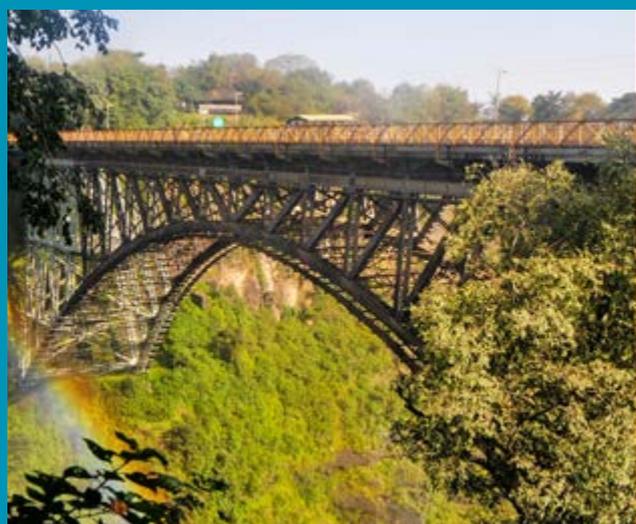


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Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation



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**Practical Guide for the Development of
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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

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Uruguay River at Conchillas, Colonia, Uruguay

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