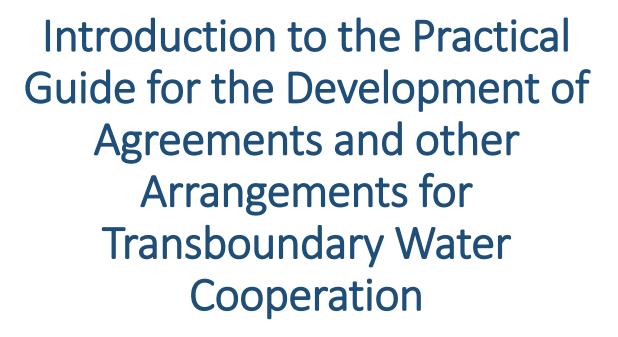
UNECE

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











Elaboration of the Practical Guide

Nur-sultan, 10-12 October 2018,

Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention adopts programme of work for 2019-2021

Programme of work includes checklist

Preparation of the first draft annotated outline (secretariat in cooperation with several partners)

28-29 July 2020, Virtual Workshop

Tailored to support the preparation of the checklist and to gather input from participants

30 September-2 October, 15th meeting of the WGIWRM

Draft annotated outline submitted for consideration and review by the Working Group

27 Nov. 2020 - Present Drafting group

Formation of a drafting group and development of the text of the checklist



29 Sept – 1 Oct 2021

MOP of the Water Convention and submission of the Checklist

26-28 April 2021, Review by WGIWRM and focal points

Finalization phase

- Group of experts (Hungary (Lead Party) as Chair) with proven experience in working on the development and practical implementation of legal arrangements for transboundary water resources.
- Responsibilities: written inputs, selection of cases studies, peer review and editing



Introduction to the Practical Guide

Objective: support countries in the **design and drafting** of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary waters that are effective, adaptable and sustainable.

Focus: on **content and drafting options** rather than on process.

Target audience: State representatives, legal and technical experts, decision-makers involved in negotiation of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary waters, the staff of river basin organizations, regional organizations, and other stakeholders working on transboundary cooperation and water diplomacy are the target audience of the Practical Guide.

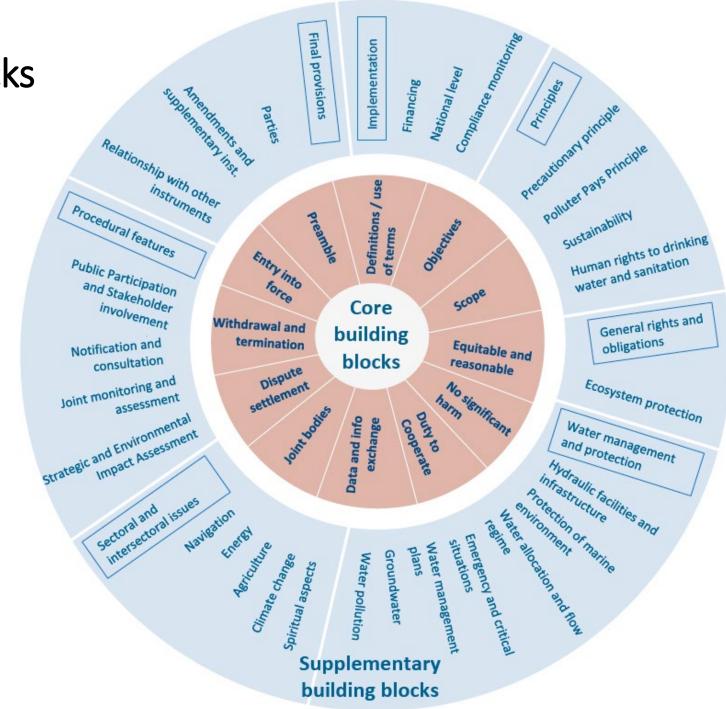
Publication available at: https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/361821

Structure of the Practical Guide

- 6 thematic modules: Preamble; General provisions; Substantive content; Procedural features; Implementation, institutional framework and dispute settlement; Final provisions.
- Building blocks provisions/issues that countries may consider including within each module
- Key aspects: help define content of building blocks
- Introductory text to each building block, setting out its context and rationale;
- **Key considerations**, which explain different approaches that might be taken within the arrangements, and the implications thereof;
- Examples from treaty practice that illustrate how to frame a particular provision; and
- Supporting resources, assist in further developing the content



Overview of building blocks that might be included in an arrangement



How to use the Practical Guide

Identify thematic modules to structure the arrangement or the agreement

Consider
which building
blocks to include
from each module

Decide upon the type of provision to develop within a particular building block

Rely on support resources for further details, justification and explanations



Key messages

1. There are several benefits to developing agreements or arrangements for transboundary water cooperation.

- 2. The process of developing an agreement or other arrangement is itself an important outcome.
- 3. Arrangements can take many shapes and forms.

4. Consider existing national and international law and practices.