

Presentation

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WORLD
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WATER
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A Human Rights Based Approach to IWRM Exploring Synergies

HRBA seminar World Water Week, 9 September 2010

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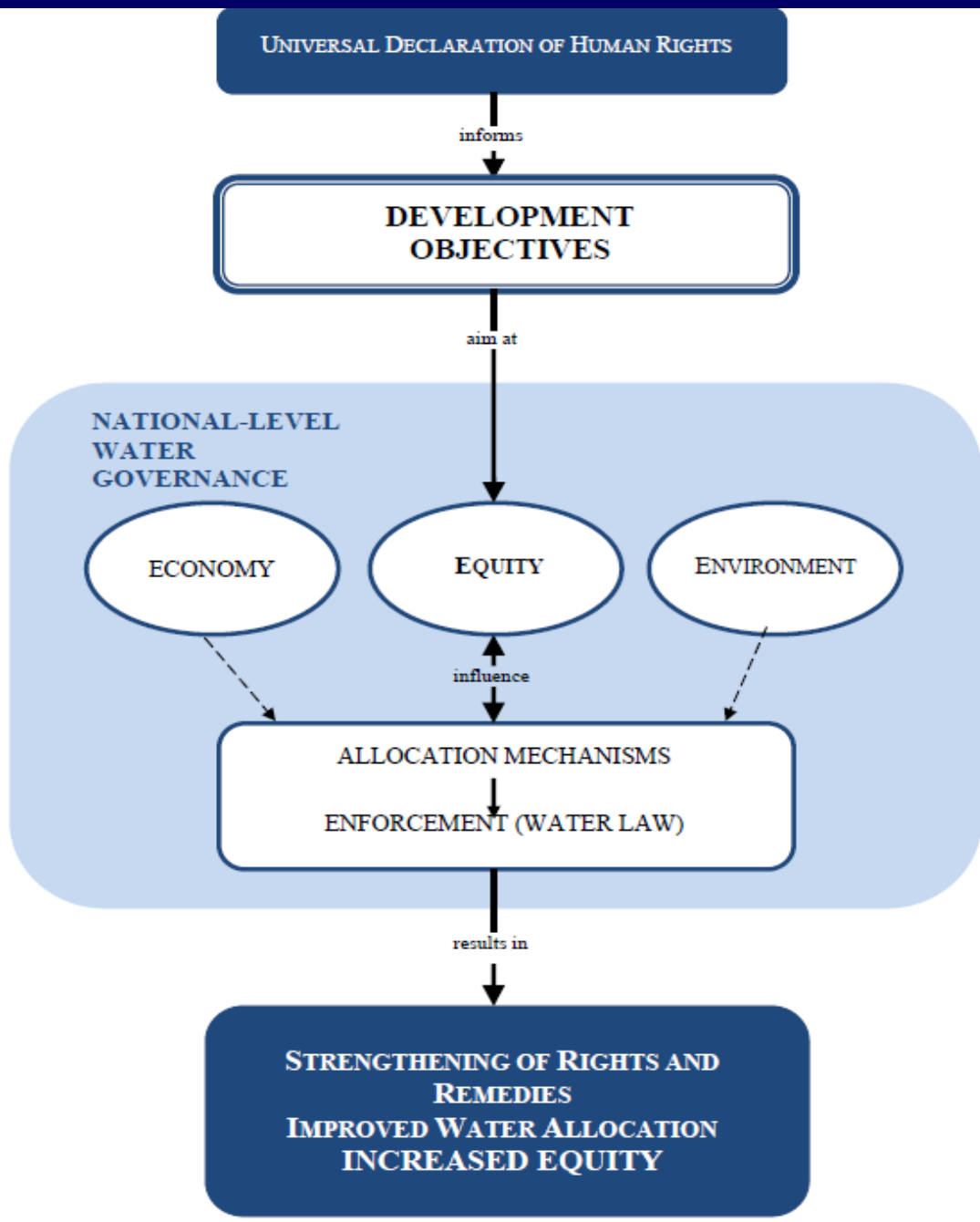
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- Can applying an HRBA to water resources management improve equity in water resources allocation and use?
- What are the links between Integrated Water Resources Management and HRBA?
 - Synergies?
 - Improve equity aspects of IWRM?
- Discussion paper towards a common understanding between practitioners from different fields
- Dialogue on the concept and practical applications



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- Allocation of water resources is typically inequitable
 - Access to water
 - Decision-making processes on allocation
- Can application of HRBA improve development outcomes?
 - IWRM three E's but often equity less priority
- Can procedural and substantive aspects of HRBA make water allocation more equitable





IWRM

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- Sustainable management and development of water resources balancing the three E's
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Social equity
 - Economic efficiency
- Stresses importance of participatory decision-making & gender equity (Dublin principles)
- In practice, often efficiency trumps equity



HRBA

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- Normatively based on international human rights standards and operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights
- Claims and obligations
- Focus on relationship of rights-holders and duty-bearers
- Identifies substantive rights (e.g. to life, food, housing) and procedural rights (e.g. to information, participation, judicial redress)
- Shift from “needs” to “entitlement”



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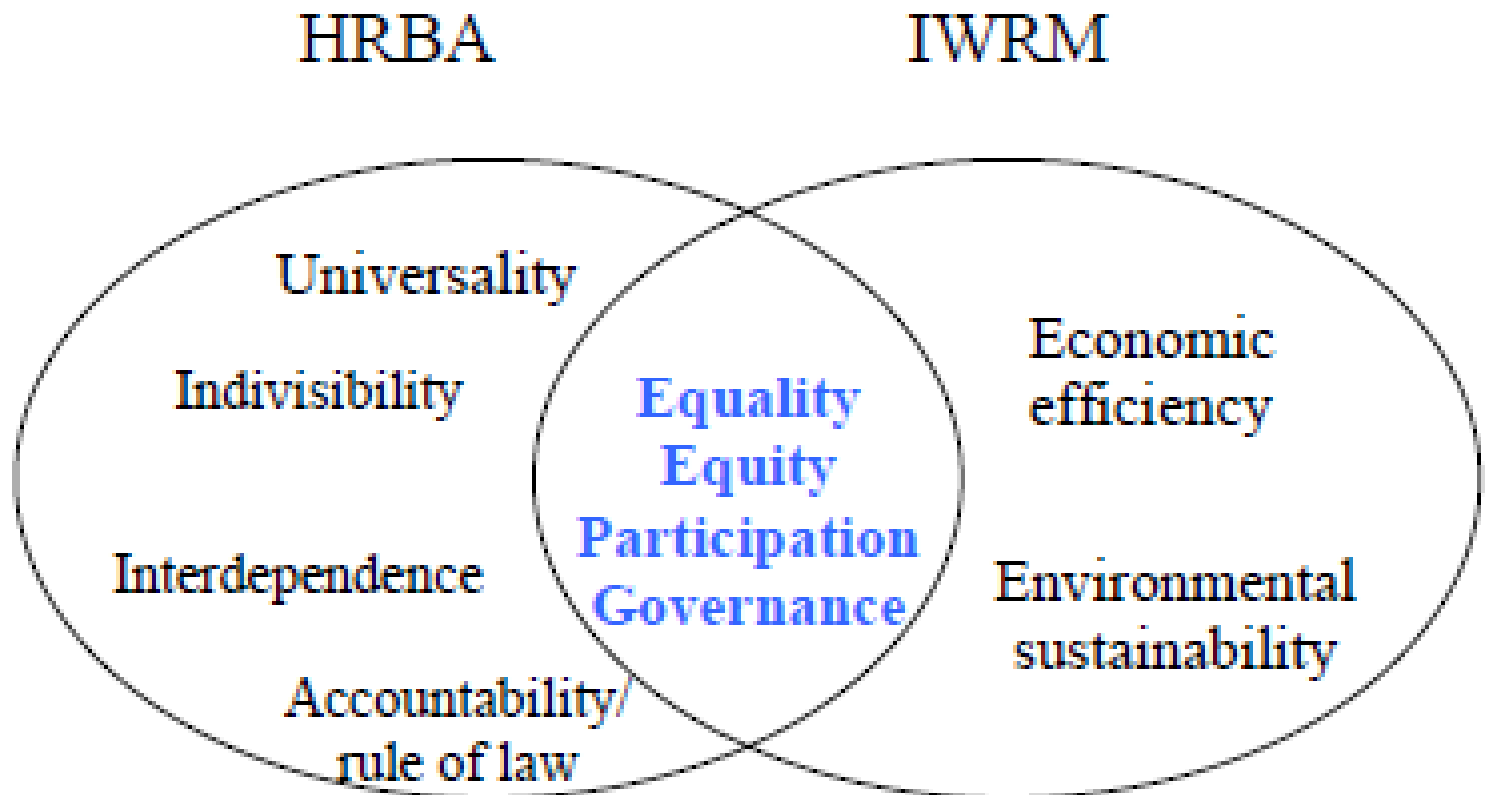
UN Common Understanding on HRBA

- Development cooperation should further the realization of human rights
- Human rights standards and principles guide all development cooperation and programming
- Development cooperation contributes to the capacities of duty-bearers to meet their obligations and /or of rights-holders to claim their rights



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Convergence HRBA-IWRM





Water allocation systems

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- National water law – who can use water under what conditions
 - Rights derived from land ownership
 - Established uses and customary rights
 - Rights for free use
 - Permit systems
- Management system for water allocation that recognizes competing issues of economics, equity, environment (IWRM approach to sector reform)



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Dialogue and practical application

- IWRM & HRBA appear mutually reinforcing.
- Is IWRM an HRBA?
- How put the approach into practice in different country contexts?
 - How advance IWRM/HRBA at lowest appropriate level where people are most likely to have voice?
 - Could benefit sharing be implemented as a route to more equitable use of water resources?



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Dialogue and practical application

- Can HRBA help resolve conflicts between users, particularly in an environment of supply-driven mindsets and centralized structures?
- What experience is there in strengthening capacities of communities and local authorities to work with an HRBA to water resources allocation?
- Could the HRBA be one of the frameworks by which we assess the effectiveness of IWRM as the benefits arising from good water resources management using an IWRM approach have big human rights implications?



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- Welcome your recommendations for next steps for dialogue and practical application