

**WMO Intervention at the Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 19 October 2022**

**Item 5: Future work on climate change in transboundary basins under the Water Convention**

- WMO will be invited to provide comments on linkages between the Water Convention and their work.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide few insights on WMO's work related to the Water Convention.

WMO has been supporting the UNECE Water Convention since 2007, mainly through the Associated Programme on Flood Management - APFM. We have been working on various projects in the region, including transboundary river basins

Our first joint publication with UNECE was on Transboundary Flood Management, and since then we had a number of collaborations on topics related to adaptation to climate change in the water sector, such as the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change (2009), Guidance on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events, prepared under the Protocol on Water and Health (2011), collection of lessons learned and good practices on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (2015) and the Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation (2018).

WMO has been providing technical backstopping to specific pilot projects (as in case of the Dniestr transboundary river basin between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), as well as ad-hoc related advice on for example selection of best hydrometric equipment or on issues related to data policy, amongst other.

WMO has also co-founded the Water and Climate Coalition together with UNECE, 8 other UN entities and the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as a multistakeholder initiative to accelerate implementation of integrated water and climate activities. One of the Coalitions' activity is on "Capacity building [activities] on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins". The Coalition has now over 200 members representing UN Organizations, governmental institutions, private sector, academia, NGOs, and civil society.

The Water and Climate Leaders, co-convened by WMO SG Petteri Taalas and UN-Water Chair Mr. Gilbert Houngbo, consist of current and former heads of state and government, ministers, heads of UN entities, the private sector and civil society, have also called for a more integrated approach between water and

climate, as well as strengthening regional cooperation for early warning systems to enhance management of floods, droughts and water-related hazards.

Moving forward we want to continue to build great synergies with UNECE in future climate change related work in transboundary basins under the Water Convention.

WMO members states have included transboundary water resources management as one specific activity under the Hydrology Action Plan and we look forward to engaging with UNECE and the respective water resources managers' network.

At the same time, we would like to continue to offer UNECE the technical expertise WMO can offer and invite UNECE to consider having a focal point as an observer in the Standing Committee on Hydrology and the Joint Expert Team on Hydrological monitoring. We believe this would strengthen our cooperation and help us identify synergies while avoiding repetition of efforts and aligning WMO and UNECE Water Convention activities.

Thank you very much again for inviting WMO to be here today. We look forward to a continued fruitful collaboration.