

Keynote speech on stakeholder participation in climate change adaptation

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UNECE

The Water Convention: a living instrument

Objective: to protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation

The Convention is based on three main pillars:

- Principle of prevention
- Principle of reasonable and equitable utilization
- Principle of cooperation

- Sustainability of resources is the overarching objective

Support to transboundary water cooperation thanks to:

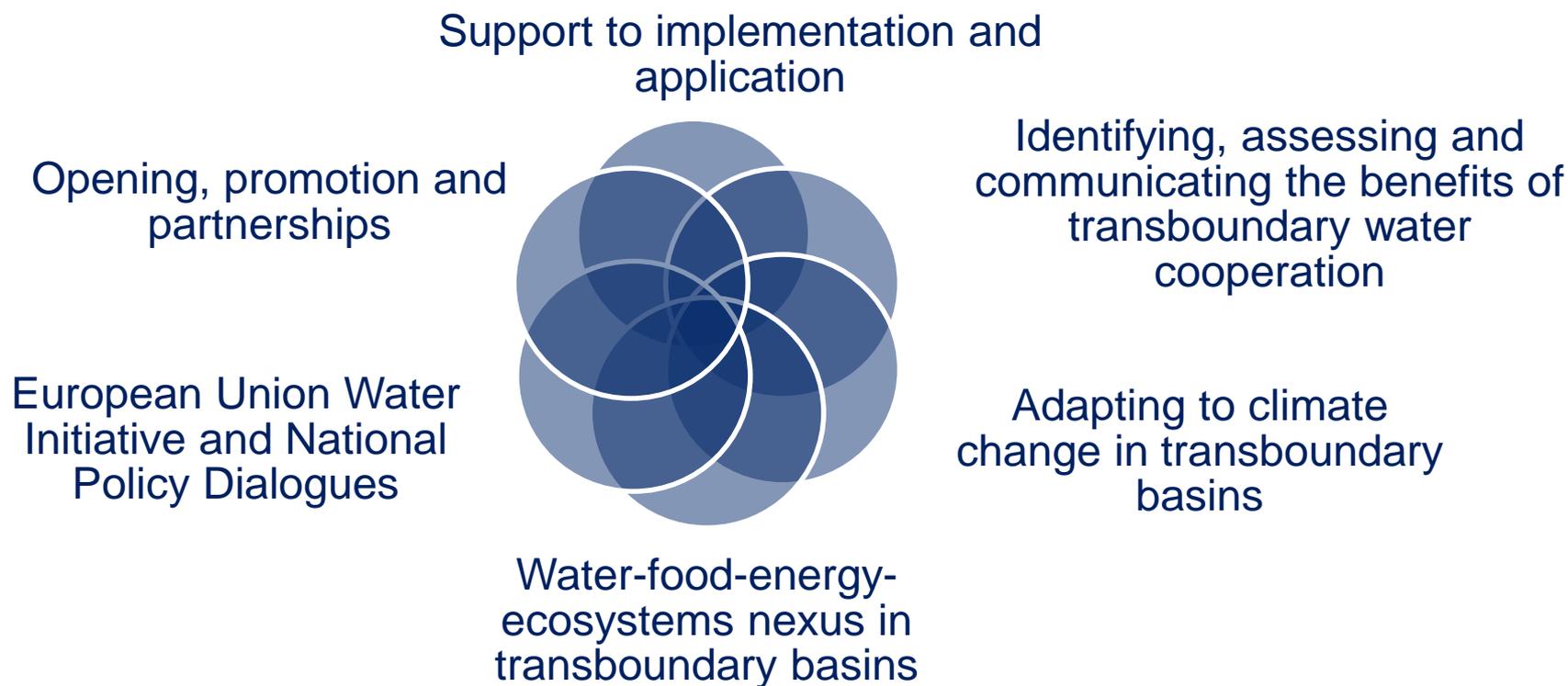


A sound legal framework

An active institutional framework

Activities and projects on the ground

Programme of work for 2016-2018



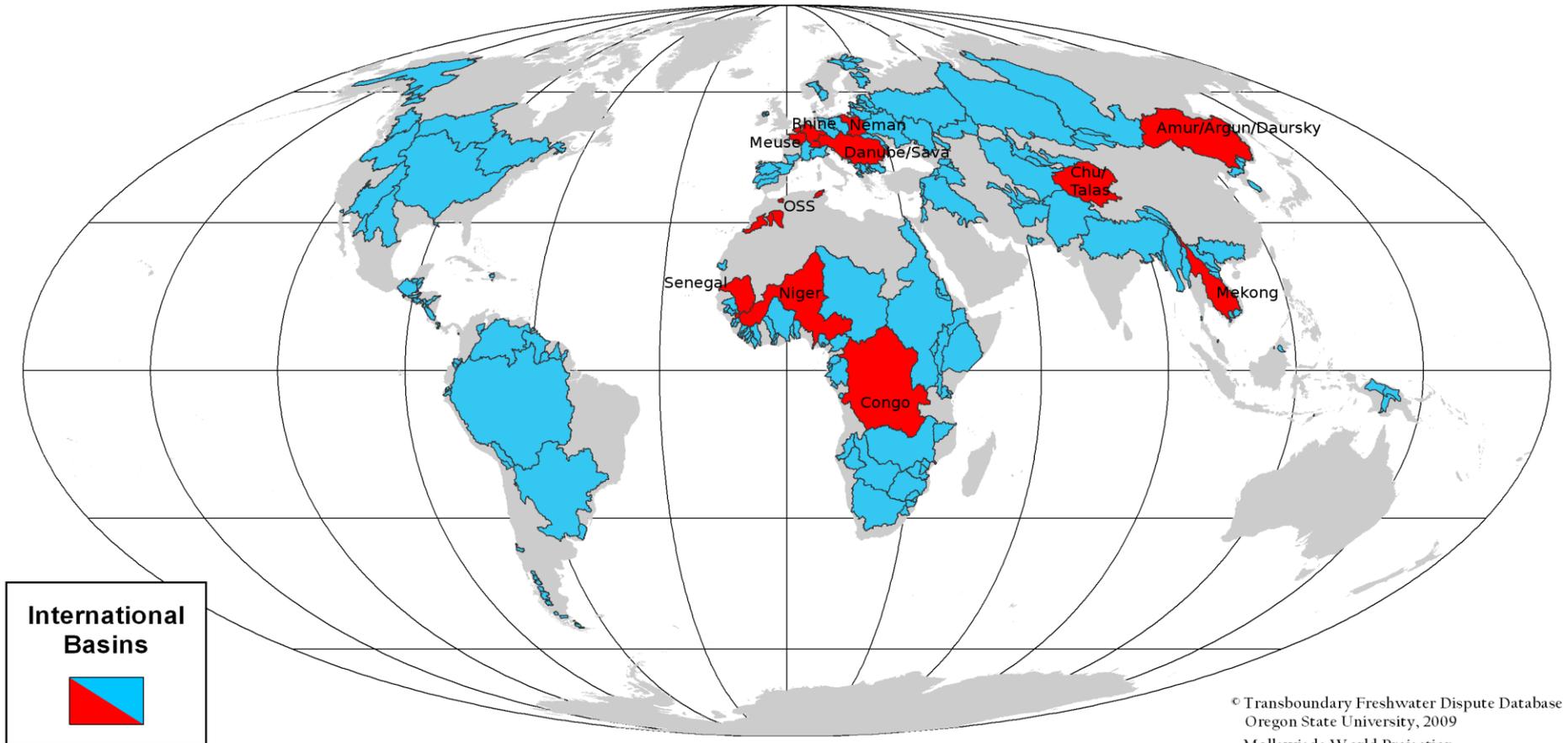
Climate change activities under the Convention

- Task Force on Water and Climate created in 2006
- Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change adopted in 2009
- Programme of pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (Chu Talas, Neman, Dniester, Sava rivers)
- (Global) Platform for exchanging experience on this: regular workshops and web platform
Workshop on water scarcity and Task Force on Water and Climate on 11-13 December in Geneva
- Global network of 14 basins working on climate change
- Collection of good practices and lessons learned published in 2015 together with INBO
- Policy work in global processes, such as UNFCCC, ISDR: Development of a Words into Action on "water/river basins management and transboundary cooperation"

Basins in the global network of basins

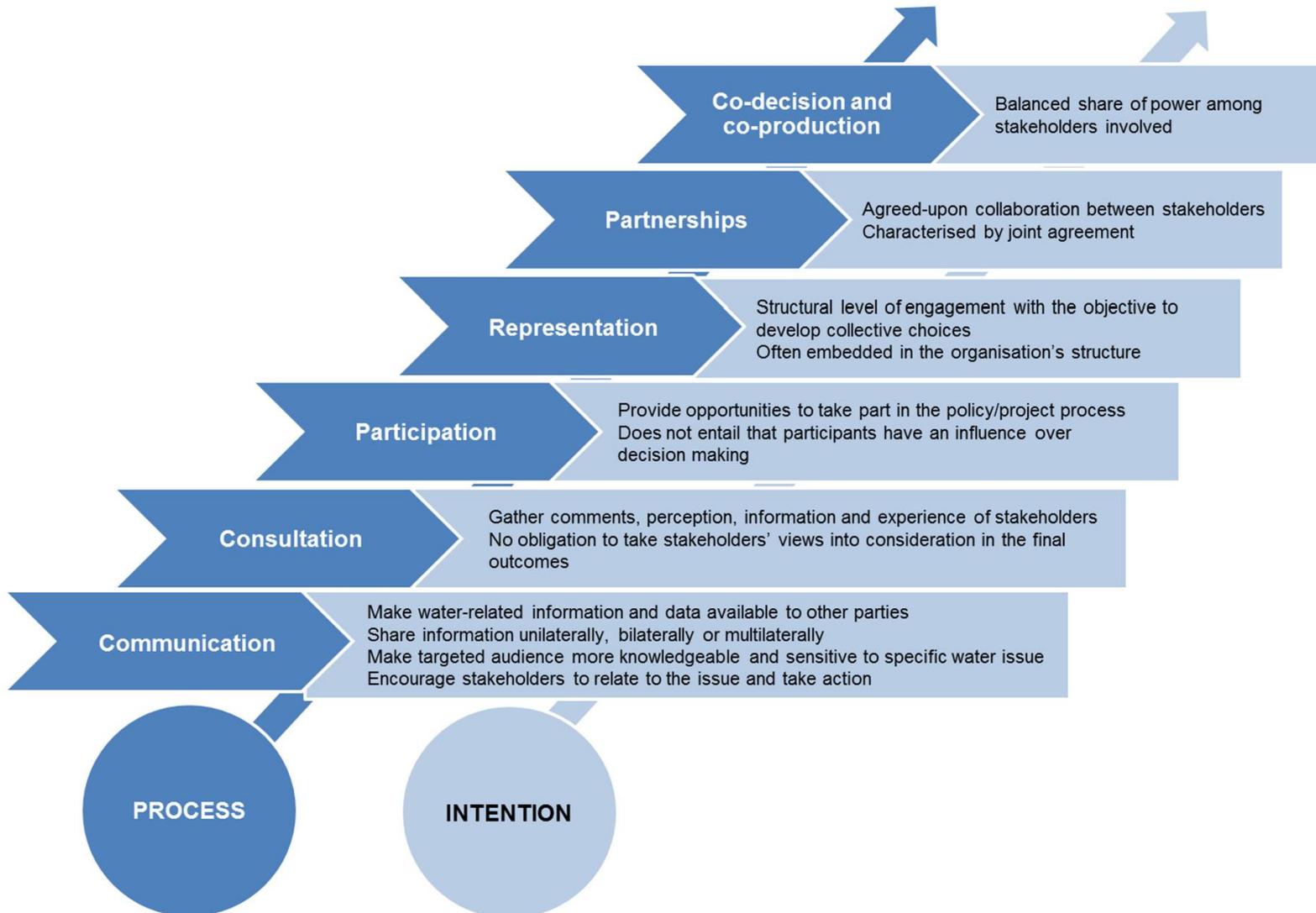
Working on climate change

International River Basins



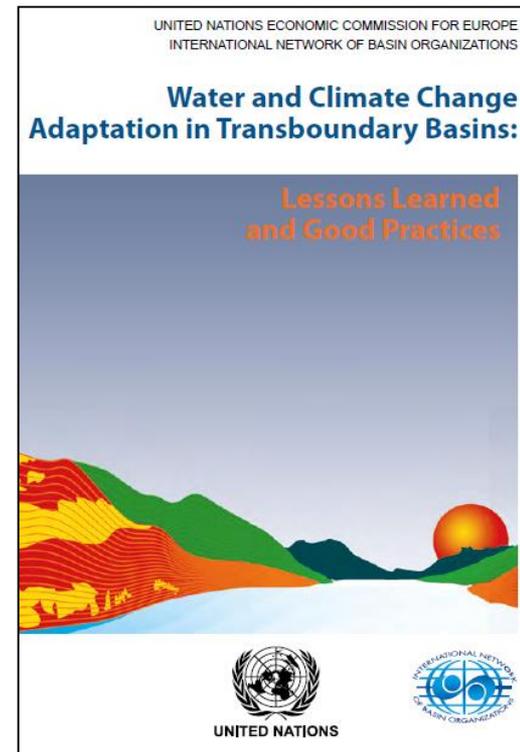
© Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database
Oregon State University, 2009
Mollweide World Projection
WGS 1984 Geographic Coordinate System

What is stakeholder involvement?



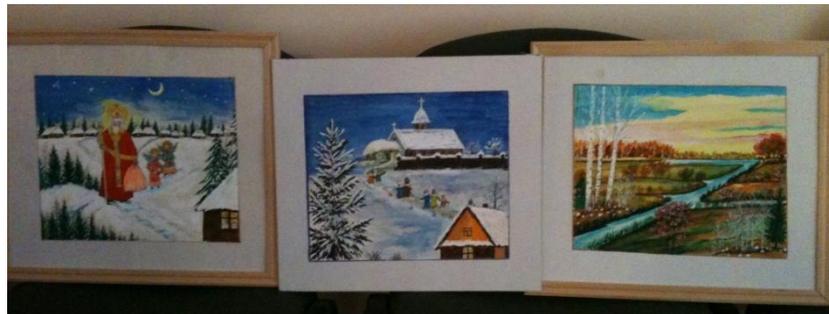
Lessons regarding stakeholder involvement

- Start climate change project with a thorough baseline study and stakeholder analysis e.g. Neman project
- Build transboundary teams of experts, authorities, NGOs, etc.
- Involve relevant stakeholders in all steps of the adaptation strategy development to ensure acceptance:
 - Impact assessment: Citizens science, make data available to public
 - Vulnerability assessment and scenario development: participatory workshops, e.g. Garonne
 - Strategy development: open consultation, workshops
- Combine adaptation strategy development with concrete measures implementation (eg in Dniester project 12 measures were implemented)



Stakeholders to involve

- Use existing consultation mechanisms such as basin councils
- Consult and involve affected communities
- Involve also water-related sectors as relevant e.g. energy, hydropower, agriculture, climate - by identify their relevant interests
- NGOs can play a crucial role: to push governments, to provide expertise, as a convening power
- For implementation of measures, consider also the private sector as financing source



Communication and capacity-building

- Assess capacities and try to bring diverging capacities in basin countries to similar level through trainings etc.: develop capacity building plan
- Ensure exchange of knowledge between technical experts and decision-makers, eg through working group
- Develop communication plan and tailor messages and communication means to audiences: e.g. film in AMICE
- Organize stakeholder conferences, e.g. Mekong
- Involve young people- example of the Dniester: Art basin contest «Dniester aquarelles», Dniester expedition, Afforestation

Conclusions

- Stakeholder involvement is crucial for acceptance of adaptation and mitigation measures; can lead to better more sustainable outcomes
- Measures carried out at basin level can improve transboundary cooperation at local level, and vice-versa, increasing trust and common understanding
- Basin – wide cooperation on climate change adaptation can foster transboundary cooperation more broadly
- **But it is challenging:**
 - RBOs are not anymore «only» supposed to manage water (communication specialists, process specialists, intersectoriality)
 - How to «institutionalize» involvement?

Water connects – be the connector

Thank you for your attention!

More information

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

[www.unece.org/env/water/water climate activ](http://www.unece.org/env/water/water_climate_activ)

**[https://www2.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/
ClimateChange](https://www2.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChange)**

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