Spain and Portugal have established cooperation mechanisms to manage their shared water resources in order to avoid any potential conflict. Cooperation is clearly reflected in the 1998 Albufeira Convention, which provides a legal framework to regulate all transboundary basins between both countries to protect surface water and groundwater, as well as the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that depend on them for the sustainable use of water resources. The 1988 Albufeira Convention establishes as use of the Tagus Basin transfer of water inter-basin such as the Aqueduct Tagus-Segura. According to this Convention, the management of water uses and the right to use water shall be addressed to guarantee the sustainable use of water that is already established. Therefore, under international water law, the Aqueduct Tagus-Segura as a sustainable use is guaranteed and protected.

The analysis of international legal instruments addressing water scarcity, droughts, and fundamental rights provide the strategies to promote resilience to climate change and the impacts of drought conditions in the society in a sustainable manner. Among these strategies, the Aqueduct Tagus-Segura is the tool to guarantee water to 3.000.000 people, natural parks, over 40.000.000 trees and ensure the sustainable development in Southeast Spain while ensuring the ecological flow in the Tagus Basin.

The principle of solidarity is clearly established and recognized by the international community. Under the Treaty on European Union (TEU), solidarity is considered as a fundamental value of the EU. Solidarity among Member States must be also including among different regions in the same state. This would promote cooperation among different levels of government and equal welfare in different regions of the EU. This principle protects the relevant value of the Aqueduct Tagus-Segura for a society depending on water transfers from another region, where a transboundary basin, the Tagus Basin is regulated under treaties allowing inter-basin transfers. Moreover, EU Treaties, EU Directives, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 1994, the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses 1997, and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes 1992 are analyzed in this research. All these legal instruments guarantee uses already established, such as the Aqueduct Tagus-Segura protecting the population and the dignity of the society while ensuring the sustainable development of the region. This research aims to show how the international law safeguards the Aqueduct Tagus-Segura and its uses.