

# Progress under the UNECE Water Convention

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Protocol on Water and Health



# Important developments under the Water Convention

- \* Currently 41 Parties incl. European Union
- \* 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) took place on 17-19 November 2015 in Budapest
- \* Adopted decisions on general issues of implementation, reporting, the global opening and partnerships
- \* Two new publications on assessing benefits of cooperation and the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus
- \* Convention is open for accession by all UN Member States since 1 March 2016
- \* Celebrating 20th anniversary of Convention's entry into force in 2016

# Introduction of reporting under the Water Convention

- \* Reporting was not foreseen in the legal text of the Convention (unlike the Protocol)
- \* After three years of negotiations, MOP7 introduced regular reporting
- \* Template includes questions related to national governance and questions related to transboundary cooperation (to be answered basin by basin) => questions at national level are particularly relevant for the Protocol
- \* Since the template adoption, the UN Statistical Commission adopted indicator 6.5.2 (“Extent of transboundary basin area covered by an operational arrangement for transboundary cooperation”) for which UNECE and UNESCO are custodian agencies
- \* WGIWRM 2016 decided to include in the template for reporting questions and data related to indicator 6.5.2
- \* Reporting will be piloted from Nov 2016 to 2017
- \* Preparation of synthesis report for MOP8 and report for HLPF on indicator 6.5.2

# Opening the Convention to all UN member states

- \* Aims:

- Apply principles and provisions worldwide
- Share experiences of Water Convention community of Parties
- Learn from other regions of the world

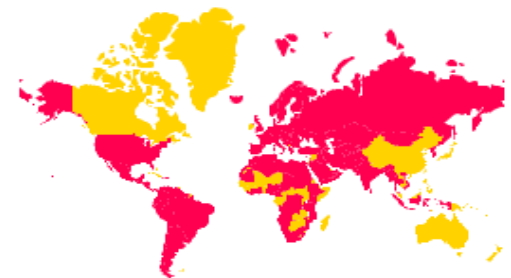
- \* Opening became operational in March 2016

- \* More than 60 non-UNECE countries already participated in the Convention's activities and some are in the process of accession

- \* Regional and national workshops organized, e.g. in Tunisia, Mexico for Latin American countries etc.

- \* When promoting the Convention outside the UNECE region, we often witness interest in the Protocol

- \* Currently development of a strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level



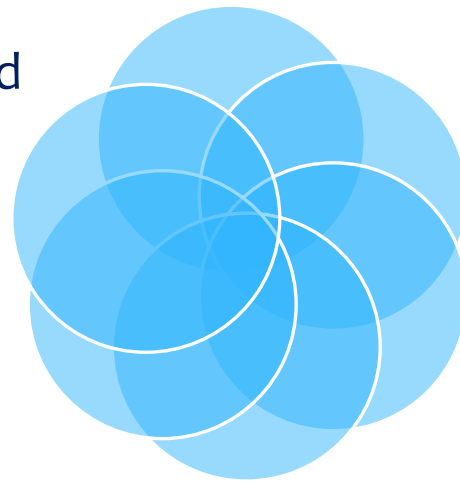
# Water Convention Programme of work for 2016-2018

Support to implementation and application

Opening, promotion and partnerships

Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

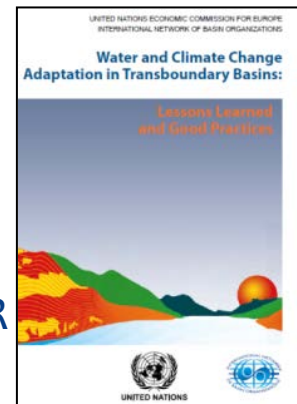
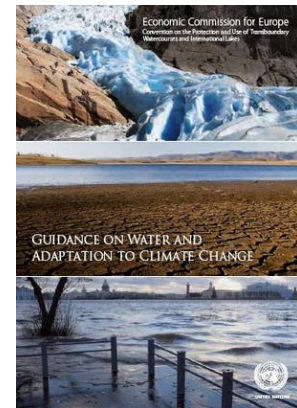


Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

# Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins in the Convention's work programme

- \* Activities led by Task Force on Water and Climate
- \* Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change developed in cooperation with Protocol and adopted by MOP5 in 2009
- \* Since 2010 Programme of pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (Chu Talas, Neman, Dniester, Sava rivers)
- \* (Global) Platform for exchanging experience with annual workshops: last one on 13-14 September focused on financing basin adaptation
- \* Global network of 14 basins working on climate change, with INBO
- \* Collection of good practices and lessons learned published in 2015
- \* Future priorities: work on financing and on water scarcity
- \* Input to global processes on water and climate such as UNFCCC, UNISDR



# Future opportunities for cooperation

The strategic workshop on future work highlighted a growing interest in the implementation of the Protocol in the transboundary context. Several opportunities for increased cooperation

- \* Continued cooperation under the NPDs which are fundamentally a tool to strengthen national water governance, like the Protocol itself
- \* Climate change activities: global workshop on water scarcity planned jointly under the Convention and Protocol
- \* Other areas of work under the Convention where a health component could be highlighted: e.g. in the work on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and in the future comprehensive assessment