

# THE RISING ROLE OF REGIONAL REGIMES | CONTRIBUTIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE UNECE WATER REGIME TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CROSS-FERTILIZATION IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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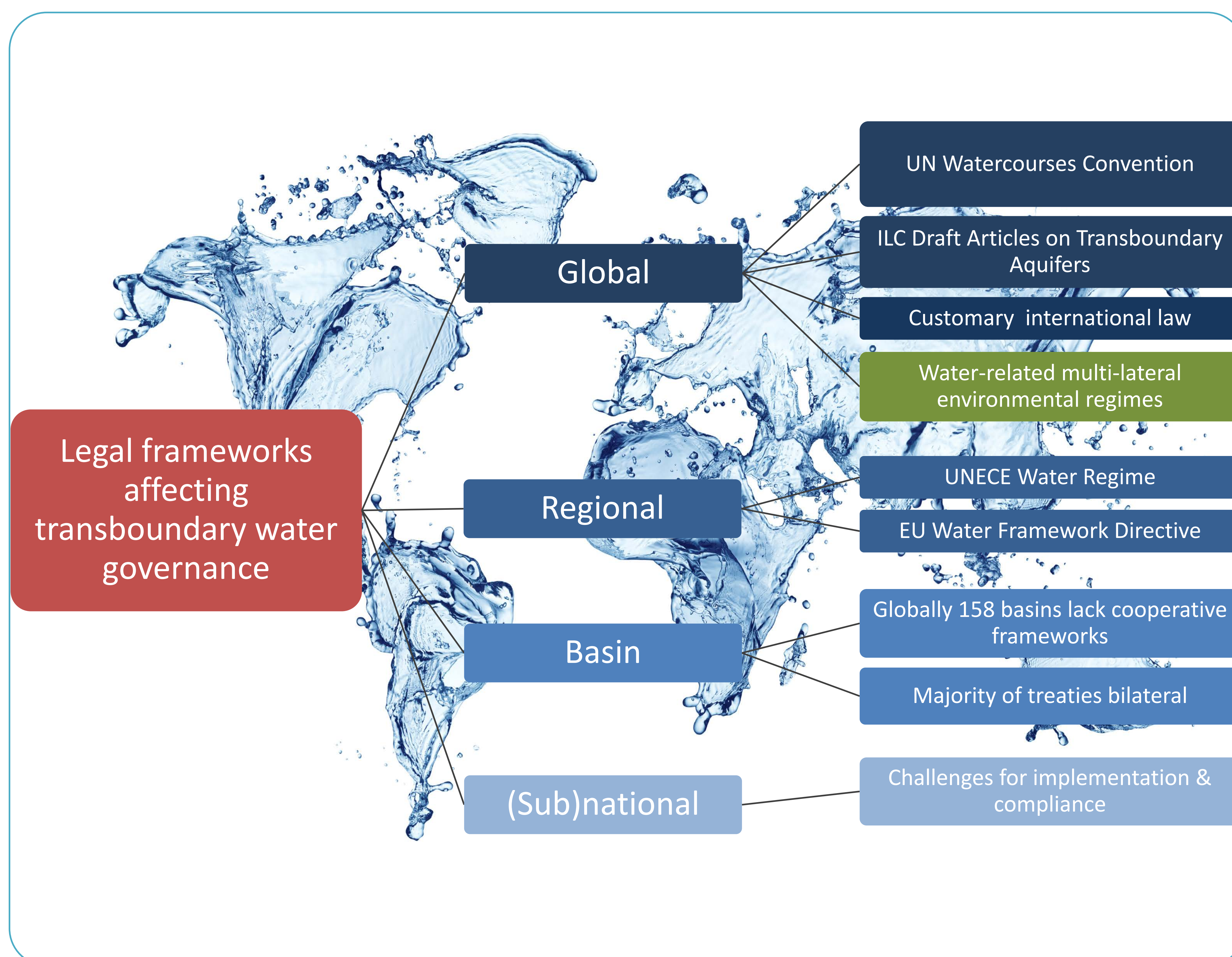


## BACKGROUND

The current **legal architecture** for peacefully managing **transboundary waters** is **fragmented** causing **gaps**, **incoherence** and missed opportunities for **mutually supportive interaction** between instruments addressing **environmental protection** and **equity**, contributing to rising tensions over the use of shared and increasingly **scarce waters**.

## RESEARCH QUESTION

How does the **UNECE water regime** contribute to multi-level and cross-sectoral interaction, **environmental protection** and **equity** in **international law** on **transboundary waters**?



**Objective** | Understanding the contribution to international law of the UNECE Water Convention and water-related UNECE binding and non-binding legal instruments (Aarhus Public Participation Convention, Espoo EIA Convention, Industrial Accidents Convention and Protocols) as a structurally distinctive institutional 'UNECE water regime'

## Findings | Contribution to emerging norms of int'l environmental law

- a) An ecosystem approach and ecosystem services approaches
- b) Dispute settlement through innovative reporting and non-compliance mechanisms
- c) Most advanced incorporation of a human rights approach

## Findings | Contribution to normative & institutional gaps in existing int'l law

- a) Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessments
- b) Public participation and access to justice
- c) Transboundary harm mitigation and avoidance
- d) Duty to Cooperate
- e) Intra and inter-state equity
- f) Involvement of non-state actors both the public, NGOs and other IGOs

