



## Official Ceremony regarding Chad's accession to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

21 November 2018

Radisson Blu Hotel, N'Djamena (Chad)

### **Background**

On 23 May 2018, Chad officially became the first country outside the pan-European region to accede to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) which is serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Chad's accession represents a very important development in the process of universalizing the Water Convention.

The 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 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. 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 an Official Ceremony in N'Djamena to highlight this important development for transboundary cooperation in Africa.

The Official Ceremony aims to celebrate Chad's accession and discuss the next steps to promote the implementation of the Convention.

## **Programme of the Official Ceremony**

8.30 – 09.00 am Welcoming of the guests

### **9.00 – 9.45 am Opening addresses**

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

- Statement by Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE)
- Statement of Ms. Eberling, Ambassador of Germany
- Statement by the Minister of Environment, Water and Fisheries of Chad, by Mr. Gayang Souaré, Minister of Livestock and Animal Production, Chad

Musical interlude

### **9.45 – 10.15 am Challenges and history of Chad's accession to the Water Convention**

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

- Mr. Younane Nelngar, Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries
- Mr. Abatcha Issa Pont-Pierre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **10.15 – 11.15 am Implications of Chad's accession for its riparians and partners**

**Interventions of the High-level Representatives of invited countries and regional organizations**

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

- Countries: Niger, Central African Republic
- Regional organizations: Niger Basin Authority (NBA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Partner organizations: Economic Community of Central African States, United Nations Development Programme; GWP-Central Africa

Discussions

### **11.15 am – 12.00 pm Chad's accession to the Water Convention: opportunities and prospects for the implementation**

**Interventions of the High-level Representatives of invited countries and international organizations**

Moderator: Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the Water Convention

- Mr. Mahamat Alifa Moussa, General Director, Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries of Chad
- Mr. Ali Lamine Zeine, Resident Representative, African Development Bank
- Mr. Philippe Lacoste, French Ambassador in Chad
- Ms. Denisa-Elena IONETE, European Union Ambassador in Chad
- Mr. Willi Graf, Head of the Cooperation, Swiss Cooperation in Chad
- Mr. Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission

Discussions

### **12.00 – 12.10 pm Closing**

**Closing remarks:** Statement by the Minister of Environment, Water and Fisheries of Chad by Mr. Gayang Souaré, Minister of Livestock and Animal Production, Chad

**12.15 pm – 2.00 pm Lunch cocktail**