



8th Session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN

Activities on the global opening of the Convention

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1. Main achievements in this area of work

- Accession by the first countries from outside the UNECE region: Chad and Senegal, 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”



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2. How was it achieved? Major milestones since 2016

- National workshops in Iraq, Tunisia, Chad, Senegal
- Regional events in Latin America (Campeche, October 2016), and Western MENA region (Tunis, September 2016)
- Contribution to numerous regional events such as Africa Water Week, workshop in Nepal (July 2018), in Latin America etc.
- Support to negotiation of regional agreements by CEEAC, ECOWAS and IGAD
- Contribution to water law trainings in Africa and elsewhere
- Contribution to global events such as World Water Weeks and Fora
- Development of new brochures and communication products
- Organization of a train the practitioner event (October 2016)



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3. Lessons learnt for future work

- Clear commitment of countries interested in accession is needed, including official request to the secretariat and creation of a national committee/ group
- Accession processes take time: Necessity to involve large range of stakeholders, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society, parliamentarians...
- Importance of regional approaches to accession: working with partners in the regions / countries and of using regional platforms
- National champions are very useful
- Some preconceptions and misinterpretation on the Water Convention and relationship to the UN Watercourses Convention remain → 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



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4. Suggested future work in this area

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

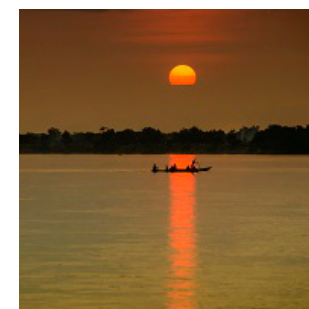
1.1.1 Raising awareness and knowledge of the Convention

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



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THANK YOU!

Questions?

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