

# Item 7(b)

## Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context

Mr Péter Kovács

Hungary

# Background

## **Eighth Meeting of the Parties in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan 10-12 October 2018**

- PoW 3.3 “Sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context” (Lead Party: Hungary): ***Development of a handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context***

## **HANDBOOK AUDIENCE**

- **Government officials, basin authorities and water sector practitioners** working at different levels (local, national, inter-governmental) of governance of shared rivers, lakes and aquifers.

## **PURPOSE**

- It aims to be a **practical guide providing an overview of the key elements**, frameworks and modalities to consider in the application of water allocation in transboundary contexts.

## **FORMAT**

- Takes the form of a **compendium style Handbook**, covering the major topics and **exemplar case studies to illustrate key elements** of transboundary water allocation in different contexts, with a **bibliography** for further research as the Handbook user may need. It is **modular so each Part or Chapter can be read separately** depending on the reader’s context (contains cross-references).

## **EXPERT GROUP**

- **Approximately 40 individuals** -- both members (invited to join) & guests (requested to join & meet criteria) -- with **expertise relevant to water allocation and selected for purposes of geographical, technical and sectoral balance**.
- **Provide technical advice, review, feedback** and reference sources; **help with case study text & inputs**.

# Activities since Sept.2020

## MEETINGS

### **Expert Group Meeting**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting  
(virtual) on 20-21  
October 2020

### **Regional Workshops (limited due to COVID19)**

- Europe and the  
neighbourhood  
(virtual) on 5-6  
October 2020

## HANDBOOK DRAFTING, REVIEW & FEEDBACK (including CASE STUDIES)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Full Working Draft of Handbook – Dec 2020**

- Interim Main Messages shared with EG for feedback by 9 Dec 2020
- Shared with EG for review & feedback by 15 Feb 2021

### **Main Messages (IWRMWG Formal Doc #7) – March 2021**

- All EG feedback addressed & explained

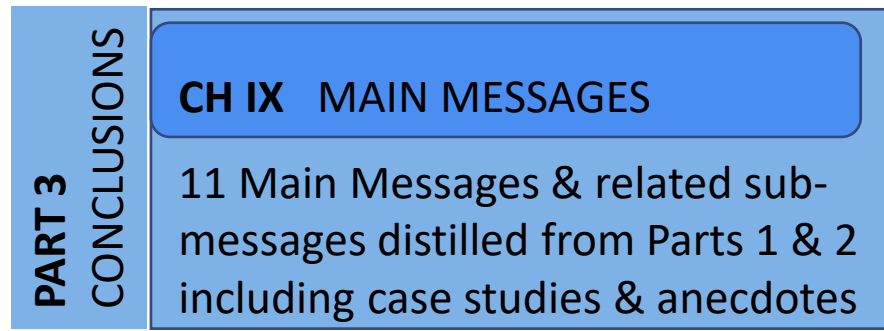
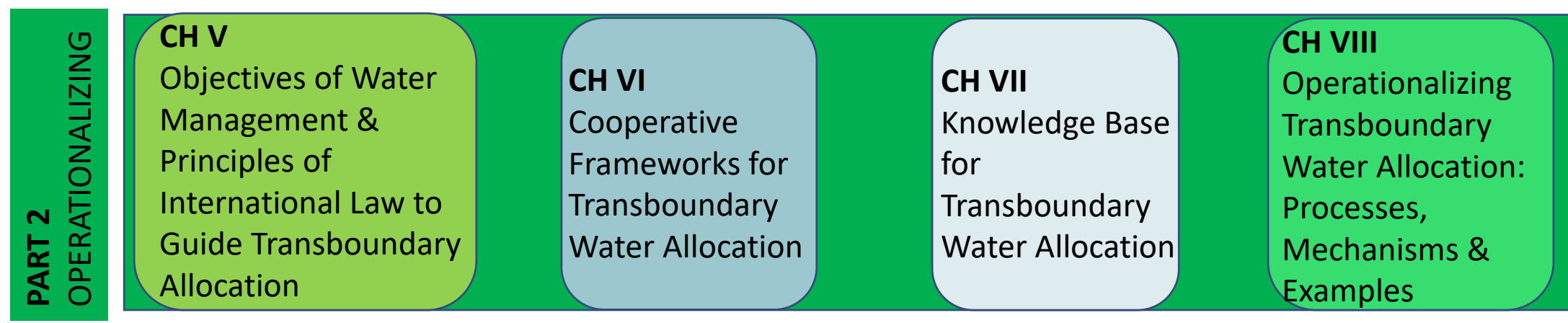
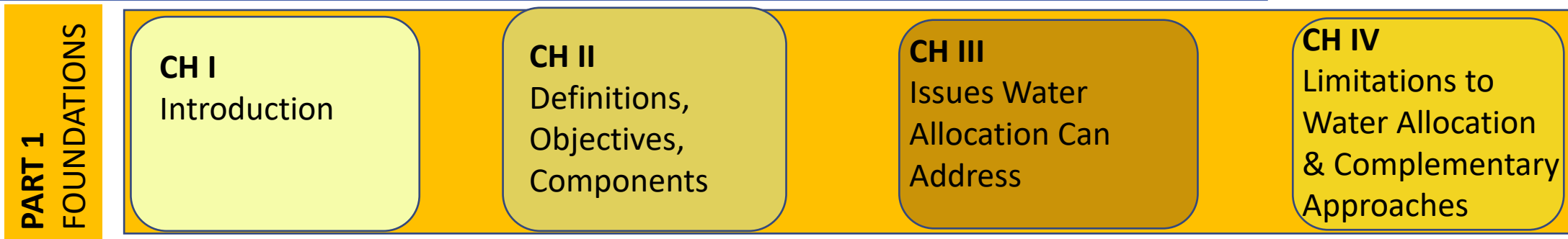
### **Draft Handbook (IWRMWG Informal Doc #5) – April 2021**

- All EG feedback addressed & explained

### **Case Studies – Ongoing**

- Secretariat working to finalise these & have text reviewed by riparian countries / RBOs
- Placeholders where text not finalized or still under review

# Handbook Structure, Modality & Content



← Illustrative case studies & practical anecdotes

# Main Messages

- This chapter sets out the main messages that have been distilled from the content of the preceding Chapters, including case studies.
- It is structured in a similar order to the Handbook, starting with definitions and cross-cutting issues before moving into the core elements of transboundary water allocation.
- These main messages are intended to provide an over-arching summary of the Handbook contents.
- For specific details and illustrative examples, the relevant Chapter(s) can be consulted.

## **SELECTION OF MAIN MESSAGES BELOW**

1. Transboundary water allocation is a joint iterative planning, decision-making and implementation process and an outcome between two or more water-sharing States.
3. Transboundary water allocation agreements and other arrangements should be adaptable.
4. Transboundary allocation should always be considered in conjunction with its limitations and possible complementary broader approaches.
6. Existing and new water allocation mechanisms can generally be divided into direct mechanisms, indirect mechanisms or mechanisms based on principles.
10. Collecting and sharing relevant and reliable data and information is a vital foundation for the planning and implementation of water allocation in a transboundary context.

# Next steps

## **DRAFT HANDBOOK REVIEW & FEEDBACK**

- **DEADLINE - 21 May 2021**
- The draft Handbook is currently available in English. It is in process of being translated. Once translated versions are available they will be circulated and deadline given.

## **FINALISE HANDBOOK TEXT & CASE STUDIES: MAY – JUNE 2021**

- Feedback review and integration as much as possible into Handbook text.
- Placeholder and all other remaining case study texts will be finalized.
  - Existing already circulated for review by relevant riparian countries, RBOs / those still to be finalized will be.
  - All case studies will be considered finalized for publication on a no-objections basis if no feedback received.
- Prepare Preface, Foreword and Annex (Bibliography & Expert Group list).

## **HANDBOOK SUBMITTED TO 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES FOR ADOPTION**

# Proposed future activities for 2022-2024 workplan

## *Lead Parties: Finland and Hungary*

**A global session/webinar will be organized to promote the use of the “Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context” (forthcoming) and build capacity on water allocation in a transboundary context.**

In addition, **broader capacity-building workshops or direct assistance will be conducted on a needs basis** and tailored to learn about options to address and reconcile sectoral water demands through an integrated approach to transboundary water allocation.

**At least two regional workshops and at least one basin workshop will be organized.**

- Activities will incorporate relevant guidance documents, tools and resources developed under the Convention, including on transboundary water allocation, the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach, the benefits of transboundary cooperation and adaptation to climate change, as appropriate.

**A brief for policymakers will be elaborated based on the main messages in the “Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context”.**

- The brief will be translated into French, Russian and Spanish and printed.