



The UNECE Water Convention and its activities: evolution over the last 20 years

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The Water Convention

- Signed on 17 March 1992
- Entered into force on 6 October 1996
- Protocol on Water and Health adopted in 1999, entered into force in 2005
- Protocol on Civil Liability adopted in 2003





Main obligations under the Convention


- Protection of transboundary waters by preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impacts
 - Reasonable and equitable use of transboundary waters
 - Obligation to cooperate through agreements and joint institutions
- => Overall objective of sustainability**

Status of ratification

37 countries and the European Community

-  Parties
-  Countries in accession
-  Non Parties






Evolution of the work under the Convention: 1997 - 2000

- Agreements and joint bodies
- Assistance to transition countries => pilot projects
- IWRM => guidelines on M&A and flood management
- Land-based pollution control => Work with Ind. Acc. Convention
- Water supply and human health => Protocol



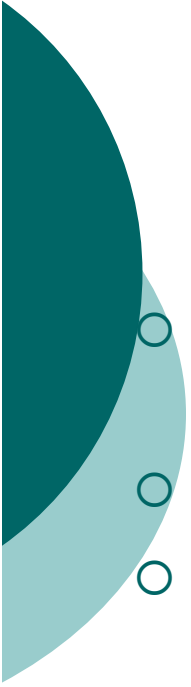
Evolution of the work under the Convention: 2000-2003

- Implementation and compliance => Civil Liability Protocol
- IWRM => Guidelines on public participation, recommendations on interstate water distribution, Ind. Acc, link with WFD, EECCA countries
- Monitoring and assessment => pilots + guidelines
- Water and Health
- IWAC




Evolution of the work under the Convention: 2003-2006

- Amendment to open the Convention
- Promotion / dissemination
- Model Provisions on Transboundary Flood Management
- Recommendations on PES
- Safety guidelines / good practices for pipelines
- Strategies for M&A + end of the pilots on M&A
- WFD => transfer + complementarity
- Assistance to EECCA => capacity building: CWC and EU Water Initiative NPDs
- Start preparations 1st Assessment



Evolution of the work under the Convention: 2006-2009

- Guidance on water and adaptation to climate change
- *Transboundary flood risk management*
- Safety guidelines and good practices for tailing management facilities + JEG strategy
- Guide to implementing the Water Convention
- NPDs in 6 countries
- Continued focus on EECCA and SEE, capacity building and projects on the ground
- 2007: 1st Assessment
- Attempt to promote ratification of Civil Liability Protocol



Evolution of the work under the Convention: 2009-2012

- Continuing growth of activities
- Commitment to the entry into force of the amendment + outreach to non-ECE countries
- Work on implementation and compliance
- Application of Convention to transboundary groundwaters
- Pilot projects on climate change adaptation and platform for the exchange of experience
- NPDs in 8 countries, focus on Central Asia
- Projects on the ground: working in 21 countries
- 2011: Second Assessment



What the 2nd Assessment tells us (1)

- Climate change emerging threat but little done in transboundary level >
 - + Pilot projects & exchange of experience
- Agriculture and energy are main drivers but weak policy integration, shortcomings in national cooperation >
 - + National Policy Dialogues
 - Work at transboundary level on agriculture and hydropower
 - Work on quantity issues, water allocation
- Different approaches & criteria for data >
 - + Assessments, pilots, water quality in CA



What the 2nd Assessment tells us (2)

- Uneven level of transboundary cooperation, a lack of properly implemented basin-wide agreements on many major rivers >
+ Projects on the ground (Dniester, Drin, Aral Sea, etc)
- Hot spots / areas of potential risk
+ Implementation Committee
- Lack of political will to cooperate >
+ / -



Lessons learned from the last 5 workplans

- Established “core” areas of work: legal and institutional aspects, assistance through projects & capacity building
- Importance of supporting implementation of Convention’s tools
- Major strength = adapt to needs
- Some areas are “exhausted” some needs to be responded to
- Importance of creating synergies between different activities
- Secretariat more and more responsible for workplan implementation
- High efficiency and impact
- Importance of partnerships + some emerging ones



Perspectives linked to the global opening

- Needs resolute focus => next programme of work
- Benefits for non-ECE: intergovernmental forum, experience available
- Benefits for ECE countries: learning from other regions, possibility of higher political recognition, more forcefully “beyond water”, follow-up to Rio+20?