



# The Implementation Committee's mandate and its role in strengthening water diplomacy

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# The Implementation Committee: Nature, objective, principles

- **Legal basis:** Decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the MoP to the Convention (Rome, 28-30 Nov 2012)
- **Objective:** to **facilitate, promote and safeguard** the implementation and application and compliance with the Convention.
- **Nature:** simple, non-confrontational, non-adversarial, transparent, **supportive and cooperative in nature**, building on the distinctive collaborative spirit of the Convention.
- **12 meetings** held from 2013 till 2021



# Members

## Composition:

- Serve in their **personal capacity** and objectively, in the best interest of the Convention
- Recognized **expertise**, including legal and/or scientific and technical expertise
- Geographical distribution of membership and **diversity** of experience and expertise
- **Elected by the MoP** among candidates nominated by the Parties (Signatories and NGOs may propose candidates to Parties)

## Implementation Committee 2018-2021

- Attila Tanzi, Chair
- Kari Kinnunen
- Johan G. Lammers
- Stephen McCaffrey
- Anne Schulte-Wülwer-Leidig
- Ivan Zavadsky
- Dinara Ziganshina
- Martins Paporinskis
- Pedro Cunha Serra

# Functions

- Consider requests for **advice** (from a Party or Parties jointly on difficulties to implement)
- Consider self-submission (unable to comply fully) or Party-to-Party **submission** (affected by another Party's difficulties in implementing and/or complying with )
- Consider undertaking a Committee **initiative** (when it becomes aware of difficulties in the implementation or the possible non-compliance by a Party with the Convention, including from information received from the public)

The Committee may also :

- Examine **specific issues of implementation of and compliance** with the Convention at the request of the MoP
- Take **measures**, including recommendations, as appropriate
- Carry out **any other functions that may be assigned to it by the MoP**, incl. examination of general issues of implementation and compliance that may be of interest to all Parties.



# The IC's contribution to diplomacy: Unique advisory procedure

- Thanks to recognised expertise of the Committee members and possibility to seek the services of other experts and advisers, **the Committee provides a forum for the Parties to the Convention to get competent advice** for any request relating to specific issues concerning difficulties in implementing the Convention.
- Thanks to composition of the Committee and its unique advisory procedure, **the Committee allows the Parties (and non-Parties) to consider themselves as a collective of solution seekers** rather than defenders of individual interests or positions as well as work at **multi-level governance** context linking available mechanisms at global, basin and national levels.
- Thanks to its capacity to seek information from different sources, the Committee fulfill important **fact-finding role**.



# Advisory procedure in action: Montenegro & Albania

- In 2020 the Committee initiated advisory procedure in response to a request from Montenegro concerned about the possible transboundary impact of the planned construction of additional small hydropower plants on the Cijevna/Cem River in Albania. Albania had consented to participate in the procedure.
- The Committee: gathered information, held consultation sessions with the countries, took a two-track approach to facilitate information exchange & assist in setting up a joint monitoring & assessment framework; emphasized the appropriateness of a step-by-step approach from less complex towards more comprehensive issues
- The IC's advice accepted by both countries: establish a joint technical working group on "Monitoring & Assessment" and to develop and implement an information exchange protocol to operationalize their cooperation under the Convention and the 2018 Framework Agreement
- Follow-up: The IC members are available to assist in the implementation of the advice

# The IC's contribution to diplomacy: NGOs & Implementation

The Committee facilitates the **greater role for non-state actors**

- NGOs and other non-state actors can propose candidates to State Parties, submit documents, providing technical advice to the Committee
- The Committee has already considered information from the public, namely from a Kazakhstani NGO expressing concerns on difficulties between Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation in transboundary water cooperation in the Irtys River Basin, shared by the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, China and Mongolia

The Committee contributes to **better implementation** of the Convention

- Reporting under the Convention: by examining the need for reporting under the Convention together with WG on IWRM, by developing and revising the reporting template, by reviewing the reports submitted by the Parties and being involved in drafting the Guide to Reporting under the Convention
- Inputs to the work of expert and drafting groups under the Convention (e.g. Transboundary Water Allocation Guidelines)



# The IC promotes law & cooperation


- Supported the Secretariat in **answering questions** from countries interested in accession
- Promoted the implementation mechanism and its use by Parties and non-Parties through **communication efforts and specific events**
- Exchanged experiences with **other relevant bodies** that facilitates and support implementation of and compliance with other agreements (joint session with the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health)
- Facilitated exchange of experiences between **joint bodies** (Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission to Russian-speaking audience)



Сотрудничество Финляндии с Россией, Швецией и Норвегией по трансграничным водотокам







*The Implementation Committee plays a unique role in promoting transboundary cooperation and water diplomacy by making use of the power of **knowledge, persuasion and dialogue** in assisting countries to manage their shared waters in a sustainable and peaceful way.*

# Thank you!

The Implementation Committee can be contacted by email through the Convention's secretariat at [water.convention\(at\)un.org](mailto:water.convention@un.org).

Visit the Implementation Committee's website:  
[www.unece.org/env/water/implementation\\_committee](http://www.unece.org/env/water/implementation_committee)

