

# **Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation**



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**Practical Guide for the Development of  
Agreements or Other Arrangements for  
Transboundary Water Cooperation**



United Nations

Geneva, 2021

Requests to reproduce excerpts or to photocopy should be addressed to the Copyright Clearance Center at [copyright.com](http://copyright.com).

All other queries on rights and licences, including subsidiary rights, should be addressed to: United Nations Publications, 405 East 42nd Street, S-09FW001, New York, NY 10017, United States of America. Email: [permissions@un.org](mailto:permissions@un.org); website: <https://shop.un.org>.

The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States.

Links contained in the present publication are provided for the convenience of the reader and are correct at the time of issue. The United Nations takes no responsibility for the continued accuracy of that information or for the content of any external website.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

This publication is issued in English, Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish.

Photo credits: Depositphotos, Adobestock

United Nations publication issued by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

#### Contact information

Water Convention secretariat

Email: [water.convention@un.org](mailto:water.convention@un.org)

Website: <http://www.unece.org/env/water>

ECE/MP.WAT/68
---------------

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION
----------------------------

Sales No. E.21.II.E.8
-----------------------

ISBN 978-92-1-117271-3
------------------------

eISBN: 978-92-1-005835-3
--------------------------

#### Cover photos:

Top left - Confluence of the rivers Baker and Neff, flowing out of Lake Bertrand shared by Chile and Argentina

Bottom left - Victoria Falls bridge at the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe

Right - Ili River valley near Almaty, Kazakhstan

## FOREWORD

Waters that cross or mark sovereign borders unite more than they divide. There are many wonderful examples from around the world showing how countries share these rivers, lakes and aquifers, and proving the environmental, social, economic, political and cultural benefits that such cooperation generates. Transboundary water cooperation is also critical to help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and to advance sustainable development at the regional level.

Establishing cooperative arrangements for transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers is an important means for countries to sustain their cooperation, thereby preventing conflicts and promoting regional integration. However, currently only 24 of the 153 countries sharing transboundary waters have all their waters covered by such cooperative arrangements.

A significant increase in the number of such arrangements is urgently needed and would constitute an important contribution to the global Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030, and to UN-Water's SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.

The development of transboundary water-cooperation arrangements is promoted by the successful implementation of both global Water Conventions - the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses, and the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

Within this context, this Practical Guide, which represents a collective effort of many experts under the Water Convention, is both timely and welcome. While political will is always the most important driver, this guide will undoubtedly aid those countries that have taken the step to develop new arrangements on their transboundary waters or revise existing ones. Through the Practical Guide, they will be able to build upon the experience of many countries around the world that have realized the benefits of cooperative arrangements. I therefore encourage policymakers and experts involved in transboundary water cooperation to make use of this practical guide, and in turn contribute to the wider efforts to accelerate progress on the SDGs.



*Olga Algayerova*

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General  
Executive Secretary of the United Nations  
Economic Commission for Europe*



*Uruguay River at Conchillas, Colonia, Uruguay*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication would not have been possible without the generous contributions of many Governments, individuals, and international organizations. The Water Convention secretariat expresses its gratitude to the members of bodies under the Convention, as well as to the expert reviewers, and all those who provided case studies, contributions and comments.

**The secretariat thanks the members of the editorial group who drafted and edited the text of the Practical Guide:**

Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Northumbria University, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Mara Tignino, Geneva Water Hub, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Aaron Salzberg, University of North Carolina, United States of America

Sonja Koeppel, Water Convention secretariat, UNECE

Komlan Sangbana, Water Convention secretariat, UNECE

**The secretariat also wishes to thank the drafting group that was responsible for preparing and reviewing the Practical Guide. The drafting group, in addition to the members of the editorial group, was composed of:**

Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary (Chair)

Bernadette Araba Adjei, Water Resources Commission, Ghana

Christophe Brachet, International Network of Basin Organizations

Diego Jara, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Alexandros Kolliopoulos, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece

Annikka Lipponen, Water Convention secretariat, UNECE

Sylvester Matemu, Independent Expert, United Republic of Tanzania

Jean-Noël Pansera, International Meuse Commission

Iulia Trombitcaia, Water Convention secretariat, UNECE

Serhiy Vykhryst, Independent Expert, Ukraine

Aaron T. Wolf, Oregon State University and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Yumiko Yasuda, Global Water Partnership



**The secretariat also thanks the following experts who reviewed the text of the publication:**

Heide Jekel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Ylber Mirta, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Republic of North Macedonia

Pamela Alejandra Rojas, Hernandez, National Water Commission, Mexico

Ziad Khayat, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Fuad Bateh, Water Diplomacy Center, Jordan University of Science and Technology

Maria A. Gwynn, Independent Expert, Paraguay

Makane Moïse Mbengue, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Owen McIntyre, University College Cork, Ireland

John Murray, CMS Partners Boston, United States of America

Moustapha Ngaido, Cheick Anta Diop University, Senegal

Salman M.A. Salman, International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

Sokhem Pech, Independent Expert, Cambodia/Canada

Liliana Pimentel, University of Brasilia, Brazil

The secretariat gratefully acknowledges the valuable comments provided by the following members of the Implementation Committee: Attila Tanzi (Chair) and Dinara Ziganshina.

In the secretariat, Komlan Sangbana coordinated the preparation of the Practical Guide, supported by Sonja Koeppel. Valentina Paderi contributed to the development of the draft annotated outline. Chukwuebuka Edum, Indira Urazova and Melissa Mullane supported the preparation of the Guide. Chantal Demilecamps, Remy Kinna, Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon and Francesca Bernardini provided inputs and comments. Minako Hirano and Mayola Lidome provided administrative support to the process.

**Finally, this publication would not have been possible without funding from Germany for the development of the guide as well as its publication, and from the European Union for its translation into Arabic, French and Spanish.**

**While every effort was made to name all contributors, the secretariat regrets if any individual or organization has been overlooked in the lists above.**



预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_372](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_372)

