The Water Convention and the SDGs

Peter Kovacs, chair of the Water Convention
All areas of the Water Convention’s programme of work for 2016-2018 support implementation of 2030 agenda and intersectoral cooperation.

- **Support to implementation and application**
- **Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation**
- **Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins**
- **Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins**

**NPDs bring together different ministries and sectors at the national level, thus supporting policy coherence.**

- **Opening, promotion and partnerships**
  - European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues
- **Supports implementation of Paris Agreement, Sendai framework and intersectoral cooperation in climate change adaptation and mitigation.**
- **Supports strengthening intersectoral cooperation and improving resource efficiency, greater policy coherence, thus the 2030 agenda.**
The Water Convention supports monitoring of water-related SDGs, in particular target 6.5

- Special session at MOP7 underlined usefulness of Water Convention for implementing water-related SDGs, in particular target 6.5 on transboundary cooperation, and other global commitments
- MOP 7 introduced a reporting mechanism under the Convention starting with a pilot reporting exercise
- In 2016, UN Statistical Commission adopted SDG indicator 6.5.2: *Percentage of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for transboundary cooperation*
- UNECE and UNESCO as proposed custodian agencies developed the methodology in the framework of UN-Water in 2015/2016
- In 2016, reporting template under the Convention was revised to allow also monitoring of SDG indicator 6.5.2
- In 2017, all Parties and non-Parties sharing transboundary waters have been asked to fill in the reporting template by **15 May 2017 – reporting by all is crucial to establish a baseline**
- In 2018: Synthesis report to High Level Political Forum and MOP8 in Kazakhstan
From a regional to a global instrument

The Convention was amended in 2003 to allow accession to all UN Member States with the objective to:

- Apply the principles and provisions worldwide
- Share the experiences of the Convention
- Learn from other regions of the world
- Broaden political support for transboundary cooperation
- Jointly develop solutions to common challenges

⇒ As of 1st March 2016, all UN Member States can accede to the Convention

- More than 60 countries from outside the UNECE region participated in the Convention’s activities
- Several are in the process of accession
- Currently, a strategy to implement the Convention at the global level is under development
- Convention can become a home in the UN system for transboundary water cooperation
- Benefits: new opportunities, new partners such as GEF, new donors, new visibility, new experiences, new challenges
Thank you for your attention!

More information including guidelines, publications and information on activities under the Convention can be found at:

http://unece.org/env/water
or Water.convention@unece.org