

Intervention from Hanna Plotnykova, Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)/UNECE

Actions to protect ocean needs to be taken not only in the ocean but also on land such as waste management and reducing pollution discharged by rivers into the ocean. **This requires cooperation between countries because the majority of the water basins are shared by multiple countries.** For example, six out of the ten rivers contributing 90% of plastic waste to our oceans are transboundary rivers. In this regard, **source-to-sea management approach** should be applied since it connects freshwater systems to the oceans and addresses pollution at its roots.

The [Water Convention](#) offers a unique global framework for intergovernmental collaboration incl. in **source-to-sea management**. This work promotes cooperation between riparian and coastal countries, through the exchange of experience and good practices and strengthening political commitment. **There are successful examples of cooperation between transboundary basin commissions and regional seas commission**, such as the one between the Benguela Current Commission and the Orange-Senqu River Commission or the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the Black Sea Commission, and they need to be replicated.

From the side of the Water Convention, we greatly support the idea of applying source-to-sea approach and we are ready to cooperate in this area including in the process of the Ocean dialogue.