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SYSTEMATIC INDEX
OF
INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES TREATIES, DECLARATIONS, ACTS AND CASES
BY BASIN

REPertoire SYSTEMATIQUE PAR BASSIN
DE
TRAITES, DECLARATIONS, TEXTES LEGISLATIFS ET JURISPRUDENCE
CONCERNANT LES RESSOURCES EN EAU INTERNATIONALES

REPertorio SISTEMATICO POR CUENCA
DE
CONVENIOS, DECLARACIONES, TEXTOS LEGISLATIVOS Y JURISPRUDENCIA
RELATIVOS A LOS RECURSOS HIDRICOS INTERNACIONALES

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FOREWORD

This research effort, presented as a Systematic Index of International Water Resources Treaties, Declarations, Acts and Cases by Basin, has been prepared in response to United Nations Water Conference Recommendation 93(g) which, on the consideration that:

"A CONCERTED AND SUSTAINED EFFORT IS REQUIRED TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL WATER LAW AS A MEANS OF PLACING CO-OPERATION AMONG STATES ON A FIRMER BASIS. THE NEED FOR PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND CODIFICATION OF THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW REGULATING THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES HAS BEEN THE GROWING CONCERN OF MANY GOVERNMENTS",

provides that:

"The United Nations system should be fully utilized in reviewing, collecting, disseminating and facilitating exchange of information and expertise on this question."

At the same time, this research work is intended to constitute part of the contribution of FAO to the International Law Commission of the United Nations (ILC) in its effort to codify the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses of which the ILC has requested the co-operation of the family of United Nations organizations.

Since the early 1950's, the United Nations system of organizations has produced number of documents on the law of international water resources, among which the most significant ones are E/ECE/136, Legal Aspects of Hydro-electric Development of Rivers and Lakes of Common Interest (1952); ST/LEG/SER.B/12, Legislative Texts and Treaty Provisions Concerning the Utilization of International Rivers for Other Purposes than Navigation (1963); A/5409, Legal Problems Relating to the Utilization and Use of International Rivers (1963); A/CN.4/274, Legal Problems Relating to the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1974); STA/ESA/5, Management of International Water Resources: Institutional and Legal Aspects, Natural Resources, Water Series No. 1 (1975); and Background Paper No. 1, The Law of International Water Resources, Some General Conventions, Declarations and Resolutions Adopted by Governments, International Legal Institutions and International Organizations on the Management of International Water Resources, FAO Legislation Branch (1970; revised 1978).

It is hoped that the present document will prove to be a useful addition to the above documentation. It is the result of a collective endeavour in which, from the original idea of the writer, several specialists have collaborated.

The material compiled, which covers over 2 000 international legal instruments stretching from the year 805 to 1977, has been organized chronologically and tabulated with an indication, for each instrument, of the substance covered and of the water bodies, territories and basins concerned, together with the source of reference and any relevant remarks and annotations. In addition, Annexes have been drawn-up to provide for the identification of those legal instruments by basin, by country and by region. A detailed explanation of the mode in which this research was undertaken and of how the tabulated information is to be read is given in the ensuing Explanatory Note.

This research work does not purport to be complete; it may furthermore contain factual errors and mis-statements. It is published in the Legislative Studies and disseminated as widely as possible for the purpose of obtaining from its readers as many corrections and additions as possible which should help in making this document a fully reliable source of reference.

Depending on the response this research work will generate, it is hoped to proceed in the future with the computerization of an up-dated and corrected version for permanent retrieval and data output.

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The bulk of the legal research was undertaken under contract by Prof. Carlo Curti Gialdino, a specialist in international water resources law, currently teaching at the Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples, Italy; some 1 200 volumes of different treaty collections were scanned, along with dozens of specialized documents and periodicals. He should find here the expression of our appreciation for his untiring dedication to this monumental work.

Also appreciated has been the contribution of Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Law Graduate, University of Trieste, Italy, who has produced the politico-historical and geo-hydrological inputs to this work. Last but not least, our appreciation goes to Mr. Bernard J. Wohlwend, Legal Officer in this Branch, who has organized and co-ordinated this research programme and edited the present document.

Dante A. Caponera
Chief, Legislation Branch

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législatifs et jurisprudence
Repertorio cronológico de los convenios, declaraciones, textos
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