Development of soft-law tools and other publications in the framework of UNECE Water Convention

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Why to develop soft-law instruments?

Strong need from the countries to

• **Exchange experiences and solutions** (national and transboundary) related to the implementation of the Water Convention and Protocols

• **Cope with new challenges** (eg. Climate Change, hydropower, irrigation development, etc.)

• **Promote good practices, tools and lessons learned from international experiences** on monitoring, assessment, development of agreements, etc.

• **Strengthen cooperation between countries** sharing water resources
Which soft-law instruments are developed so far?

- Guidelines
- Model provisions
- Policy briefs
- Recommendations
- Methodologies,
- Postcards

Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context *(under development, 2021)*
Checklist on the development of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation *(under development, 2021)*
Process of development of soft-law instruments

- Request from the parties, countries, convention body – approval of the Bureau, MoP
- Assessment of resources (human and financial) for the development of such an instrument
- Identification of responsible body (Lead Country, Secretariat, Working Group, Expert Group, ad-hoc body)
- Invitation of experts (both legal and technical) involvement of external bodies (consultants, universities, institutions) if it is needed (Implementation Committee are often involved)
- Elaborate a first proposal, start an open consultative process, open to non-Parties and other stakeholders, organization of consultative meetings
- Discussion during Bureau, IWRM meetings, adoption by the MOP.
E.g. Handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context

Timeline for development & publication until MoP9

CASE STUDIES: proposal, research, inputs, drafting, review, inclusion in Handbook

- **CASE OUTLINE**
  - **OCT 2019**
  - 1st EXPERT GROUP MEETING

- **CASE STUDIES**
  - **MAR 2020**
  - SESSION FOR MENA COUNTRIES AT THE TWC WORKSHOP

- **FINAL OUTLINE**
  - **MAR 2020**
  - 2nd EXPERT GROUP MEETING

- **CASE STUDIES & REGIONAL INPUT**
  - **22-23 SEP 2020**
  - REGIONAL WORKSHOP CENTRAL ASIA

- **CASE STUDIES & REGIONAL INPUT**
  - **5-6 Oct 2020**
  - REGIONAL WORKSHOP EUROPE & NEIGHBOURHOOD

- **FULL DRAFT READY - 31 Dec 2020**

- **EDIT & REVIEW OF FULL DRAFT**
  - **Quarters 1, 2 & 3 In 2021**
  - **Global Handbook Awareness Raising Events & Activities (TBD)**

- **MOP 29 Sept – 1 Oct 2021**
  - LAUNCH HANDBOOK
  - HANDBOOK WITH ANNEXES, INCLUDING CASE STUDIES

- **WG on IWRM OCT 2019**
  - **WG on M&A DEC 2019**

- **WG on IWRM 30 SEPT-2 OCT 2020**

- **NEXUS TASK FORCE 22-23 OCT 2020**

- **WG on IWRM & Bureau 26-30 APR 2021**
Practical implementation of soft-law instruments

These instruments are:
• Free to download from the UNECE web site
• Available in printed form, shipped by request
• Available in many languages (ENG, FRA, RUS and few Arabic and Spanish)
• Free to translate into national languages (e.g., HU translated many of these guidelines)
• Financial support might be available for the implementation
• Guidance can be tested as a pilot activity (feedbacks can improve the documents)

UNECE Publications are influencing the global agenda and global water governance and give an examples of development of soft-law instruments.
Thank You very much for your kind attention!