

From Practitioner to practitioner: training on how to use the two global  
Water Conventions  
20 - 21 October 2016, Geneva

Session 5: How the Conventions promote  
implementation and cooperation on the ground?

**The institutional structure of the  
Water Convention**

*Heide Jekel, Germany*

# Water Convention

## Institutional framework (I)

- Meeting of the Parties (every three years)
  - Main governing body
  - 41 Parties
- Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties (twice or more per year)
  - 12 Members
    - Steering body between the MOPs
    - Officers elected by the MOP
    - Chairpersons of working groups
- Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (once per year)
  - One of the two main subsidiary bodies
  - Discussion of the current programme of work, of products to be established etc.

# Water Convention

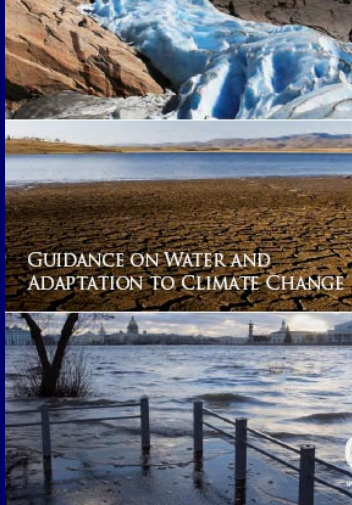
## Institutional framework (II)

- Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
  - One of the two main subsidiary bodies
  - Inactive at the moment
  - Assessments, guidance on monitoring issues
- Implementation Committee (twice per year)
  - Facilitates, promotes and safeguards the implementation and application of and compliance with the Convention
  - Established 2012
  - 9 elected members
- Legal Board
  - Inactive at the moment
  - Legal issues, e.g.
    - Preparing the establishment of the implementation committee
    - Model provisions e.g. on groundwater (smaller core groups to prepare draft documents)

# Water Convention

## Institutional framework (III)

- Task Forces (once a year, workshops, pilot projects)
  - on Water and Climate
  - on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- Joint ad-hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (meets as needed)
  - Joint group of two conventions
  - Technical Guidelines e.g. on safety of pipelines or tailing dams
- International Water Assessment Center (IWAC)
  - Not operational, Kazakhstan is planning to host it
- UNECE secretariat!!
  - 12 persons (not all of them serving only the Water Convention)



GUIDANCE ON WATER AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

### Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good Practices

UNITED NATIONS

UNECE

### Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation

Identification, Assessment and Communication

UNITED NATIONS

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### Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

### The Global Opening of the 1992 Water Convention

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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

### Guide to Implementing The Water Convention

UNITED NATIONS

THE WATER CONVENTION: 20 years of successful water cooperation

ECE  
SECOND ASSESSMENT of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

### SECOND ASSESSMENT of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

UNITED NATIONS

# Programme of work for 2016-2018

Support to implementation and application

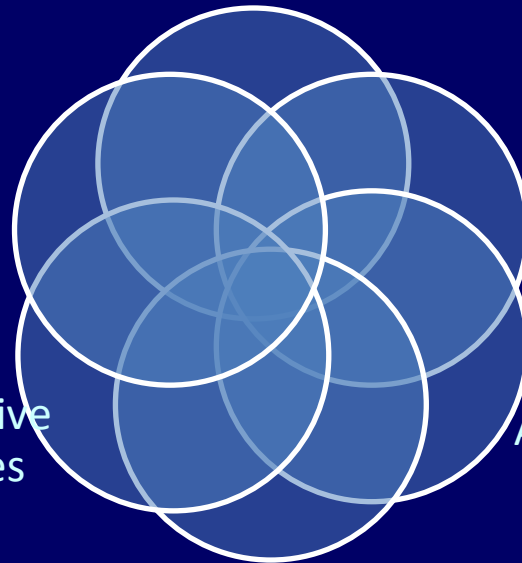
Opening, promotion and  
partnerships

Identifying, assessing and  
communicating the benefits  
of transboundary water  
cooperation

European Union Water Initiative  
and National Policy Dialogues

Adapting to climate change in  
transboundary basins

Water-food-energy-ecosystems  
nexus in transboundary basins



# Join us!

- Efficient and adaptive institutional framework
- Combination of policy and technical work
- Unique platform
  - Exchange of knowledge and experience
- All meetings of the bodies open for non-parties, organisations and NGOs
  - Not Bureau meetings
  - Special provisions for the Implementation Committee