



The UNECE Water Convention's Implementation Committee

August 2013



Implementation Committee

- No compliance review mechanism mentioned in the Convention
- Gradual evolution: need for case-tailored assistance raised in 2007-2009 when developing the Guide to Implementing the Convention
- 2009: Meeting of the Parties mandates Legal Board to develop a proposal for a mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance
- 2012: Meeting of the Parties decision VI/1



Implementation Committee

- Objective: to facilitate, promote and safeguard the implementation and application of and compliance with the Convention
- Facilitative, supportive, preventive, reflecting the distinctive cooperative spirit of the Convention – not a policeman
- Practical case-tailored assistance
- Without prejudice to dispute settlement (Article 22)
- No formal requirement to exhaust any remedies



Composition

- 9 members in personal capacity
- Legal and/or scientific and technical expertise
- Consideration to geographical distribution of membership and diversity of experience





Mandate

Triggers

- Advisory procedure
(also non-Parties may be involved)
- Self-submission by a Party
- Party-to-Party submission
- Committee initiative – “Where the Committee becomes aware of possible difficulties in the implementation by a Party of or the possible non-compliance by a Party with the Convention, including from information received from the public...”



Mandate

Other functions

- Examine, at the request of the MOP, specific issues of implementation of and compliance
- Carry out any other functions that may be assigned to it by the Meeting of the Parties , including examination of general issues of implementation and compliance that may be of interest to all Parties

An aerial photograph showing a winding river through a lush green landscape with various wetlands and vegetation. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right, with several meanders and oxbow-like features. The surrounding land is a mix of dark green and lighter green patches, indicating different types of vegetation and water levels.

Measures

- (a) To provide advice and facilitate assistance
- Assistance in establishing transboundary water cooperation agreements
 - Facilitating technical and financial assistance (information and technology transfer, capacity-building)
 - Assistance in seeking support from specialized agencies and other competent bodies



Measures

- (b) To request the Party or Parties to develop an action plan
- (c) To invite the Party concerned to submit progress reports
- (d) To recommend “hard” measures to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties

Only the Meeting of the Parties can issue a statement of concern, declaration of non-compliance, caution, etc.

No involvement of the Meeting of the Parties in case of an Advisory procedure.

An aerial photograph on the left side of the slide shows a winding river through a green landscape. In the upper left, there is a prominent circular structure, possibly a dam or a reservoir, with a concrete or paved edge. The surrounding area is lush with green vegetation.

First meeting 5 June 2013

- Chair and Vice-Chair elected
- Lessons learned from other implementation and compliance mechanisms discussed
- Committee's role and functions discussed including the modalities for undertaking a Committee initiative
- Core rules of procedure and basic rules for electronic communication discussed



First meeting 5 June 2013

- Input into the discussion on the need for reporting under the Convention discussed
- Strategy for publicizing the mechanism discussed

The Committee encouraged Parties and other stakeholders to come forward and seek its assistance and facilitation to address difficulties in implementing the Convention and in order to prevent water-related disputes.



Thank you!

More information

[http://www.unece.org/env/water/
implementation_committee.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/implementation_committee.html)

