



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF ESTONIA
TO THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

Priorities and expectations of the upcoming 2022-2024 Estonian Presidency of the Water Convention

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Permanent representative of the Republic of Estonia
to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Geneva, 21 June 2021

The Water Convention 2022-2024

- ➔ 2022 - the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Water Convention.
- ➔ The Convention as an efficient global tool for transboundary water protection and management.

Key points of our priorities:

- 1** Achieving SDG goals;
- 2** Emphasizing the benefits of the transboundary water cooperation;
- 3** Integrated water resources management;
- 4** Strengthening joint monitoring and data management;
- 5** Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change impacts;
- 6** Ensuring stable and proper funding;
- 7** Improving of cooperation with different partners.

1. Achieving SDG goals

➔ Efforts to achieve SDG 6 are off-track ❌

➔ Importance of SDG indicator 6.5.2

➔ Progress required ✓

➔ Data for the Environment Alliance



The Convention's relevance in relation to other SDG goals and targets:

- ✦ All the other targets of goal 6;
- ✦ Goal 2 - zero hunger;
- ✦ Goal 7 - affordable and clean energy, and goal 15 - life on land through, for instance, the work on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus;
- ✦ Goal 3 - good health and well-being, through activities in cooperation with the Protocol on Water and Health;
- ✦ Target 11.5 - reducing the impact of disasters, in particular water-related disasters, and goal 13 - climate action, through activities on water and climate;
- ✦ and in general for goal 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions, and goal 17 partnerships for the goals.

2. Emphasizing the benefits of the transboundary water cooperation, providing guidance on implementation on the Convention and increasing the number of parties to the Convention.

- ➔ > 60 % of global freshwater flow is in transboundary basins**
- ➔ Transboundary river and lake basins – half of Earth's land**
- ➔ 40 % of the world's population live in shared basins**
- ➔ 600+ shared aquifers**

3. Promoting and implementing principles of integrated water resources management

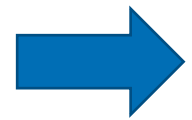
➔ Maximising economic and social benefits

➔ Sustainability of ecosystems

➔ The Convention as a practical guide for the implementation of IWRM



4. Strengthening of joint monitoring, data management, assessment and digital solutions



Key obligations under the Convention



Guidance by the Convention for:

- ✦ Harmonized and comparable methods for monitoring and assessment;
- ✦ Shared information systems;
- ✦ Data management.



5. Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change impacts in transboundary basins

- ➔ Climate change affects water quantity, quality and ecosystems.
- ➔ Water cooperation makes adaptation more effective and efficient.
- ➔ Separate work area on climate change issues in the next work programme.

6. Ensuring stable and proper funding to transboundary water cooperation

➔ Current lack of sustainable financing models

➔ Exchanging good practices

➔ Convention mainly funded from extra budgetary resources, voluntary contributions:

- ✦ In 2016-2018 only 38% of parties financed the programme work.
26% of parties regularly contributed.



7. Improving cooperation with different partners



- ➔ Key for the Convention's implementation.
- ➔ Communication and knowledge management improve understanding and implementation of the Convention.

Many priorities and a lot of work ahead.
Fruitful discussion following in MOP9.





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Thank you for your attention!

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