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**PROPOSAL FOR A STRATEGIC GUIDE  
TO ASSIST IN THE CONSTITUTION OF  
INTERNATIONAL INTER-STATE  
COMMISSIONS FOR SHARED WATER RESOURCES**

***DRAFT VERSION***



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**1. Shared water resources in the world and the necessity of joint management for the mutual benefit of all parties.**

- . nearly 260 shared river basins in the world,**
- . nearly 60% of the surface freshwaters,**
- . covering 45 % of the emerged lands,**
- . resources for 40 % of the world population.**

## **2. Brief historical review of the different means used.**



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- . Treaties for settling specific points and their limitations**
- . Present rules and principles of international law for water management  
Helsinki Convention, New York Convention**
- . Inter-state conventions for sustainable management**
- . External support tools for concerted inter-state management  
The European Union, the SADC Protocol, the International Joint Commission between the United States and Canada**
- . The possible role of financial backers**

### 3. The 16 case studies on international rivers



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◆ The case of riparian countries with a high standard of living and analogous cases

**Lake Geneva, Rhine, Escaut, Iberian rivers, Saint-Laurent**

◆ The case of countries with contrasting standards of living and support from external tools

***Oder, Danube***

◆ The case of poor countries and the need for support from external financial backers

**Senegal, Lake Chad, the Aral Sea, the Mekong, the Zambezi**

◆ The case of strong contrasts between upstream countries (with abundant water resources) and those downstream (which lack water) and the role of conciliators

**Ganges, Brahmapoutre, Nile, Tigris and Euphrates**

## **What has been learnt from the 16 case studies on international rivers ?**



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- ◆ **Several conclusions that may be drawn from these 16 case studies**
- ◆ **What has been learnt by looking at existing commissions**
- ◆ **Possible roles of a shared water commission**
- ◆ **Main points that need to be determined**
- ◆ **The progress that still needs to be made**
- ◆ **All of the means available should ideally be linked up together**

#### **4. A strategic guide for the constitution of an inter-state commission for shared water**



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- ◆ Preliminary actions that depend on each of the countries
- ◆ Preliminary dialogue
- ◆ The Commission constitution phase
  - . The organisation of a preparatory conference and its agenda
  - . Objectives of the proposed International Basin Commission
  - . The means that must be put in place in order to attain the chosen objectives



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## ◆ The organisation of the commission

- . The participation of end users in discussions and decision making
- . The financing required for running the Commission
- . Membership of the IBCE

## ◆ Legal status of the Commission

◆ Settlement of disputes that may arise between signatory States

◆ Amendments to the convention

◆ Ratification



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# CONSTITUTIVE MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF TRANSBOUNDARY BASIN ORGANISATIONS

Thonon-les-Bains (France)  
25/26 november 2002

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