“International Water Cooperation and Transboundary Aquifers”
Glasgow, 15-16 October 2013

The Role of [International] Law in the Management of Transboundary Aquifers

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Numbers: more than 400 Transboundary Aquifers
Numbers: only 4 have some sort of ad-hoc legal arrangement.
International Law acronyms

- **UNWC** (United Nations Watercourses Convention)
- **UNILC** (United Nations International Law Commission)
- **UNECE** (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)
International Law acronyms

- **UNWC** (United Nations Watercourses Convention /
  New York Convention)
  - Signed in 1997
  - Mainly transboundary surface water
  - 31/35 ratifications
International Law acronyms

- **UNILC** (United Nations International Law Commission) Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers
  - Cover all transboundary aquifers
  - General Assembly Resolutions 63/124 and 66/104
  - “to examine, *inter alia*, the question of the final form that might be given to the draft articles”
  - Guidelines
International Law acronyms

- **UNECE** (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) [Helsinki] Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Water Convention)

- Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters
- Opening up of the Helsinki Convention to all UN Members
International Law

- Framework, principles and guidelines
- Adapted at the characteristics of specific transboundary aquifers
Synergies

UNWC

Draft Articles

UNECE Model Provisions
Synergies in other fields of international environmental governance

- Rotterdam Convention
- Basel Convention
- Stockholm Convention
Synergies

UNWC

UNILC

UNECE

Model Provisions
Secretariat
MOP
Conclusion

Mutually supportive approaches in the 1) promotion and 2) joint implementation of the United Nations Watercourses Convention, the UNECE Water Convention and the ILC Draft Articles on Law on Transboundary
Thank you!

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