

Item 6

The global Convention — promotion and partnerships

6a. Promoting accession by raising awareness about the Convention and developing capacity to implement its provisions

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Progress and activities in this area of work in 2017-2018

- * National workshop “Information sharing workshop on the Convention on the Protection and Use of transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: **Senegal’s** accession process” (Dakar, 15 February 2018)
- * National workshop for **Ghana** on international water conventions (Accra, 25 January 2018)
- * Sub-regional workshop “Enhancing transboundary water cooperation in the **North Africa region**” (Tunis, 20–21 December 2017)
- * Support to the negotiation meeting of the EECAS **regional convention** on the prevention of conflicts in a transboundary setting in Central Africa (Brazzaville, 18–22 December 2017)
- * Briefing on the Water Convention in **Colombia** (Bogota, 10 April 2018)
- * Support to the **Comoé-Bia-Tanoé Basin Authority**; bilateral meetings with Côte d’Ivoire (25-27 April, Abijan)



Progress and activities in this area of work in 2017-2018

Other initiatives at the regional and global levels to build capacity on and awareness of the Convention:

- * World Water Forum, 18-23 March 2018, Brasilia (several events)
- * Stockholm World Water Week , 27 August – 1 September 2017 (several events)
- * Arab Water Forum, 26-28 November 2017, Cairo

Development of promotion materials in multiple languages: brochures, guidance documents, FAQs



Remaining activities to be carried out before the MOP 8

- * Session at the World Water Week on the Water Convention globalization
- * National workshop in one more country?
- * Support to ongoing accession processes
- * Regional workshop together with ICIMOD in July for ICIMOD (Asian) countries

Main achievements of the work in this area since 2016

- * Accession by the first country from outside the UNECE region: Chad, many others are in the process
- * Increased visibility of the Water Convention and of the impact of its work, greater recognition of the Convention as a global instrument
- * Growing awareness of the possible benefits of joining the Water Convention by countries beyond the pan-European region
- * Reflection on possible accession at various levels: national, sub regional, regional, through RECs...
- * Countries as «champions» in their basin, region and sub-region, promoting the Water Convention to support regional cooperation
- * Parties support accession by new countries, “twinning approaches”

Lessons learned and challenges in the work since 2016

- * Importance of working with partners rooted in the regions / countries and of using regional platforms
- * Still some preconceptions and misinterpretation on the Water Convention → more awareness raising needed
- * Capacity building on the Water Convention and support negotiation of bilateral / basin agreements go hand in hand
- * Need to adapt messages and communication

Suggested future work for the next workplan 2019-2021

* **Programme area 1:** Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

→ Foster the application of the principles of the Water Convention and the improvement of cooperation on the management of transboundary waters

1.1 Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession

1.1.1 Raising awareness and knowledge of the Convention

1.1.2 Supporting accession

Proposed activities: National, regional, subregional or basin-level workshops; sessions at the global and regional level; training of practitioners; Guidance or communication material

