

Item 6 (b) Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation, and supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

Komlan Sangbana, Secretariat of the Water Convention, UNECE

Activities & achievements

- ***Basin-level projects supporting the development of agreements and strengthening of institutions***
 - Eastern Europe: support provided to cooperation on the Dniester River basin, Kura River Basin, Neman River Basin and Bug River Basin, Drin River Basin
 - West Africa: support provided to cooperation on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin
- ***Activities supporting regional cooperation***
 - Central Asia: ECE continues supporting the Central Asian region in building human and institutional capacity on the safe management of dams
 - Central Africa region: Support to Economic Community of Central African States-led initiative on the establishment of a new river basin organization between Cameroon, the Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea

Elaboration of a checklist on the development of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation

background



**Nur-sultan, 10-12
October 2018,**

Meeting of the Parties to
the Water Convention
adopts programme of
work for 2019-2021

**Programme of work
includes checklist**

Preparation of the first
draft annotated outline
(secretariat in
cooperation with several
partners)

**28-29 July 2020, Virtual
Workshop**

Tailored to support the
preparation of the
checklist and to gather
input from participants

**30 September-2 October,
15th meeting of the
WGIWRM**

Draft annotated outline
submitted for
consideration and review
by the Working Group

**27 Nov. 2020 - Present
Drafting group**

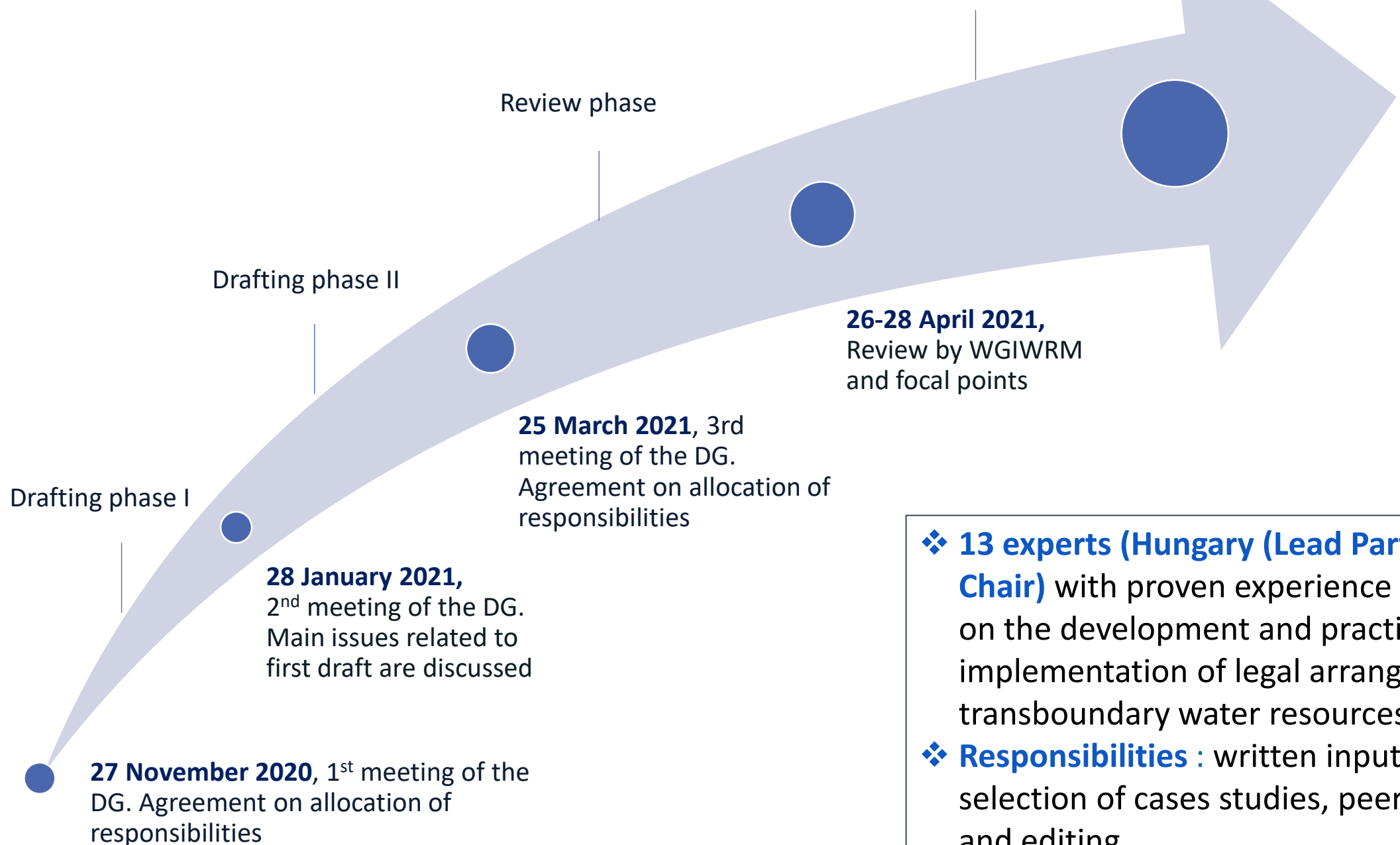
Formation of a drafting
group and development of
the text of the checklist

Checklist Development (Drafting Group)

Finalization phase

29 Sept – 1 Oct 2021

MOP of the Water Convention and submission of the Checklist



- ❖ **13 experts (Hungary (Lead Party) as Chair)** with proven experience in working on the development and practical implementation of legal arrangements for transboundary water resources.
- ❖ **Responsibilities** : written inputs, selection of cases studies, peer review and editing



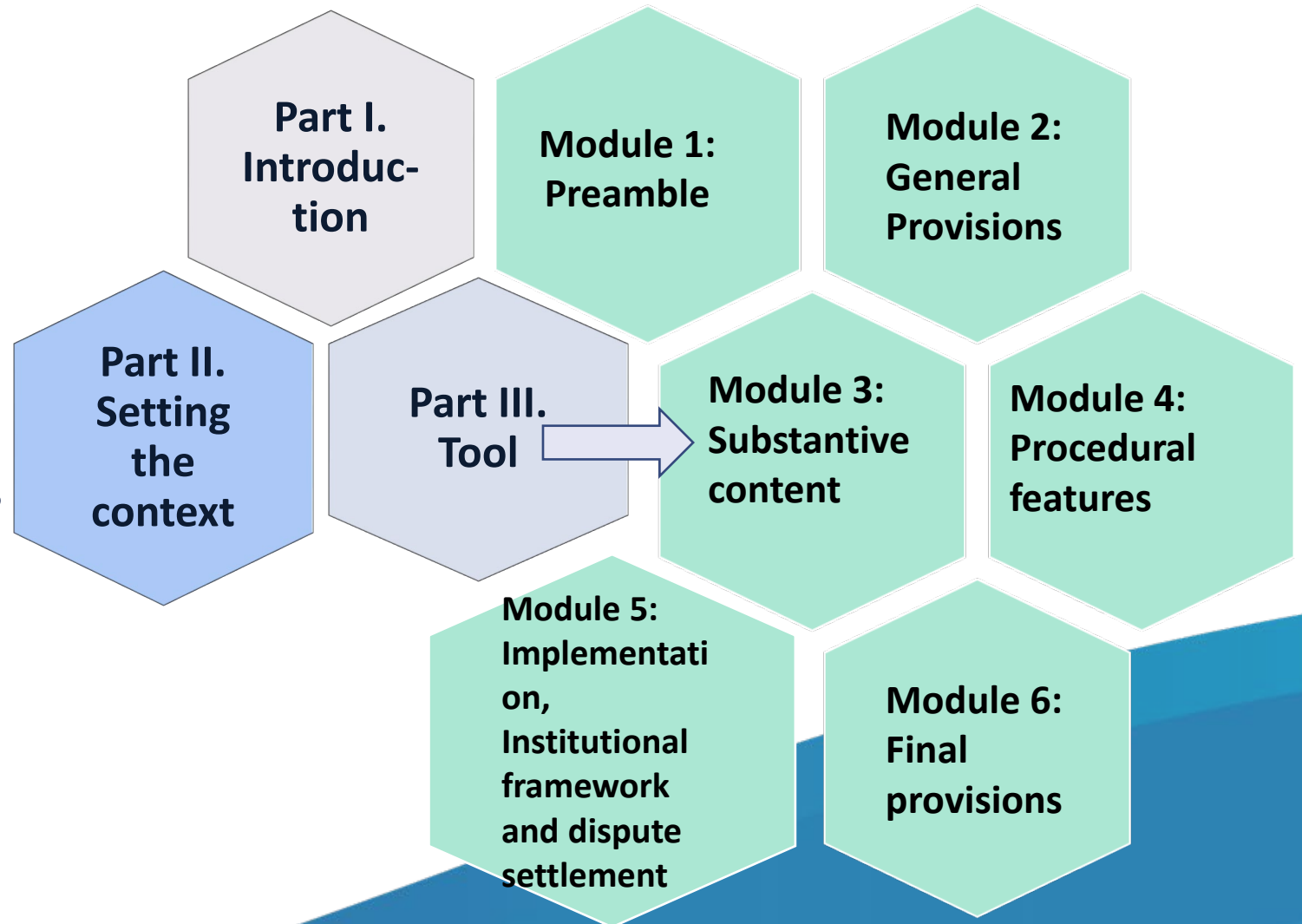
About the checklist

- Aimed at supporting countries in the **design and drafting** of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary waters
- Focus on **content and drafting options** rather than on process
- **Target audience:** Country representatives, legal and technical experts, policy decision-makers involved in negotiation of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary waters, the staff of river basin organizations, regional organizations, and other stakeholders working on transboundary cooperation and water diplomacy are the target audience of the Checklist.

Checklist on the development of legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation

Checklist to serve as an agreement/arrangement builder

- ❖ 3 Parts
- ❖ 6 thematic modules
- ❖ Building blocks: provisions/issues that countries may consider including within each module
- ❖ Key aspects, help define content of building blocks
- ❖ Supporting resources, assist in further developing the content



Next steps related to the development of the checklist (2021)

- Focal points are invited to submit their written comments by 15 May
- Comments received will be addressed by the Drafting Group with the support of the secretariat and the publication will be finalized for adoption at the Meeting of the Parties at its 9th session
- Publication will be translated in French, Russian and Spanish

Proposed future activities for 2022-2024 workplan

- The “Checklist on the development of agreements and arrangements for transboundary water cooperation” will be **further developed into an online toolkit**, with good practices collected, links to agreements, etc.
- **Two regional or basin workshops** on developing agreements and establishing joint bodies will be organized to support cooperation processes, promoting the “Checklist on the development of legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation” and the “Principles for Effective Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation”

Proposed future activities for 2022-2024 workplan

- **Upon request from the concerned countries and pending the availability of resources, a number of basin-level projects supporting the development of agreements and strengthening of institutions** will be implemented. Possible river basins for the implementation of such projects include the Bug, Chu Talas, Dniester, Drin, Euphrates and Tigris, Kura, Mejerda, Mono, Neman and Ogooué-Ntem-Nyanga-Komo, as well as the Senegalese-Mauritanian aquifer.
- **Activities will also include support to regional cooperation**, such as work on dam safety and water quality in Central Asia, support to regional economic communities in Africa and in Latin America for the development of regional frameworks for water cooperation.

Partners: RBOs, RECs, UN regional commissions, IGOs, NGOs, academia

