Item 8.(b) Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

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Background:
Global Workshop on Source-to-sea Management
(14-16 December 2022, Geneva & online)

Format: 3-day workshop on effective source-to-sea management with practical peer-learning elements
Participants: 316 registered participants (120 in-person, 196 virtual)
Organizers: Water Convention Secretariat, under the leadership of Estonia and Slovenia, in cooperation with UNEP MAP, IOC-UNESCO, SIWI, S2S Platform, GWP, GEF, IW:Learn (funding partners: Sweden and Germany)
Outcomes:
• Transboundary and intersectoral cooperation must be strengthened,
• More awareness and capacity-building are needed,
• Financing of source-to-sea action must be incentivized,
• There is momentum and urgency to accelerate source-to-sea action.
Guidance Note on the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins

- A direct outcome from the workshop was the proposal to develop a Guidance Note on the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins.
- In June 2023, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management decided to develop such a Guidance Note in the framework of the Water Convention.
- In February 2024, the first meeting of the Expert Group was held.
Guidance Note on the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins

Objectives:

- **Promote understanding**: The guidance note aims to increase the understanding of the need for and benefits of source-to-sea governance and the significance of the source-to-sea approach in integrated water resource management, ecosystem conservation, and sustainability.

- **Build capacity**: To provide guidance and tools for governments, organizations, and stakeholders involved in managing transboundary basins, watersheds, and coastal areas, with the goal of enhancing their capacity for effective source-to-sea management.

- **Facilitate implementation**: To assist in the practical application of source-to-sea management principles by offering actionable steps, methodologies, and best practices.

- **Transboundary and trans-sectoral collaboration**: To encourage collaboration and cooperation among different institutions, sectors and stakeholders involved in the management of land, freshwater, and marine resources.

- **Case studies and best practices**: To showcase successful case studies and best practices in source-to-sea management from different regions, offering practical insights and inspiration.
Guidance Note on the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins

Envisioned timeline

First meeting of Expert Group

Feb 2024

Presentation of annotated outline at Working Group on IWRM meeting

May 2024

Revision of annotated outline for Meeting of the Parties (MOP10)

May-Sep 2024

Presentation of revised annotated outline at MOP10

Oct 2024

Drafting and finalization of Guidance Note

2024-2025

Adoption of Guidance Note at the Working Group on IWRM meeting

summer 2025

Presentation of Guidance Note at UN Ocean Conference

June 2025

2025 UN OCEAN CONFERENCE
June 2025, France
Guidance Note on the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins

Introduction of draft outline of the guidance note for the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins

(ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.5-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.5)
Thank you!

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