



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat



Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

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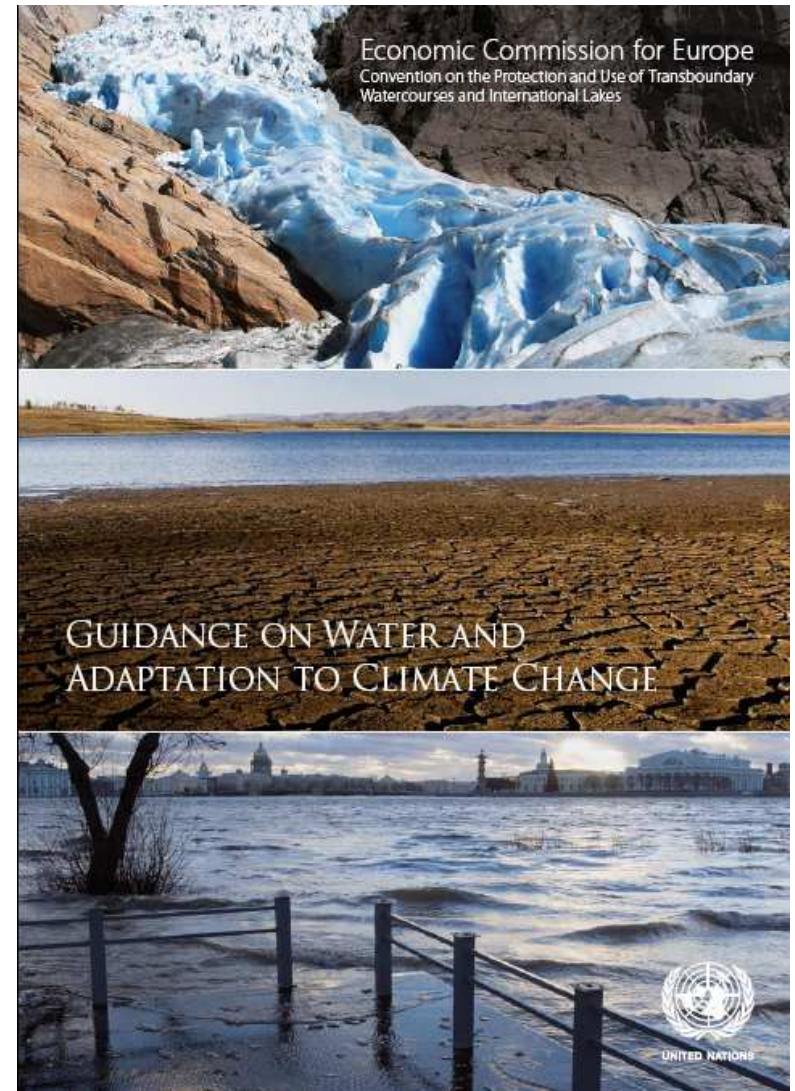
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Aim of the Guidance

- Develop general roadmap for climate proofing of water management
- Floods, droughts and quality aspects, including health
- Provide step-wise approach on:
 - assessing impacts of climate change
 - developing policy, strategic and operational responses
- Transboundary context





Process of drafting

- First Taskforce meeting in Bonn; November 2006
- Questionnaire; February - April 2008
- Workshop in Amsterdam; July 2008
- Working group IWRM; October 2008
- Review draft guidance; January – March 2009
- Second Taskforce meeting in Geneva; April 2009
- Working group IWRM; July 2009
- Fifth Meeting of the Parties; November 2009

- Various Drafting Group meetings



Main messages (I)

- Adaptation to climate change in water management is needed now
- Uncertainty should never be a reason not to act
- Adaptation measures should allow for maximum flexibility
- Adaptation can be an opportunity for innovation and new technologies
- Water management is a key-factor in adaptation to climate change as many sectors directly depend from water resources availability
- Consider climate change in the context of other pressures on water resources (population growth, migration, globalization, changing consumption patterns and agricultural and industrial developments)
- Stakeholders participation is crucial for all steps of the development and implementation of adaptation strategies and measures



Main messages (II)

- Transboundary cooperation is both necessary and beneficial - focus on preventing transboundary impacts, sharing benefits and risks in an equitable and reasonable manner and cooperating on the basis of equality and reciprocity
- Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) supports climate change adaptation
- Barriers to adaptation in the legal, institutional and policy frameworks should be removed
- Implementation of national legislation and international commitments supports climate change adaptation
- Education, capacity-building and communication are imperative for effective climate change adaptation
- Exchange of knowledge and experiences to enhance the capacity of countries to adapt and to cope with climate change



Main messages (III)

- Sharing of information between countries and sectors, including early-warning systems, is essential
- Effective adaptation strategies are a mix of
 - structural and non-structural
 - regulatory and economic instruments
 - education and awareness-raising measures
- Adaptation measures should be cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, culturally compatible and socially acceptable
- It is cost-effective to start adaptation now since costs will be much higher once climate change effects are irreversible
- The process of developing and implementing adaptation measures should build on learning-by-doing