1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

# WATER CONVENTION

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National webinar, Uzbekistan, 20 April 2023



## PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

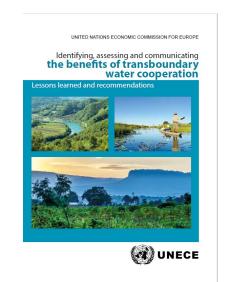
Water Convention: overview and general provisions

Water Convention: institutional mechanism and the programme of work

Water Convention: projects and other examples of activities

Water Convention: tools and publications









### What is the Water Convention?



Multilateral legal instrument based on international customary law



 A unique platform to discuss progress of transboundary water cooperation worldwide under the umbrella of the United Nations



 Opened to all interested countries, with more than 130 countries and 30 River Basin Organizations exchanging experiences and knowledge to prompt progress in cooperation through thematic meetings and activities

 April 2023: 49 Parties worldwide and more than 20 countries under accession process







### **The Water Convention**



Water Convention Key Principles

Principle of **prevention of transboundary impact** 

Principle of equitable and reasonable utilization

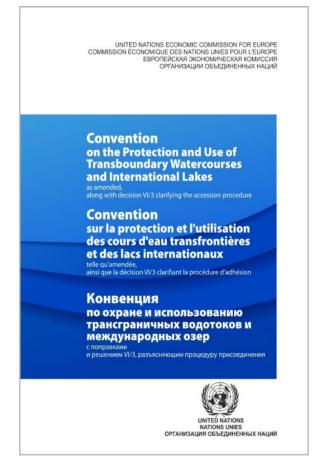
Principle of **cooperation** 

### **Main objective**



Foster
cooperation over
transboundary
waters in order to
ensure that they
are sustainably
and equitably
managed

## The Water Convention obligations



### **Obligations for all Parties (Part I)**

Licensing of waste-water discharges and monitoring of authorized discharges

Setting emission limits based on BAT

Application of best environmental practices

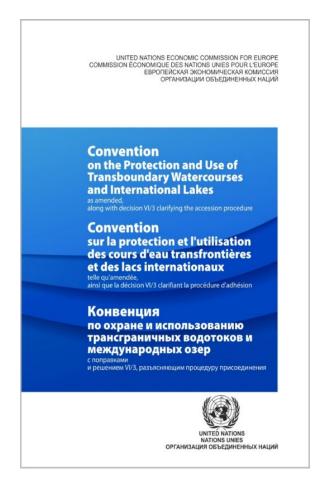
Minimization of the risk of accidental pollution

Application of EIA and other assessments

Exchange of information



## The Water Convention obligations



### **Obligations for Riparian Parties (Part II)**

Conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements and creation of joint bodies

Joint monitoring and assessment

Common research and development

Exchange of information between Riparian Parties

Consultation

Warning and alarm systems

Mutual assistance

**Public information** 



## The Water Convention: misconceptions

"The Water Convention prohibits building dams and impedes economic development"

"The Water Convention requires that a downstream country consents to building a dam or other infrastructure by an upstream countries"

"The Water Convention is only about water quality, not about water quantity"

"The Water Convention is only for the rich countries"





### **Institutional framework**

Implementation Committee

Legal Board

International
Water Assessment
Centre

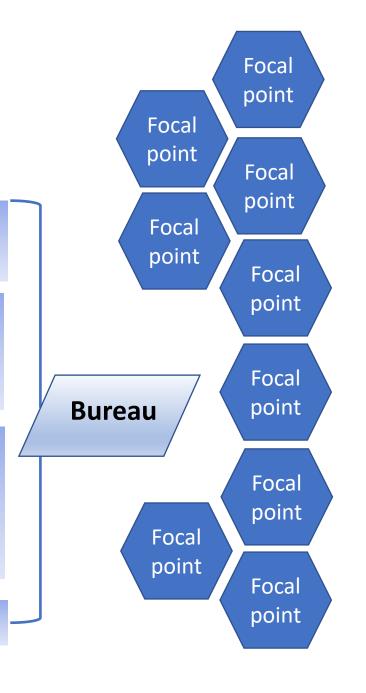
Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention

Working Group on IWRM

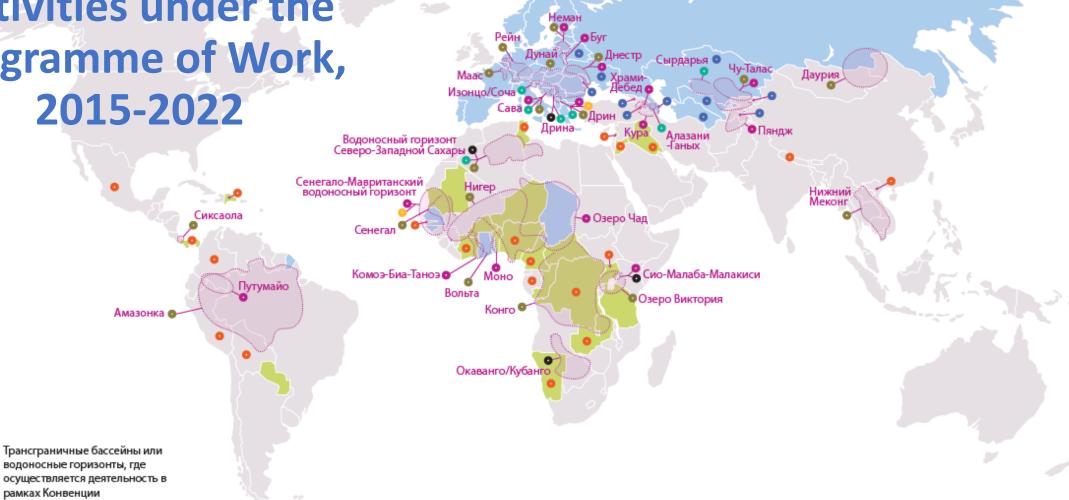
Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Task Force on Water & Climate
Task Force on Water-Food-EnergyEcosystems Nexus
Expert Groups

Secretariat (UNECE)



**Activities under the** Programme of Work,



### Области работы

- Поддержка разработки соглашений и создания совместных органов
- Выявление, оценка и информирование о выгодах сотрудничества в области трансграничных водных ресурсов
- Оценка и продвижение подхода, основанного на учете системы взаимосвязей между водой, продовольствием, энергией и экосистемами в трансграничных бассейнах

- Адаптация к изменению климата в трансграничных бассейнах
- Расширение знаний о Конвенции по трансграничным водам и присоединение к ней
- Мониторинг, оценка и обмен информацией в трансграничных
- Поддержка диалогов по вопросам национальной политики в области MVRP в рамках Волной инициативы Европейского союза.

### Статус страны

- Стороны Конвенции по трансграничным водам
- Страны, находящиеся в процессе присоединения

# Изменение климата и Конвенция по трансграничным водам

• Уникальные глобальные правовые рамки и межправительственная платформа для трансграничного сотрудничества по адаптации к изменению климата

- ✓ наращивание потенциала
- ✓ обмен знаниями и опытом
- Целевая группа по воде и климату с 2006 г.

• Руководства и публикации по воде и климату









• Продвижение воды и трансграничных вопросов в

глобальных процессах

- Регулярные глобальные семинары
- Пилотные проекты

Глобальная сеть бассейнов, работающих по адаптации к

изменению климата

https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/Global network overview pilot projects progress Apr2022 final ENGL update 0 1.pdf

Отчет за 2021 г.

Седьмая встреча Глобальной сети

(25-26 мая 2023 г.)



Совместная адаптация к изменению климата способствует более широкому сотрудничеству: пример Днестровского бассейна

- Днестровский бассейн находится в Молдове и Украине (поддержка от ЕЭК ООН, ОБСЕ, ПРООН и ЮНЕП)
- Изначально совместная деятельность по наводнениям
- Стратегические направления адаптации к *изменению климата* одобрены в 2015 г. *План* внедрения доработан в 2017 г.
- Мероприятия по адаптации: восстановление поймы; лесонасаждение; моделирование, картирование и прогнозирование риска наводнений; установка станций мониторинга и конкурс творчества детей и молодежи.
- Эта деятельность увеличила адаптационный потенциал бассейна, а также способствовала вступлению в силу Днестровского договора в 2017 г. и созданию Днестровской комиссии в 2018 г.



### РАБОЧИЕ ГРУППЫ

Состав молдавской и украинской частей Комиссии

# Изменение климата должно быть интегрировано в планы управления речными бассейнами: пример Чу-Таласского бассейна

- Чу-Таласский бассейн находится в Казахстане и Кыргызстане (поддержка от ЕЭК ООН и ПРООН)
- Моделирование и **оценка уязвимости к изменению климата** на уровне бассейна
- Разработка, оценка стоимости и выполнение адаптационных мероприятий, касающихся разных сфер от качества воды до мониторинга и образования
- **Мероприятия интегрированы** в трансграничный диагностический анализ (ТДА) и стратегическую программу действий (СПД)
- **Чу-Таласская водохозяйственная комиссия** имела очень важную роль и создала рабочую группу по адаптации к изменению климата



# HANNA: TO INSERT SLIDES ABOUT DNIESTER AND CHU TALAS



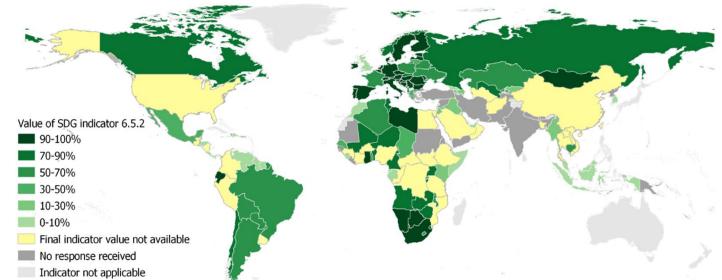
### Water resources worlwide are mainly transboundary! Why is cooperation needed?

- 40% of the world's population lives in 286 transboundary river basins, which cover almost half of the Earth's land surface. Transboundary rivers account for 60% of the world's freshwater resources.
- Indicator 6.5.2 measures the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.

# 2nd reporting exercise on SDG ind. 6.5.2 (2020/2021):

 Only 24 countries report all transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by operational arrangements









**Target 6.5**: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.



# Indicator 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

Country	Response received in 2017	Response received in 2020	Rivers and lakes (2020), %	Aquifers (2020), %	SDG indicator 6.5.2 (2020), %
Kazakhstan	yes	yes	100	0	63,22
Kyrgyzstan	no	yes	29,91	0	27,20
Tajikistan	no	no			
Turkmenistan	yes	yes	66,02	NA	NA
Uzbekistan	yes	yes	100	0	69,59

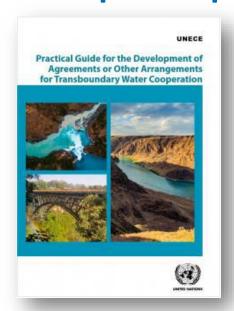
- Significant gaps in data on transboundary aquifers and lack of operational arrangements on groundwaters
- 2023: encourage Tajikistan to report; coordination of reports at basin level strengthens cooperation
- Accession to global water conventions



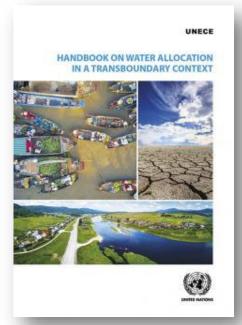




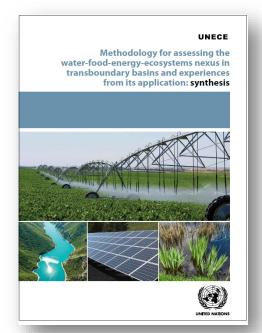
### **Examples of practical tools developed under the Water Convention:**



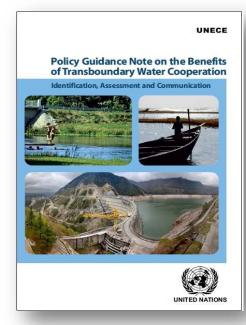
How to design and draft transboundary water agreements?



How to address complex issues of water allocation and establish water allocation arrangements?

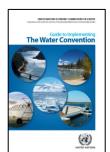


How to assess the WFEE nexus in transboundary basins?



How to identify and assess the benefits of transboundary water cooperation?



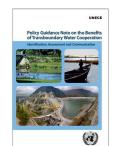






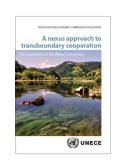






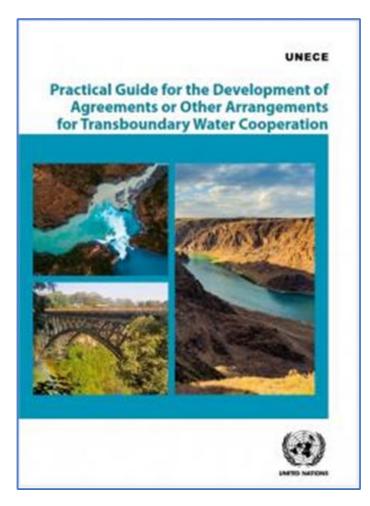






These and many more tools are available in English, French, Russian and Spanish at: www.unece.org/env/water

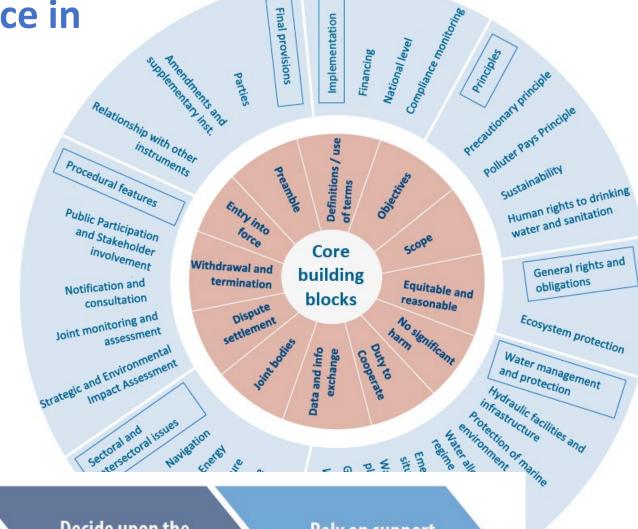
# Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements and other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation



- Objective: support countries in the design and drafting of new agreements or updating existing ones to ensure the agreements are effective, adaptable & sustainable
- Focus: content and drafting options rather than on process
- Target audience: State representatives, legal and technical experts, decision-makers involved in negotiation, staff of river basin organizations, regional organizations, and other stakeholders
- Available at: https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/361821

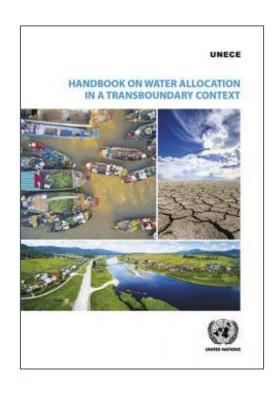
Practical Guide: best practice in developing agreements

- Thematic modules
- Building blocks: provisions/issues that countries may consider including within each module
- Key aspects: define content of building blocks
- Examples and additional resources



Identify thematic modules to structure the arrangement or the agreement Consider which building blocks to include from each module Decide upon the type of provision to develop within a particular building block

Rely on support resources for further details, justification and explanations



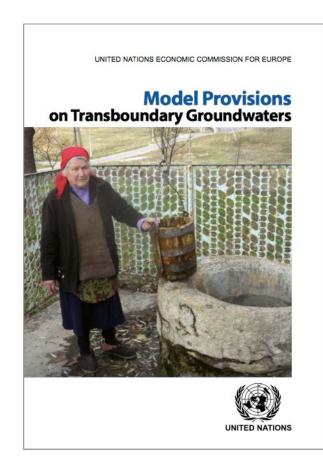
# Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context

- Explains the phases, benefits and challenges of water allocation, supports governments in establishing water allocation arrangements
- Practical application (46 case studies)
- Builds the capacity to address complex issues

**Key message:** To respond to changing conditions, including but not limited to climate variability and change, transboundary water allocation agreements and other arrangements should be adaptable. Transboundary allocation should always be considered in conjunction with complementary broader approaches.

**Key message:** Growing practice in some transboundary basins reflects the prioritizing of human and ecological needs before allocating available water resources to other needs.

### Model provisions on transboundary groundwaters



- Non-binding guidance
- Adopted by Meeting of the Parties in 2012
- Build on the International Law Commission (ILC) Draft Articles
- Active participation of UNESCO and International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) in their development
- To be used by Parties and non-Parties when entering into or reviewing bilateral or multilateral agreements on transboundary groundwaters
  - additional protocol to an existing agreement or
  - new and separate specific agreement on groundwaters
- Accompanied by commentaries with existing State practice

### **Events in 2023-2024**

### 2023

- 25-26 May: Meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation
- 19-21 June: Meeting of the Working Group on IWRM
- 16 October: Global workshop on surface waters and groundwaters
- 17-18 October: Meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
- 5-6 December: Global workshop on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation

### 2024

- 26-27 February: Global workshop on transboundary climate change adaptation and mitigation
- 28 February: Meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate
- 3-5 June: Joint session of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
- 18-19 June: Workshop on the global water conventions and international water law
- 23-25 October: Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (to take place in Slovenia)

### ЕЭК ООН

### ЧАСТО ЗАДАВАЕМЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ О КОНВЕНЦИИ ПО ТРАНСГРАНИЧНЫМ ВОДАМ 1992 ГОДА

и Дорожная карта для содействия процессам присоединения





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For more information: <a href="https://www.unece.org/env/water/">www.unece.org/env/water/</a>