



Towards enhanced cooperation of UNECE MEAs

Informal guidance





Why to enhance the cooperation

- To find and use opportunities that contribute to a (cost) effective implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) through synergy, cooperation and joined forces
- To exchange information on priorities under the ECE MEAs.





Five Multilateral Environmental Agreements and connecting protocols

- Air Convention and its protocol
- Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol
- Water Convention and Water & Health Protocol
- Industrial Accidents Convention
- Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters (not yet in force)
- Aarhus Convention and its PRTR Protocol





Pre-conditions for cooperation, synergy and harmonization

- Each MEA has its own legal framework and goals
- Unique position and sovereignty of each Convention will not be affected or influenced
- Cooperation should increase value for resources, complementarity and lead to mutual strengthening
- Cooperation must be connected to priorities of the individual Convention and cross-cutting issues.
- No (silent) competition
- No room for artificial cooperation





Bottom line cooperation between 5 MEA's

Cooperation between the MEAs where possible and appropriate and where added value can be achieved, identifying crosscutting issues.

Willingness to cooperate from all sides is an important precondition for a successful cooperation





Enhanced cooperation of the MEAs through:

'Analyzing the common ground between the goals, priorities, implementation and realization of the MEAs in order to develop the possibilities for enhanced cooperation, harmonization and synergy. This will contribute to further strengthening the effectiveness of the MEAs and will lead to an increase in the cost effectiveness of their realization. The facets of mutual support and assistance, their organization, joint activities and resources will be addressed in the strategy to enhancing cooperation among the MEAs'





Discussion on cooperation and synergies at 4 levels

- MEAs' secretariats
- MEAs' Bureaux and governing bodies
- Focal points at the national level
- With key partners





Opportunities for achieving synergies and harmonization

- **MEAs mutual support and assistance**
 - systematic and demand-driven exchange of experience and knowledge
- **MEAs organisation**
 - exchange of information – where justified and appropriate – adjustments and harmonization of plans and approaches, appearance and form, planning procedures, calendars and terminology
- **Joint activities**
 - opportunities for the identification, planning and activities to be jointly undertaken – such as seminars, projects, awareness raising and outreach activities
- **Resources**
 - opportunities aiming at robustness in ensuring resources





Proces of cooperation between five MEAs

- First informal meeting in november 2011
- Exchange of expectations
- Till now four informal meetings of chairs and vice-chairs MEAs and their protocols
- Decision to draft an informal guidance document
- Endorsement of the document '*towards enhanced cooperation of UNECE MEAs*' (Feb 2013)
- Establishment of a joint website





Further steps for enhanced cooperation of MEAs (1)

- To continue with the informal meeting of the 5 conventions and their protocols on demand
- The Bureaux of MEAs will support the informal meeting by analysis of possibilities for cooperation and synergies
- Based on the analysis the meeting could elaborate recommendations for achieving synergies among MEAs





Further steps for enhanced cooperation of MEAs (2)

- Continuation of the informal meeting between the chairs and vice-chairs of five MEAs
- Identification of opportunities for synergies and cooperation and implementation and to develop at least two concrete activities where at least two MEAs cooperate
- To explore the possibility for a participation in an MEA –segment during the upcoming EfE-conference

