	Russian Federation
20	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING PROTECTION, REGULATION AND REPRODUCTION OF LIVING WATER RESOURCES IN FRONTIER RIVERS AMUR AND USSURY	Management of living water resources	Amur, Ussury	River Amur (lower of confluence of Rivers Argun' and Shilka), River Ussury (lower of confluence with River Sungacha) and surrounded reservoirs	Russian Federation, People's Republic of China	Signed 27.05.1994 at Beijing	Joint Commission	Russian Federation

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
21	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SLOVAK REPUBLIC ON THE QUESTIONS OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN FRONTIER WATERS	Regulating, water supply	Tisza	All transboundary waters which form or cross the frontier between the two States, including rivers Uzg and Latoritsa	Ukraine, Slovakia	Signed 14.06.1994 in Bratislava	Joint Commission	Ukraine
22	CONVENTION ON COOPERATION FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE RIVER DANUBE	Sustainable and equitable water management, including the conservation, improvement and rational use of waters; reduction of accident hazards; regulating; floods; hydropower production; water transfer and withdrawal	Danube	Surface waters and groundwaters in the catchment area of the River Danube located in those Danubian States that share at least 2000 km ² of the total hydrological the catchment area	Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, European Union	Signed 29.06.1994 at Sofia	International commission for the Protection of the Danube River	ECE/ ENVWA/32/ Add.1

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
23	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE ON THE JOINT USE AND PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources, regulating, water supply, flood and other water management activities	Dnestr, Danube	All surface waters and groundwaters which form or cross the frontier between the two States	Republic of Moldova, Ukraine	Signed 23.11.1994 at Kishinev	Meeting of Government Plenipotentiaries	ECE/ ENVWA/32/ Add.1
24	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources	Amur, Jenissey, Lake Baikal	All surface waters and groundwaters which form or cross the frontier between the two States, including Rivers Onon, Selenga and waters draining into the River Jenissey	Russian Federation, Mongolia	Signed 11.02.1995 at Ulan-Bator	Meeting of Government Plenipotentiaries	Russian Federation
25	AGREEMENT BETWEEN TURKMENISTAN AND REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN ON COOPERATION ON QUESTIONS OF WATER MANAGEMENT	Regulating of water use	Amu Darya	Basin of river Amu Darya	Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Signed 16.01.1996, in Chartzjou	BWO Amu Darya	Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
26	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING RESERVE "LAKE KHANKA"	Establishment the lake reserve, biodiversity protection, support cooperation in nature management and monitoring of ecosystems, environmental education	Amur	Lake Khanka	Russian Federation, People's Republic of China	Signed 25.04.1996 at Beijing	Joint Russian-Chinese Commission	Russian Federation
27	PROTOCOL ON JOINT USE AND PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER BODIES, COORDINATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN BASIN OF RIVER URAL	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources; water supply, irrigation; floods; regulating	Ural	Rivers Ural, Chagan, Or', Ilek, Khobda	Russian Federation, Kazakhstan	Signed 20.06.1996, at Kurgan	Joint Working Group on Basin of River Ural	Russian Federation
28	PROTOCOL ON JOINT USE AND PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER BODIES, COORDINATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN BASIN OF RIVER TOBOL	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources; water supply, irrigation; floods; regulating	Tobol	Rivers Tobol, Sintashti, Ayat, Upper-Tobol reservoir, Karamatarsky reservoir	Russian Federation, Kazakhstan	Signed 20.06.1996, at Kurgan	Joint Working Group on Basin of River Tobol	Russian Federation

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
29	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF POLAND ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN FRONTIER WATERS	Irrigation, regulating, water supply	Zapadni Bug, Visla	All transboundary waters which form or cross the frontier between the two States	Ukraine, Poland	Signed 10.10.1996 in Kiev	Joint Commission	Ukraine
30	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF KYRGYZSTAN ON THE QUESTIONS OF USE WATER ENERGY RESOURCES OF NARYN SYR DARYA's HYDROPOWER STATIONS CASCADE IN 1997	Regulating of use waters of Syr Darya taking in mind providing for vegetation watering	Syr Darya	Basin of river Syr Darya	Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan	Signed 25.12.1996 in Tashkent	BWO Syr Darya	Uzbekistan

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
31	PROTOCOL ON JOINT USE AND PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER BODIES, COORDINATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN BASIN OF RIVER ISHIM	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources; water supply, irrigation; floods; regulating	Ishim	River Ishim, Sergeevskiy and Petropavlovsky water-engineering systems	Russian Federation, Kazakhstan	Signed 26.06.1997, at Pavlodar	Joint Working Group on Basin of River Ishim	Russian Federation
32	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA CONCERNING COOPERATION IN PROTECTION AND RATIONAL USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Organizing cooperation in protection and rational use of transboundary waters and their ecosystems	Narva	Transboundary water of basin River Narva and Lake Pskovsko-Chudskoje	Russian Federation, Estonia	Signed 20.08.1997 at Moscow	Joint Commission	Russian Federation

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
33	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF GEORGIA AND THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC ON COLLABORATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROJECT ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT IN THE MTKVARI / KURA RIVER BASIN	Harmonization of water quality monitoring and assessment	Mtkvary / Kura	Basin of River Mtkvary / Kura	Georgia, Azerbaijan	Signed 16.09.1997	Regular meetings of representatives of Parties	Azerbaijan
34	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT	Irrigation, water supply, regulating	Danube, Tisza, Prut, Siret	All surface waters which form or cross the boundary between Romania and Ukraine	Romania, Ukraine	Signed 30.09.1997 at Galati	Meeting of Government plenipotentiaries	Ukraine

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
35	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING GUIDANCE OF JOINT ECONOMIC USE OF SEPARATE ISLANDS AND SURROUNDING WATER AREAS IN FRONTIER RIVERS	Regulation of economy activity on sub-frontier areas	Amur	Islands of Amur and surrounding water areas	Russian Federation, People's Republic of China	Signed 10.11.1997 at Beijing	No joint body	Russian Federation
36	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HUNGARY REPUBLIC ON THE QUESTIONS OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN FRONTIER WATERS	Water supply, regulating	Tisza	All surface waters which form or cross the boundary between Ukraine and Hungary	Ukraine, Hungary	Signed 11.1.1997 at Budapest	Meeting of Government plenipotentiaries	Ukraine

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
37	AGREEMENT ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERACTION IN RATIONAL USE AND PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER BODIES OF THE STATES – PARTICIPANTS OF THE CIS	Protection of surface waters and groundwaters, determination of joint principles for use and distribution of water resources	Transboundary rivers basin shared by the States members of the Agreement; in March 2003: Dnieper, West Dvina	In March 2003 all transboundary waters of Belarus and Russian Federation, including Rivers Dnieper, West Dvina, Sozg	Belarus, Russian Federation, Tajikistan	Signed 11.09.1998 at Moscow entered into force on 06.06.2002	Joint bodies	Secretariat of the CIS
38	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC KAZAKHSTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF KYRGYZ REPUBLIC ON USE INTERSTATE WATER MANAGEMENT'S INSTALLATIONS ON RIVERS CHU AND TALAS	Regulating of use water management's installations	Chu, Talas	Rivers Chu, Talas and water reservoirs on these rivers	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	Signed 21.01.2000 in Astana entered into force 16.04.2002	-	Kazakhstan

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
39	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC KAZAKHSTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING COOPERATION IN USE AND PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources	Black Irtysh (Irtysh), Ili	All surface waters which form or cross the frontiers between the two States, including rivers Black Irtysh (Irtysh) and Ili	Kazakhstan, People's Republic of China	Signed 12.09.2001 in Astana	Joint Commission	Kazakhstan
40	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC BELARUS AND THE CABINET MINISTERS OF UKRAINE CONCERNING JOINT USE AND PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Water research, Inter-basin water transfer, protection surface waters and ground waters, regulating, navigation	Dnieper, Pripjat	All transboundary waters, including Rivers Dnieper, Pripjat, Sozg	Belarus, Ukraine	Signed 16.10.2001 at Kiev	Meeting of Government Plenipotentiaries	Belarus

N.	Title of agreement	Field of application	River basin	Area of application	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature	Joint body	Source of information
41	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS CONCERNING COOPERATION IN PROTECTION AND RATIONAL USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Protection of water bodies, hydro-technical installations; water research, public informing, support local cooperation	Dnieper, West Dvina	All transboundary waters, including Rivers Dnieper, West Dvina, Sozg	Russian Federation, Belarus	Signed 24.05.2002 at Minsk	Joint Commission	Russian Federation
42	DECISION MADE BY THE HEADS OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES ON "MAIN DIRECTIONS OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR IMPROVING THE ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE ARAL SEA BASIN FOR THE PERIOD OF 2003-2010	Measures on complex water management, hydro-technical installations; solving of social-economic problems; development of legal background of interstate organisations	Rivers Amu Darja, Sir Darja, Aral Sea	All watercourses and lakes of the Parties of the Decision in basin of the Aral Sea	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Signed 06.10.2002 in Dushanbe	Existing joint bodies: Inter-State Coordination Water-management Commission of CA; Inter-State Commission for Sustainable development Inter-State Found for Saving the Aral Sea	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Annex 4**EXAMPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS IN THE NIS**

N.	Title of agreement	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature
1	AGREEMENT ON INTERACTION IN THE FIELD OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan	08.02.1992, Moscow
2	AGREEMENT ON JOINT ACTIONS FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS OF ARAL SEA AND NEAR-ARAL REGION, ENVIRONMENTAL NORMALIZATION AND ENSURING OF SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARAL REGION	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	26.03.1993, Kzil Orda
3	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA REPUBLIC ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	Russian Federation, People's Republic of China	27.05.1994, Beijing
4	ALMATY DECLARATION	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	28.02.1997, Almaty
5	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC KAZAKSHSTAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC KYRGYSTAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC TAJIKISTAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKMENISTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC UZBEKISTAN CONCERNING STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA (IFAS) AND ITS ORGANIZATIONS	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	29.05.1997, Tashkent
6	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC KAZAKSHSTAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC KYRGYSTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC UZBEKISTAN ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RATIONAL USE OF THE NATURE	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Uzbekistan	17.03.1998, Bishkek

N.	Title of agreement	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties	Date of agreement and place of signature
7	AGREEMENT ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	13.01.1999, Saratov
8	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	Russian Federation, Lithuania	29.06.1999, Moscow

Annex 5

**EXAMPLES OF DRAFT AGREEMENTS PROPOSED OR UNDER NEGOTIATION
IN THE NIS**

N.	Title of agreement	River basin	Signatories and/or Contracting Parties
1	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RATIONAL USE AND PROTECTION OF WATERS RESOURCES OF THE FRONTIER RIVER SAMUR	River Samur	Russian Federation, Azerbaijan
2	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BELARUS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF USE AND PROTECTION OF WATERS RESOURCES OF THE BASIN OF RIVER WEST DVINA (DAUGAVA)	River West Dvina (Daugava)	Russian Federation, Belarus, Latvia
3	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BELARUS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF USE AND PROTECTION OF WATERS RESOURCES OF THE BASIN OF RIVER NEMAN (NEMUNAS)	River Neman (Nemunas)	Russian Federation, Belarus, Lithuania
4	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PROTECTION AND RATIONAL USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS	Rivers Amur, Ussury, Argun'	Russian Federation, People's Republic of China
5	CONVEENTION REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, POLISH REPUBLIC AND UKRAINE CONCERNING CONSERVATION OF LANDSCAPE'S AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND RATIONAL USE OF NATURE RESOURCES OF THE BASIN OF RIVER DNESTR	River Dnestr	Republic of Moldova, Poland, Ukraine

Annex 6**PARTICIPATION OF NIS IN UNECE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS**

Countries	Date of ratification, accession, acceptance or approval				
	Water Convention	Protocol on Water and Health	Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment Convention	Industrial Accident Convention	Aarhus Convention
Armenia			21.02.1997	21.02.1997	01.08.2001
Azerbaijan	03.08.2000	09.01.2003	25.03.1999		23.03.2000
Belarus	29.05.2003			25.06.2003	09.03.2000
Georgia					11.04.2000
Kazakhstan	11.01.2001		11.01.2001	11.01.2001	11.01.2001
Kyrgyzstan			01.05.2001		01.05.2001
Republic of Moldova	04.01.1994		04.01.1994	04.01.1994	09.08.1999
Russian Federation	02.11.1993	31.12.1999		01.02.1994	
Tajikistan					17.07.2001
Turkmenistan					25.06.1999
Ukraine	08.10.1999	26.09.2003	20.07.1999		18.11.1999
Uzbekistan					