Draft programme of work of the Water Convention for 2019-2021

Francesca Bernardini
Secretary to the Water Convention
Consultative process for preparing the programme of work

- 2019-2021 programme of work is the first one serving a global Convention
- Programme of work to be read together with strategy for the implementation at global level

How was it developed:
- Discussions at the intergovernmental bodies: WGIWRM 2017, Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Nexus, Task Force on Water and Climate, JEG
- Online survey: 46 replies (Parties, non-Parties, partners)
- Interviews with 36 persons (Parties, non-Parties, partners, donors etc.)
- Overall, more than 200 persons were involved
- Draft presented and endorsed at WGIWRM 2018
Criteria for prioritization

• Prioritization criteria used:
  o Contribution to achieving the Conventions objectives/mandates
  o Respond to country needs (Parties and non-Parties….)
  o Political interest/global/emerging challenges
  o Comparative advantage compared to others actors
  o Funding

• Main challenge: financing approach => Need to take into account donors interests. Important to have an attractive programme of work.

• Proposed programme “capped” from budgetary and staff point of view
Approach for the future programme of work for 2019-2021

- Overall vision: transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries to promote sustainable development, peace and security
- The Convention has a long-term perspective, and its programme of work does too
- The work under the Convention should respond to all needs but should vary its focus over the years (weight and importance of programme areas varies over time)
  => Continuity with change
- Need for a programme of work which is easy to communicate
- Activities at different levels (national, regional/basin, global)
- Activities under different areas supporting each others
- Limited number of basin projects due to limited capacity in the secretariat (need to prioritize choice)
Overall objective: Transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries in accordance with the Water Convention, promoting sustainable development, peace and security.

Outcome 1
Countries understand the Convention, accede to it, develop agreements and establish joint bodies

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

Outcome 2
Transboundary water resources in transboundary basins are monitored and assessed, and information is shared among riparian countries

Programme Area 2
Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

Outcome 3
Integrated water resources management is implemented at all levels in a changing climate

Programme Area 3
Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

Outcome 4
Transboundary water cooperation is sustainably financed

Programme Area 4
Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Outcome 5
Transboundary water cooperation is monitored and partners are mobilized to support it

Programme Area 5
Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

Programme Area 6
Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

Programme Area 7
Partnerships, communication and knowledge management
Programme Area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

- Lead Parties: Hungary, France, Finland, Germany and the Netherlands
- 1.1 Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession (Budget: $1,650,000)
  - Presentations/sessions/side events at international conferences, capacity-building trainings **
  - 2 Training of practitioners **
  - Support accession processes in interested countries **; organize regional/basin events in Africa, Asia and Latin America **
  - Exchange of experience through twinning between countries in the accession process and Parties *
  - Develop an FAQ document on the Convention accession process *

Key: *Global level, *Regional/basin-level, *National level
1.2 Promote and communicate the benefits of transboundary cooperation (Budget: $372,000)

- Lead Party: Estonia
- 1 pilot project on assessment and communication of benefits of cooperation *
- Publish a brief for policymakers *

1.3 Support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies (Budget: $248,000)

- Lead Party: Hungary
- Global workshop on water cooperation agreements and arrangements *
- Two regional workshops on negotiation skills *
- Projects on the ground pending availability of resources

1.4 Implementation Committee* (Budget: 207,000)

Key: *Global level, *Regional/basin-level, *National level
Programme Area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

Lead Party: Finland, Senegal

2.1 Organize a global workshop on data and information exchange, publish substantive background paper * (Budget: $224,000)

2.2 Tailored assistance and experience-gathering (Budget: $198,000)

- Targeted assistance to cooperation processes on monitoring and assessment (eg studies and expert support) *
- Promote exchanges/ twinning **
- Use the different activities, especially basin activities, to collect information on common challenges and needs to guide future review of guidance under the Convention **

Key: *Global level, *Regional/basin-level, *National level
Programme Area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

3.1 Promote IWRM in transboundary basins (Budget: $60,000): Organize thematic sessions during the WGIWRM *

3.2 Support intersectoral dialogue and assessments through water-food-energy-ecosystems approach (Budget: $579,000)
   • Lead Party: Finland
   • Disseminate results of nexus assessments through synthesis document *
   • Provide support to intersectoral dialogues, especially in the NWSAS, SEE, including Drina, and Niger basins *
   • Develop a checklist/resource document in cooperation with ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy*

3.3 Support equitable and sustainable water allocation (Budget: $486,000)
   • Lead Party: Hungary
   • Develop a handbook on water allocation *
   • Organize 2 regional workshops on water allocation*

3.4 Support National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the EUWI+ ** (Budget: $2,676,000)
   • Lead Party: Secretariat, OECD, Romania, EC
   • Promote IWRM, SDG implementation, national reform and transposition of EU legislation
Programme Area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Lead Parties: Netherlands, Switzerland

4.1 Support development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures (Budget: $1,070,000)

- Projects on climate change adaptation in selected basins *
- Experience exchange through global network of basins **
- 2 global workshops on transboundary climate change adaptation *
- Print, translate and disseminate the “Words into Action” guide on water, transboundary cooperation and disasters *
- Contribute to global policy processes on water, climate and disasters *

4.2 Support transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation (Budget: $737,000)

- Finalize and disseminate publication on «Preparing bankable projects for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins» *
- Regional/basin-level trainings on preparing bankable project proposals *

Key: *Global level, **Regional/basin-level, ***National level
Programme Area 5: Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

Lead Parties: Switzerland, Netherlands

Objectives:

• Draw global attention to the importance of financing transboundary water cooperation
• Raise awareness of the need to enhance the financial sustainability of transboundary water management institutions and implementation programmes
• Facilitate knowledge sharing and peer learning on funding options
• Support national authorities and joint bodies in securing financing from different sources, including national budgets
• Promote the development of joint investment plans and financing strategies in transboundary basins

Activities:

Global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation in 2020, including background document *

Strengthen cooperation with IFIs

Budget: $288,000

Programme Area 6: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

6.1 Support reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention (Budget: $650,000)

- Prepare a guide on reporting under the Convention in 2019 *
- Carry out second reporting exercise in cooperation with UNESCO (2020-2021) *
- Capacity-building and exchange of experience on reporting, especially at WGIWWRM in 2020 **
- Develop a proposal for an online reporting system and database *

6.2 Promote the use of reports for identifying and addressing gaps in cooperation **
(Budget: $90,000)
Programme Area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

7.1 Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other MEAs ** (Budget: $55,000)

7.2 Activities by the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents: disseminate and apply guidelines on firefighting water and other JEG documents, conduct transboundary exercises ** (Budget: $15,000)

7.3 Communication and knowledge management * (Budget: $138,000)

Intergovernmental structure

Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention

- Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
- Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
- Task Force on Water & Climate
- Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- Expert Groups

Secretariat (UNECE)

Implementation Committee
IWAC
Legal Board

Bureau

WGIWRM (3 meetings) and WGMA (2 meetings): $605,000
MOP 9: $459,600
Overall resource requirements

- Total resources required for the entire programme of work: $10,837,600
- **Total, including 7-13% overhead costs:** $12,085,000
- 26% increase compared costs for 2019-2021
- Higher resources requirements mostly linked to opening
- Some pledges (NPDs, nexus, Implementation committee) but do not cover all resource needs (about 50% of estimated costs)
- Importance of having clear indications on the financing of programme of work
Budget by programme area

1. Hydrodiplomacy and Conventions: 2,447,000
2. Monitoring And Assessment: 1,807,000
3. Intersectoral management: 695,000
4. Climate change: 422,000
5. Financing: 208,000
6. Reporting: 1,064,600
7. Communication/ partnerships: 228,000

Total: 3,771,000
Increase of UN Regular budget support in response to the globalization of the Convention

- UNECE budget is part of the UN overall budget
- Part of the Water Convention’s secretariat costs are supported by the UN regular budget from assessed contributions to the UN
- UN regular budget support is the same since 2002 and consists of 2 professional staff members
- Activities have increased more than tenfold and several extrabudgetary staff have joined the secretariat (7 professional staff) => challenge of sustainability
- With the operationalization of the amendment, the secretariat does not service anymore only the 56 UNECE Member States but 193 UN Member States
- It is therefore necessary to reinforce the support from the regular budget to ensure implementation of the programme of work
- It is proposed to request the addition of one staff member at the P5 level to be supported by the UN regular budget
- The budgetary implications would be of 260,000 USD per year
Thank you for your attention!

More information
http://unece.org/env/water
Francesca.Bernardini@un.org
Water.convention@une.org