



How the Conventions promote implementation and cooperation on the ground

Topic: Accidental pollution, early warning systems and contingency plans

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



1. Relevant obligations under the Conventions

The 2 conventions have relevant obligations

The water Convention includes 3 pillars:

- The due diligence obligation which required to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts;
- The principle of equitable and reasonable utilisation;
- The principle of cooperation (institutional arrangements, like agreements and meetings);

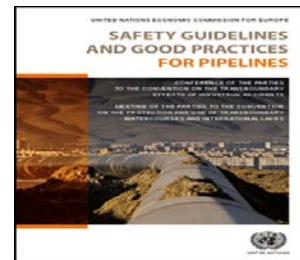
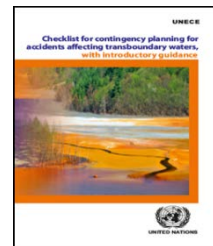
The UNECE water and industrial accidents conventions adopted in 1992, which entered into force in 2000, negotiated after the 1986 Sandoz accident and its transboundary effects. It helps to protect human beings and environment against industrial accidents with transboundary effects.

1. Relevant obligations under the Conventions cont..

- The Key obligations are:
 - Identification and notification of HA
 - Prevention of industrial accidents
 - Safety measures and inspections
 - Emergency preparedness
 - On-site and off-site contingency plans
 - Emergency response and mutual assistance
 - UNECE Industrial accident notification system
 - Public information and participation
- **Synergy:** the Convention on Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the water together provides a legal framework to deal with the risk of transboundary water pollution. Issues dealing with the prevention of accidental water pollution are handled closely with the water convention.

1. Relevant obligationscont...

- **Instruments developed to implement the obligations**
- They include legal tools, bilateral or multilateral agreements and the establishment of organs. There are also non-binding guidelines and other instruments developed within the framework of the Convention.
- JEG has Developed safety guidelines and goods practices safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines and checklists for contingency planning for transboundary waters



2. Tool(s) developed to support implementation of the obligations

- **Objectives:** For **the water Convention**, Tools was developed to guarantee good water governance, to facilitate the implementation of the 1992 Convention and to provide the legal framework for regional cooperation on shared waters (rivers, lakes and ground water); and helps protect human beings and environment .
- **Target audience:** Member States of the European Economic Commission (EEC) sharing transboundary water and all other United Nations member countries (EEC-UNO)
- **For the Industrial accident**, JEG has developed safety guidelines and checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters.
- In 2010, the checklist was elaborated by JEG to solve the issue of compensation in case of damages caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters.
- **Audience:** The checklist is intended to help competent authorities, as key actors in transboundary contingency planning, put in place effective and efficient contingency planning. The checklist aims at helping to mitigate the severity of the consequences on human health and the environment. The checklist is a tool of planning of the emergency interventions before any industrial accident that could have effects beyond the borders

2. Tool(s) developed to support implementation of the obligations

- **Transboundary contingency planning:**
- **Emergency preparedness** (on-site and off- site): equipment must be installed for countries to be able to take effective steps to minimize the effects of industrial accidents
- **Response planning:** The system should be in place to immediately alert response personnel in the event of an accident involving hazardous substances, or an imminent threat of accident, that would require their involvement.
- **International mutual assistance:** In accordance with the industrial accidents convention (art. 12 para.1), if an industrial accident occurs and a country cannot deal with its consequences alone, it may ask for assistance from other parties, indicating the scope and type of assistance required.
- **There are guiding principles for countries to allow for effective contingency planning for transboundary waters:**
 - General guiding principles,
 - Identification, consultation and advice
 - Monitoring and prevention
 - Industrial accidents notification systems
 - Exchange of information and technology
 - Assessment of the checklist: The evaluators assessing the results should go through the questions answered with “yes”, “partly” or “No” and subsequently take the necessary actions



2. Tool(s) developed to support implementation of the obligations cont....

- **Main Messages:** To contribute to the development of transboundary agreements, the establishment of common institutions and the strengthening of cooperation at both the political level and technical levels in pan European regions;
- To strengthen cooperation in transboundary waters, as well as measures taken for an ecologically viable management and protection of surfaces and transboundary;
- To offer a legal framework for developing bilateral and multilateral agreements, but also an organizational framework for facilitating negotiations;
- To favour the implementation of integrated water resources management plan, particularly the basin-based approach:
- To contribute to the realization of the Millennium sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments in the areas of water, environment and sustainable development: To support the post 2015 sustainable development goals



2. Tool(s) developed to support implementation of the obligations cont....

- **Methodology:**

The Convention offers a specific action framework to those transboundary basins and requires from the parties the entry into river agreements, the establishment of common bodies that should serve as a framework for sharing information on the best technology and the existing and planned use of water and associated installations:

3. Usefulness of the tool in my region and relation to my work in this area

- Among the tools developed by JEG, we chose the checklist which could help the **NBA** to face the problem of pollution.
- There are hazardous activities (e.g. manufacture, use, storage, handling, or disposal of hazardous substances) which are able to cause transboundary effects.
- The Niger Basin Authority (NBA) is one of the oldest transboundary basin organizations in Africa. It includes nine (9) countries: seven (7) from West Africa and two (2) from Central Africa. They are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. The hydrologically active part of the basin covers about 1,500,000 km².

3. Usefulness of the tool in my region and relation to my work in this area cont..

- Goal of NBA: “promote cooperation among member countries and ensure an integrated development of the Niger Basin in all areas of energy, hydraulics, agriculture, livestock, fishery and fish farming, forestry and forest exploitation, transportation and communication, and industry.”
- The 2004 Shared vision: “Make the Niger River Basin a common area of sustainable development through integrated management of water resources and associated ecosystems, for improved living conditions and prosperity of the populations by the year 2025”
- Many investments actions on pollution in the Investment Programme of the Sustainable Development Action Plan



3. Usefulness of the tool in my region and relation to my work in this area conti...

- NBA has been equipped with a Water Charter in 2008.
- To develop the said charter, NBA referred to the Helsinki 1992 convention. It also referred to the 1997 Convention concerning the notification of planned measures capture by Annex 3 of the Water Charter
- The charter favours cooperation based on solidarity and reciprocity for a sustainable, equitable and coordinated use of the Niger hydrological watershed's water resource.

3. Usefulness of the tool in my region and relation to my work in this area

- NBA also faces urban water pollutions due to used domestic water (carbon, nitrogen/phosphorus and bacteriology), industrial wastes causing the same type of domestic pollution, with at times micro-pollutants (benzene, PAH, metal...), hydrocarbons by street runoff following rainfall episodes in main cities along water courses, pollutions of agricultural and mining origins.
- NBA has a water quality control system through the establishment of water quality monitoring stations. The network enables to acquire physio-chemical and biological data in its general functioning (general monitoring) and to characterize the impact of point and diffused pollutions in the basin (impact monitoring).

3. Usefulness of the tool in my region and relation to my work in this area

- The network helps to have a database and to periodically disseminate syntheses on the level of the pollution of the water of Niger River in order to contribute in improving the health security of the basin's populations.
- The same network system is used to prevent and mitigate floodings.
- Though NBA doesn't have a clear mandate for managing disasters, it contributes, within the framework of planning, implementing and securing interventions and infrastructures, to the prevention of disasters through **hydrological observation, monitoring and early warning actions.**

• **THANK YOU**