

TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS – PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION

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Master level course is a cooperation between Uzbek Universities and the Swedish Aral Sea Society

Transboundary Waters: Key Messages and Facts

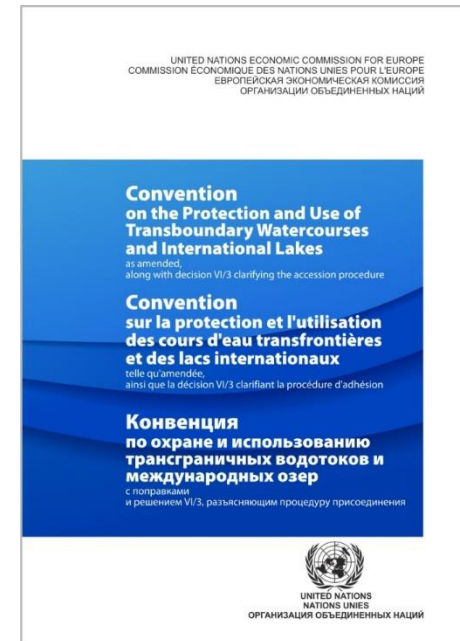
- Most rivers worldwide cross borders
- Joint management through agreements, and joint institutions (e.g. Danube Commission) is crucial for development, growth, etc.
- Generally, water cooperation prevails over conflicts
- Increasing water stress might increase water conflict
- Majority of transboundary basins outside of Europe do not have basin agreements or existing agreements lack crucial provisions
- Therefore: need for a global legal and intergovernmental framework for transboundary cooperation
- SDG 6 on water, target 6.5 says: *By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.*

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

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

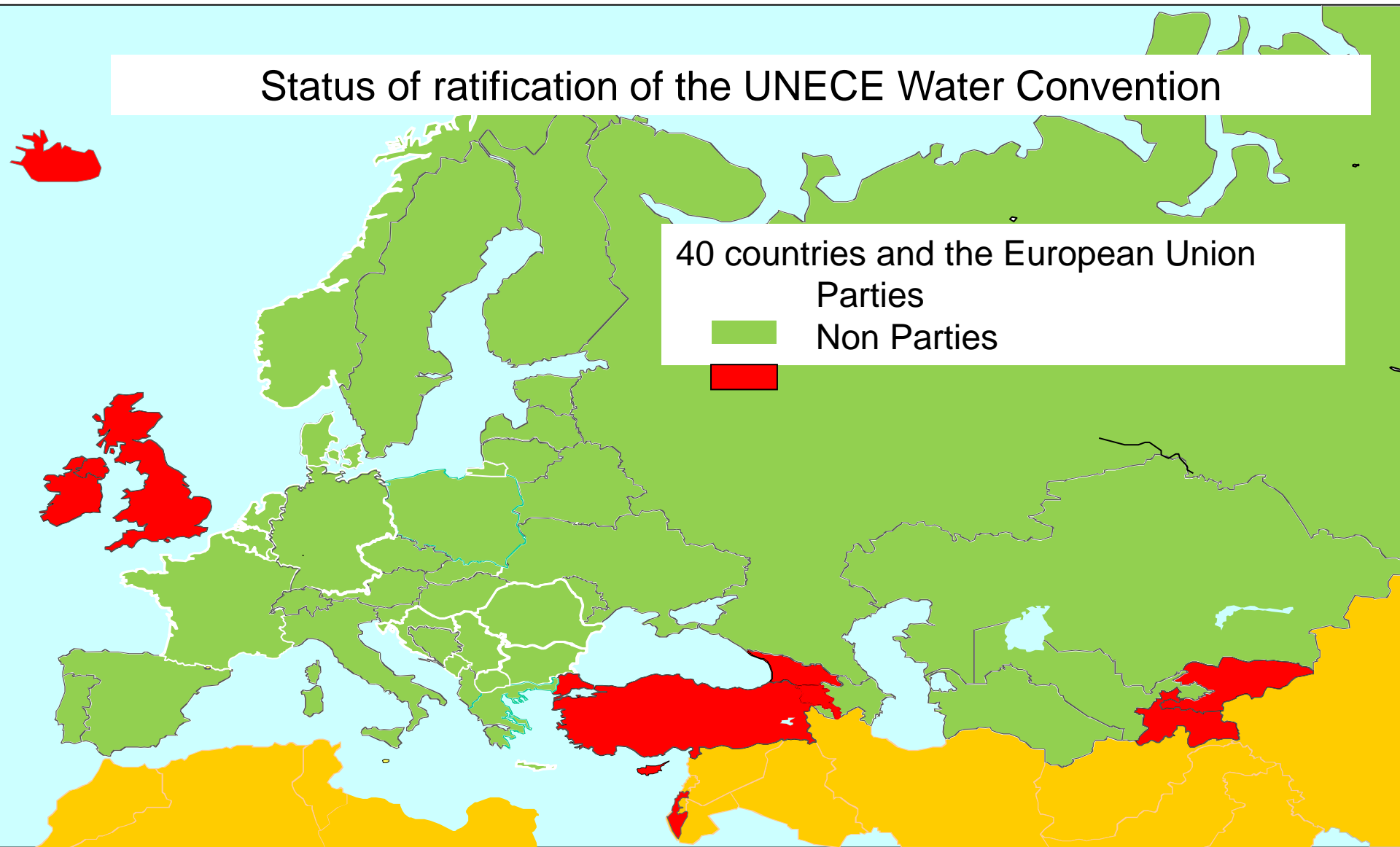
The Convention is based on three legal principles:

- The right to reasonable and equitable use
- To avoid causing significant transboundary harm
- To cooperate



Status of ratification of the UNECE Water Convention

40 countries and the European Union
Parties
Non Parties



Obligations under the Convention – Riparian Parties (Part 2)

- Obligation to conclude specific agreements and establish joint bodies
- Consultation
- Joint monitoring and assessment
- Exchange of information
- Warning and alarm systems
- Mutual assistance



Two transboundary water conventions

- UNECE Water Convention
 - Meeting of the Parties (Art 17)
 - Secretariat (Art 19)
- UN Water Convention
 - No provision on Meeting of Parties





Irrigation (downstream) and hydropower (upstream) are competing priorities – need to be better coordinated between sectors and countries

Water cooperation in Central Asia-

Present situation

- **IFAS** (International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea), **ICWC** (Interstate Commission for Water Coordination), **ICSD** (Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development)
- Bilateral cooperation (Chu-Talas rivers, Pjanj, Kazakh-Uzbek, Turkmen-Uzbek etc)

**ECONOMIC
COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMISSION FOR ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC**

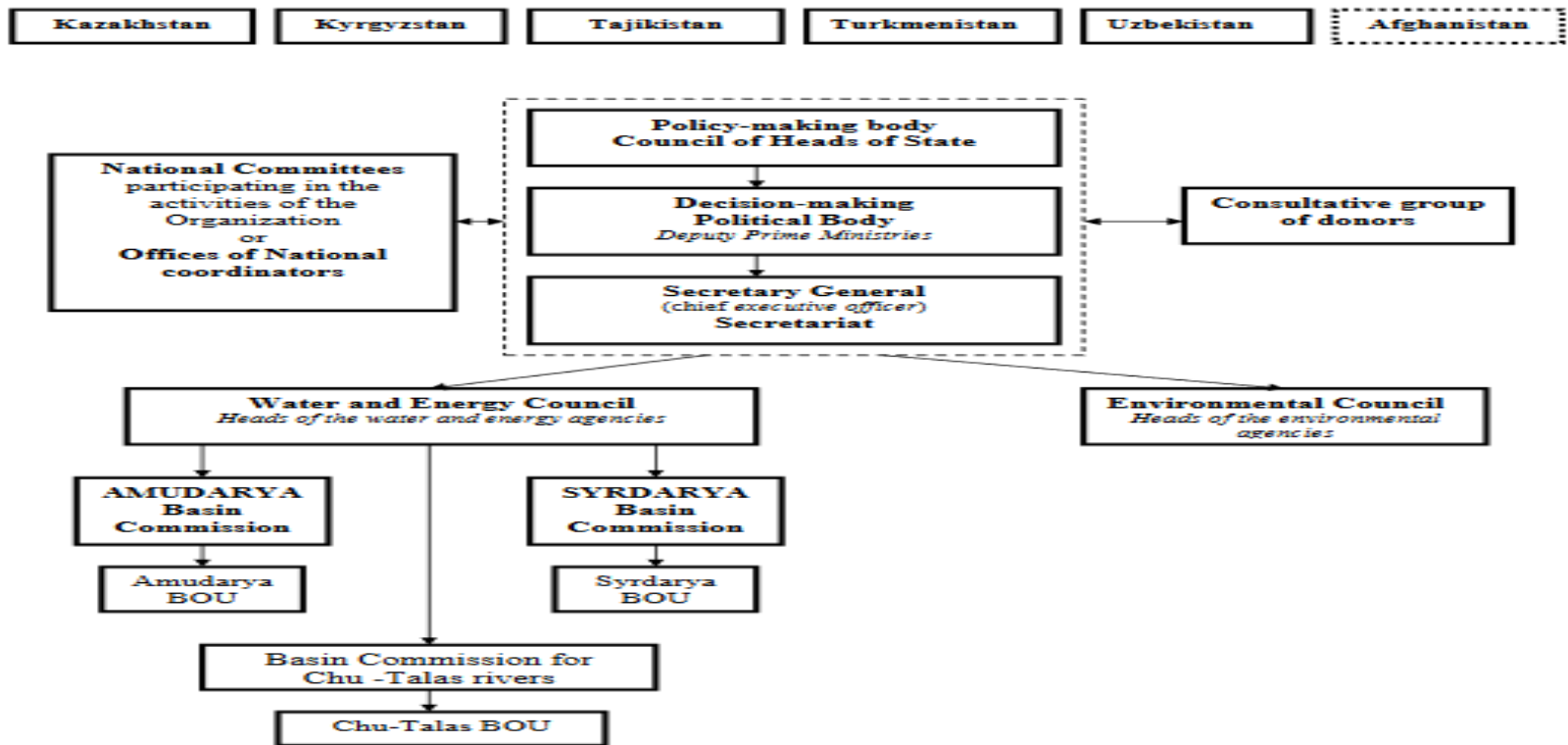
**Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
Project Working Group on Energy and Water Resources**

**STRENGTHENING COOPERATION
FOR RATIONAL AND EFFICIENT USE
OF WATER AND ENERGY RESOURCES
IN CENTRAL ASIA**



This is a report that can be found on internet that looks at opportunities for energy and water sectors to become a basis for cooperation in the Aral Sea basin

**Figure 5: Organizational chart of the Organization for Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin
Option 2**



A proposed alternative organization for cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin with the advantage of having a direct link for coordination between irrigation and energy sectors.

The costs of inaction on water
cooperation add up to more
than
US\$ 4.5 billion per annum for
Central Asia

<https://www.adelphi.de/en/publication/rethinking-water-central-asia>

Info about slides 13-16:

13. The Kirov dam in Kyrgyzstan – as a reminder of the need to cooperate better between countries in Central Asia on dam safety

14. Map of the Chu and Talas basins shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. A good bilateral cooperation on water sharing and water infrastructure is demonstrated in these basins.

15. Pyanj river where bilateral water cooperation was initiated between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. It is likely that this cooperation is now discontinued.

16. The regional working group on water quality in the Aral Sea basin. There is a need for better cooperation on water quality between countries along the rivers of Syr Darya and Amu Darya.





The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map





Study questions

1. Which sector uses most water in the Aral Sea basin?
2. Describe the conflict between the hydropower and irrigation in Central Asia.
3. Which are the countries sharing the Aral Sea basin?
4. What is the North Aral Sea?
5. Which are the three basic principles of the UNECE Water Convention?
6. What is the name of the regional water cooperation organization in the Aral Sea basin?
7. Name water-related areas where transboundary cooperation needs to be further developed in the region.



Спасибо за внимание!

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