

Dear Chair!
Dear colleagues!

Russian Federation considers the Convention of the UN European Economic Commission on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes which entered into force on October, 6 1996, as a fundamental international legal instrument in the field of global transboundary water cooperation. Convention provides the timeproven framework for multilateral cooperation on rational use and protection of transboundary water resources. The provisions of the Convention and its legal instruments are fully reflected in the Russian Federation national water legislation.

They have served also as a basis for the development of the Russian Federation Water Strategy until 2020, Federal Programs "Development of water management complex of the Russian Federation" and "Protection of lake Baikal and the socio-economic development of Baikal natural area", other strategic planning documents related to water resources.

Russian Federation intends to strengthen the international standing of the Convention and its global status.

With best regards,
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