



UNECE



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Ministère des Affaires étrangères



African Water Facility
Facilité africaine de l'eau
Mobilising Resources for Water in Africa
Mobiliser des ressources pour l'eau en Afrique

Regional workshop on the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

21 November 2018

Radisson Blu Hotel, N'Djamena (Chad)

Background

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), which was adopted in 1992 in Helsinki and entered into force in 1996, is a multilateral agreement for the sustainable management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. An amendment to the Convention that entered into force on 6 February 2013, turned the Water Convention, initially a regional convention, into a universal convention on transboundary water cooperation. As of 1 March 2016, all United Nations Member countries can accede to the Convention.

Chad's accession to the Water Convention, on 23 May 2018, offers new prospects for strengthening transboundary cooperation in Africa, for conflict prevention and regional stability. Moreover, these prospects are enhanced by the interest of various riparian States sharing Chad's water resources in joining the framework of the Convention, including Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic and Sudan. These multiple expressions of interest reveal the importance given to transboundary cooperation by these different States and the necessity to reflect on the implementation of the Water Convention at regional level. To that end, Chad and the Water Convention Secretariat (UNECE), in partnership with the Federal Republic of Germany and the African Development Bank, with the support of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, are organizing a regional workshop on the Water Convention in N'Djamena. The regional workshop aims to offer an opportunity to exchange on the relevance of joining the framework of the Convention for riparian States and to reflect on a roadmap at regional level for acceding to the Water Convention.

Provisional programme

Wednesday 21 November – Regional workshop on the Water Convention

2.00 – 2.15 pm

Word of welcome

Mr. Mahamat Alifa Moussa, General Director, Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries, Chad

Presentation of the objectives and general programme of the workshop

Mr. Komlan Sangbana, Water Convention Secretariat

2.15 – 2.45 pm Session 1

Contextualization of the workshop

Session chaired by Mr. Mahamat Alifa Moussa, Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries

- **Challenges for cooperation in Central Africa and how can the Water Convention contribute**
Mr. Désiré Armand Ndemazagoa-Backotta, ECCAS
- **Challenges for cooperation in the Lake Chad Basin and how can the Water Convention contribute**
Mr. Mana Boubakari, Lake Chad Basin Commission
- **Challenges for cooperation in the Niger Basin and how can the Water Convention contribute**
Mr. Traoré Ramani, Niger Basin Authority

Discussions

2.45 – 3.30 pm Session 2

General presentation of the Water Convention and Chad's accession process

Session chaired by H.E. Mr. Abderahim Ahmed Bireme, Executive Secretary of the NBA

- **General introduction to the Water Convention, including links with the 2030 Agenda**
Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the Water Convention
- **Institutional framework and activities of the Water Convention: How the Convention promotes cooperation, including the practical operation of the institutional framework**
Mr. Komlan Sangbana, Ms. Sonja Koeppel, Water Convention Secretariat

Discussions

Discussions

3.30 – 4.15 pm Session 3

Questions that arise during an accession process

Session chaired by H.E. Mr. Abderahim Ahmed Bireme, Executive Secretary of the NBA

Opening statement on Chad's accession process: History and lessons learned

Mr. Mahamat Alifa Moussa, Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries

Session of questions asked by riparian countries and answered by representatives of Chad and of the Water Convention Secretariat

4.15 – 4.45 pm Coffee break

4.45 – 5.45 pm Session 4

Introduction to the group discussion on "Accession to the Water Convention"

Mr. Komlan Sangbana, Water Convention Secretariat

Group discussion on "Accession to the Water Convention"

- **What advantage for Africa and how to generate benefits?**
- **Initiatives underway and next steps"**

Report by the moderators of the group work and recommendations

Session chaired by H.E. Mr. Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary of Lake Chad Basin Commission

- M. Nelngar Younane, Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries
- Mr. Désiré Armand Ndemazagoa-Backotta, ECCAS
- Mr. Francis D. Bougaire, African Water Facility/AfDB
- Mr. Hycinth Banseka, GWP-Caf

5.45 – 6.00 pm Closing session

Closing remarks

- Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE
- Mr. Mahamat Alifa Moussa, General Director, Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries, Chad