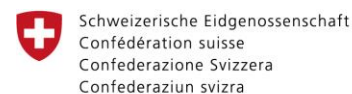


# WORK OF THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH AND THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CONVENTION IN UZBEKISTAN

LINKS TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Samarkand Human Rights Forum  
13-14 June 2024

**Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, Environmental Affairs Officer, Protocol on  
Water and Health, UNECE**  
**Ms. Ksenia Nechunaeva, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer,  
Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE**



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC  
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# What is the Protocol on Water and Health?

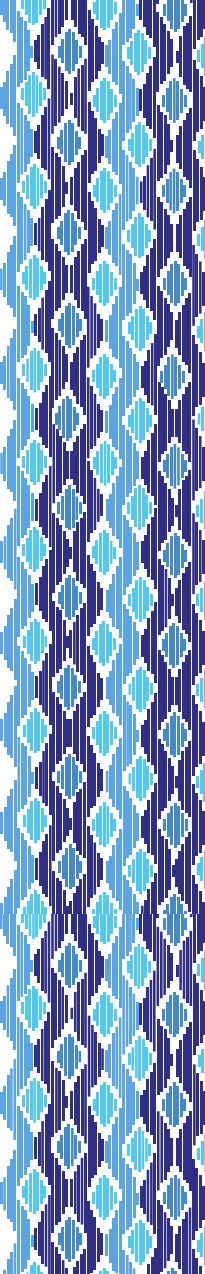
- International legally binding treaty adopted in 1999, in force since 2005: 29 Parties as of June 2024, 2 at final stage of accession, over 40 countries cooperating
- **Objective:** protect human health and well-being through sustainable water management and by preventing and controlling water-related diseases
- **Scope:** entire water cycle – protection of water resources, drinking water supply chain from catchment to consumption, sanitation chain from collection and treatment of wastewater to discharge and reuse, water used for recreation
- **UNECE** and **WHO/Europe** jointly provide secretariat functions

## *Unique characteristics:*

*First and only treaty that focuses on water, sanitation, hygiene and health;*

*Combines environmental protection with promotion of human health;*

*Precursor and accelerator of SDG6*



# Human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation: synergies with the Protocol

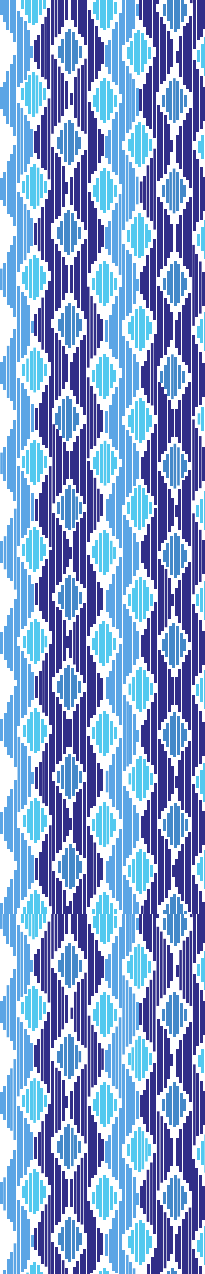
- ❑ 2010: UNGA explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation acknowledging that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realisation of all human rights ([Resolution 64/292](#))
- ❑ 2015: UNGA recognized the existence of two separate human rights to water and sanitation ([Resolution 70/169](#))

## *Legal content of the human rights to water and sanitation and the Protocol:*

- Availability (articles 5 and 6 of the Protocol)
- Accessibility (articles 5(I), 6)
- Acceptability
- Affordability (articles 5 and 6)
- Quality/safety (article 6.2 of the Protocol)

## *How HR principles are reflected in the Protocol:*

- **Accountability:** reporting by Parties (art. 7) + Compliance Committee (art. 15)
- **Participation:** many rights entitled to the public (art. 5, 9, 10, 15)
- **Sustainability:** focus on prevention (art. 5) and whole water cycle (art. 3)
- **Non-discrimination:** focus on “equitable access” (art. 5 and 6)



# Main obligations: target setting and reporting under the Protocol

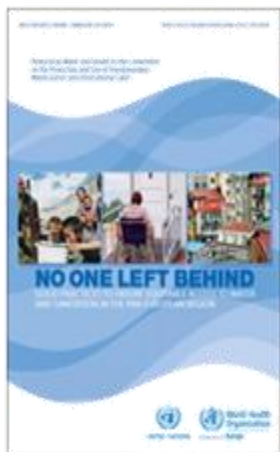
Parties to the Protocol and other countries set, monitor and regularly review national/local **intersectoral targets** on water, sanitation, hygiene and health

Targets are developed following an in-depth baseline analysis and through a **participatory target setting process**, bringing together environment and health sectors

Countries **report on progress** every three years to Meeting of the Parties through **submission of national summary reports**. The Compliance Committee provides assistance and support to countries

Protocol reporting provides a **data hub**, with harmonized information on water, sanitation, hygiene and health  
Development of an **electronic tool for reporting**

# Protocol tools to support realization of the human rights



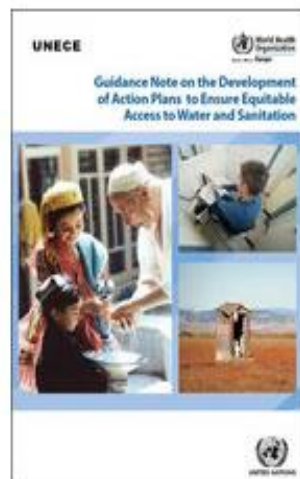
## No One Left Behind (2012)

Set the framework to further understand the concept of equity – 3 dimensions/equity challenges (*geographical, social, economic*)



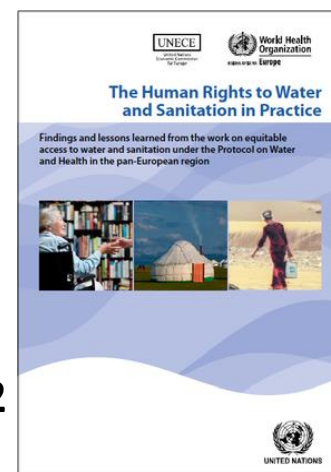
## The Equitable Access Score-card (2013)

Help to identify equity gaps through a self-assessment exercise. Update of the EA Score-card in progress!



## Guidance Note on equitable access action plans (2016)

Provide guidance to define concrete actions to address gaps



# Strengthening action in Uzbekistan and water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change project

Funded by the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

Dec 2023 – Dec 2026

Jointly implemented by the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health

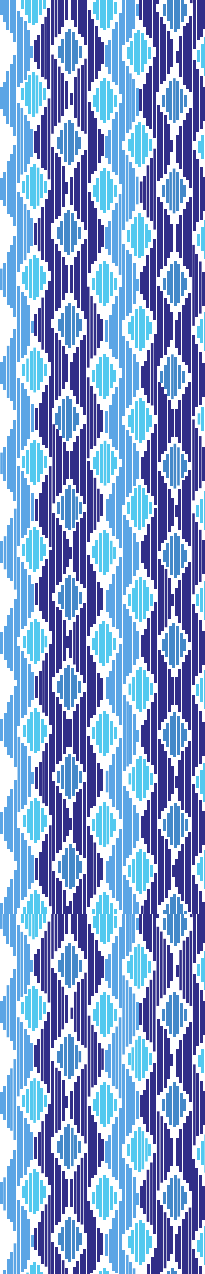
High-level launch 14 March in Tashkent

Significant Protocol-related project outcomes (vis-à-vis HR to water and sanitation):

- **Outcome 1:** strengthened national governance on water and sanitation and climate resilience through implementation of the Protocol
- **Outcome 3:** increased political and public awareness on water and sanitation

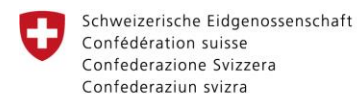
## **Examples of activities:**

- development of integrated and climate resilient targets on water, sanitation, hygiene and health based on consultative multistakeholder process;
- sensitizing of the public/population in a target municipality/region on relevant water issues (e.g. water saving, water quality, sanitation) jointly with local partners;
- awareness-raising targeted to specific stakeholders (e.g. rural authorities, schools, water operators) identified in the baseline analysis
- information and communication materials (e.g. project results and lessons learned)





# UNECE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CONVENTION AND LINKS TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE



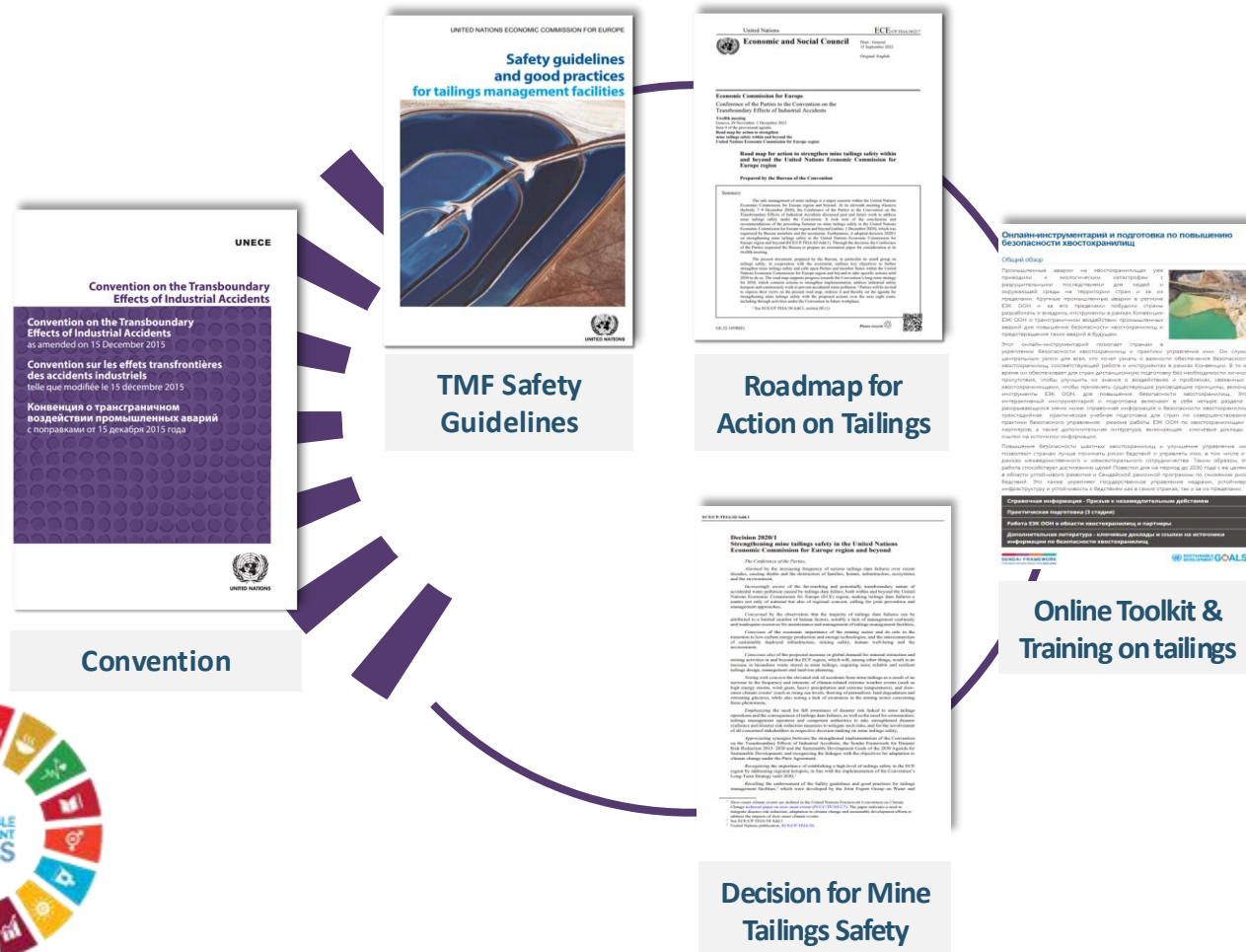
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# UNECE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CONVENTION

42 Parties, 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention in 2022, Assistance and Cooperation Programme (since 2004) to support countries with economies in transition, Natech & TMFs in Convention's scope

## Guidance & tools



## Practical application

- Inventories & Maps of >1000 TMFs in the Danube River Basin & Central Asia
- On-site trainings at TMFs to build capacity & understand risks
- Creation of Interinstitutional Working Groups on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution (IIWGs) in KZ & TJ
- Strengthened subregional/transboundary cooperation on tailings safety



# UNECE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CONVENTION

Human rights and climate change: what does the Convention do?

## HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Avoids deaths and illnesses** from hazardous chemicals by reducing the risk of technological disasters releasing chemical substances  
→ **ARTICLE 3 UDHR**
- **Prevents accidental (drinking) water pollution** from industrial accidents  
→ **ARTICLE 25 UDHR**
- **Involves the public** in discussions related to prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents  
→ **ARTICLE 8 UDHR**
- **Thus, provides** an effective mechanism for protecting **populations**, the **environment** and **economies** from industrial accidents occurring within and across national borders

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- Strengthens **resilience to climate-related hazards** and **natural disasters** by promoting adequate siting, land-use policies and emergency plans
- Provides a **framework** to prevent accidental release of chemicals, thus contributing to their **environmentally sound management**
- Improves **governance and capacity** in the areas of prevention of accidental water pollution, and resilience to **climate change**, incl. through transboundary cooperation and regional exchange
- Reflects on growing amount and increased severity of **natural hazards** by providing **guidelines** on natural-hazard-triggered technological disasters (**NATECH events**)

# UZBEKISTAN

## CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

### Climate change

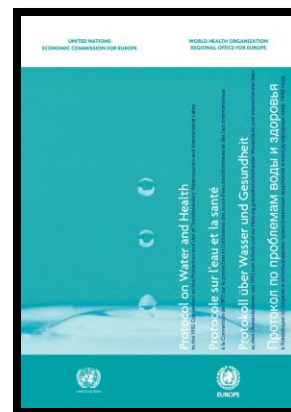
- Natural disasters
- Damage on water and sanitation services
- Increased frequency and severity of Natural hazards triggered technological disasters (NATECH)

### Water and sanitation

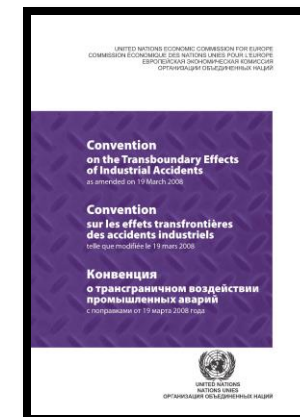
- Water stress
- Low access to water and sanitation services
- Financing of WASH services

UNECE hosts two MEAs that, through their legal provisions and technical and policy tools, can help address the challenges and needs by Uzbekistan

### Protocol on Water and Health



### Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents



### Institutional & policy fragmentation

- Fragmented management of water
- Need for integrated planning and coordination

### Accidental water pollution

- Increased number and scale of tailings facilities with risks for people and the environment
- High risks of water pollution in transboundary basins

# PROJECT ON STRENGTHENING ACTION IN UZBEKISTAN ON WATER AND SANITATION, AND PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES FROM ACCIDENTAL POLLUTION IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE



**UNECE**



**World Health Organization**

European Region



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

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**UNECE**  
Convention on the Transboundary  
Effects of Industrial Accidents



ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME



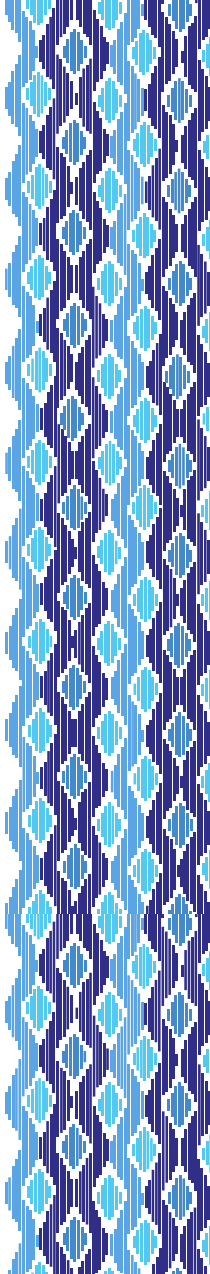
# Strengthening Action in Uzbekistan on Water and Sanitation and Protection of Water Resources from Accidental Pollution in the face of Climate Change

Improve governance and capacity in the areas of water and sanitation, prevention of accidental water pollution, and resilience to climate change, incl. through transb. cooperation and regional exchange

3 years project implementation  
Dec 2023- Dec 2026

Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

2 components	National
	Regional



# High-level Launch event and technical workshops

Tashkent, 14 March 2024

- Representatives from national Uzbek authorities, SDC, UN in Uzbekistan, UNECE and civil society
- **All-encompassing approach** to issues related to water, environment and health
- Further work on subregional **cooperation** and cooperation with different national authorities
- **Support climate change resilience**, access to and safety of quality water and sanitation services
- Open dialogue and **trust building** between government authorities, partner organizations and civil society
- information and **knowledge sharing** about the upcoming activities planned under the new project, incl. through press conference, and synergies with other projects and relevant activities
- Followed by **Technical Workshops**

## Examples of the planned activities

**Support** to Uzbekistan towards accession to the Industrial Accidents Convention, including **draft law** on accession, **roadmap** on the accession

**Subregional workshop for Central Asian countries** to exchange good practices on tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution

**Support to Uzbekistan** in establishment of the **national governance mechanism** on tailings safety and preventing accidental water pollution

**Support** to the Joint Uzbek-Kazakh Working Group in the **Syr Darya River Basin**, also involving Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan



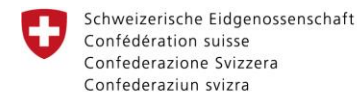
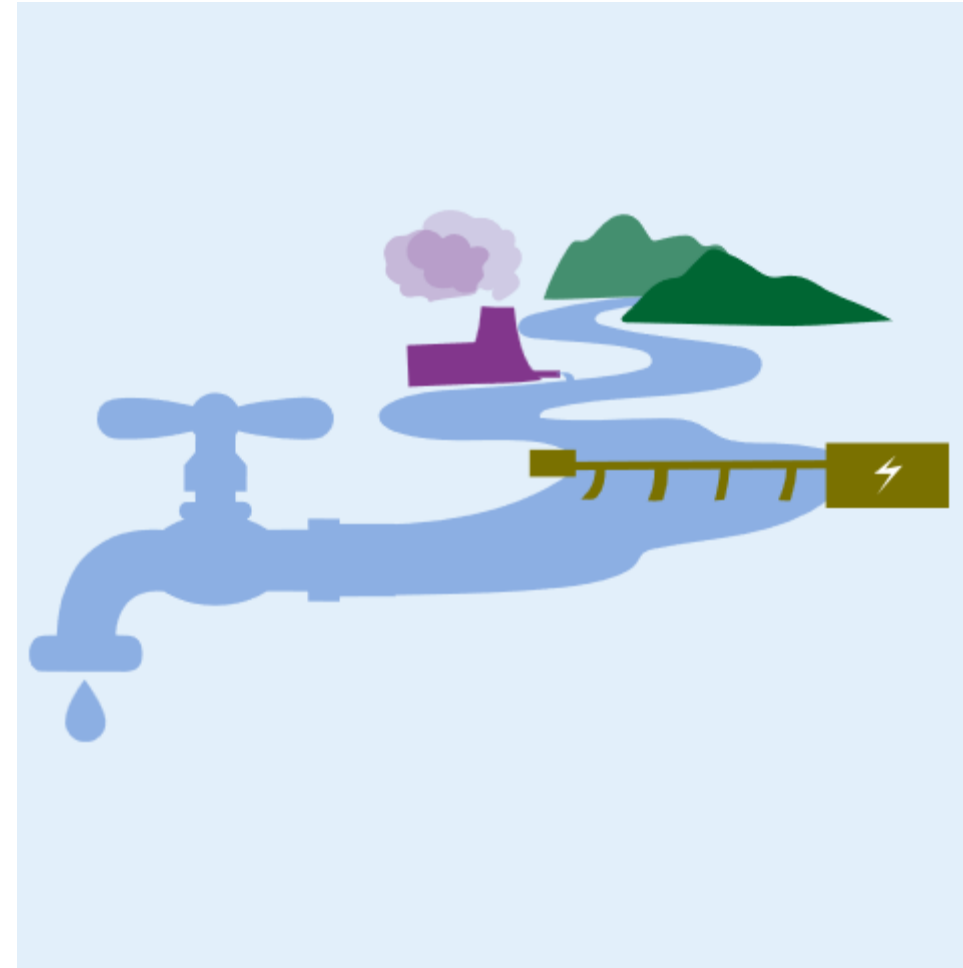
# Thank you!

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