



**The Convention of the Protection and
Use of Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes (Water
Convention)**

Water Convention

- I For the first time, principles of transboundary cooperation within river basins were laid down in a convention under international law
 - the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)

Water Convention

- I Many rivers criss-cross the border between two or more countries, the basins of many lakes are shared between two or three countries, and transboundary aquifers often underlie two or even three countries.
- I The sustainable management of such shared resources requires common approaches to prevent, control and reduce pollution, based on joint objectives and institutional frameworks.

Water Convention

- | The Water Convention is intended
 - to strengthen national measures for the protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary surface waters and ground waters.
- | The Convention obliges Parties to prevent, control and reduce water pollution from point and non-point sources.

Water Convention

- | The Convention also includes provisions for monitoring, research and development, consultations, warning and alarm systems, mutual assistance, institutional arrangements, and the exchange and protection of information, as well as public access to information

Water Convention

- I Under the Water Convention, the Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, control and reduce pollution of waters causing or likely to cause transboundary impact.
- I They shall also ensure that transboundary waters are used with the aim of ecologically sound and rational water management, conservation of water resources, and environmental protection.

Water Convention

- I Moreover, Parties are obliged to ensure that transboundary waters are used in a reasonable and equitable way, and also to ensure the conservation of and, where necessary, the restoration of ecosystems.

Water Convention

- I Riparian Parties have specific obligations. For example, they shall establish and implement joint programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters, including floods and ice drifts.

Water Convention

Moreover, these riparian Parties shall, at

- I regular intervals, carry out joint or coordinated assessments of the conditions of transboundary waters and the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact.
- I The results of these assessments shall be made available to the public.

Water Convention

- | The Water Convention applies to all transboundary waters- surface waters and ground waters alike.
- | It promotes a river basin approach to water management and recognizes the river basin as the natural unit for water management.
- | The Convention also aims to achieve a good status for waters and related ecosystems, taking into account the specificity of river basins

Water Convention

- I Moreover, it promotes a “combined approach” to pollution control, through the simultaneous setting of emission limits and water-quality objectives.
- I It calls for the involvement of all stakeholders, including the public, in the decision-making process, and establishes joint bodies as the institutional framework for riparian countries to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact.