

## DECISION 2000/6 ON RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY

### The Conference of the Parties,

#### Recalling article 13 of the Convention,

1. Welcomes the initiative by Switzerland on responsibility and liability as contained in document CP.TEIA/2000/14;
2. Takes note of the decisions taken on the subject of responsibility and liability by the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) at their second meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, in March 2000 (ECE/MP.WAT/5);
3. Also takes note of the support in this respect expressed by delegations at the seventh session of the UN/ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/74);
4. Recognizes, on the basis of the preliminary report by the Chairperson of the expert group on liability and industrial accidents established by the Parties to the Water Convention (CP.TEIA/2000/14/Add.1) and the background study International Legal Instruments on Civil Liability Applicable to Water-related Incidents: Coverage and Possible Gaps, commissioned by this expert group, the shortcomings of existing international civil liability instruments, in particular due to their lack of specificity in certain cases and to the fact that they have not entered into force;
5. Stresses the need for an appropriate regime, including a legally binding instrument, in the UN/ECE region on civil liability for damage caused by hazardous activities within the scope of both Conventions;
6. Mandates its Bureau to work closely with the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention to prepare a joint special session of the governing bodies of both Conventions in 2001 with a view to considering entering into an intergovernmental negotiation process;
7. Requests its Bureau, to that end, to prepare, in conjunction with the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, elements for defining the scope of a regime on civil liability, taking into account the issues raised during its first meeting (see ECE/CP.TEIA/2, para. 37).