

Water Convention Focal Points

Ms. Lea Kauppi, Co-Chair of the Working Group on IWRM



WATER
CONVENTION

14th meeting of the Working Group
on IWRM (Geneva, 22-24 October
2019)



Focal points of the Water Convention:

1996: entry into force of the Convention. Countries are encouraged to nominate focal points as for other MEAs.



2017/2018
Decision on the designation and responsibilities of focal points is prepared by the Bureau



October 2018
The Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention adopted the decision



Since November 2018
Both Parties and non-Parties have been nominating official focal points

Water Convention focal points: what for?

- Main **channel of communication** between the secretariat, the country concerned and other countries on Convention-related matters.
- Key role in **promoting and (for Parties) implementing** the Convention, as outlined in the strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level.



Responsibilities of the focal points (1)



- **Actively promote the objectives and implementation of the Convention**, its tools and its programme of work;
- **Serve as a channel for communications with the secretariat** and other countries on Convention matters;
- **Receive notifications** of meetings, activities and other information related to the Convention and **disseminate such information** to other relevant national authorities, organizations and the general public, as appropriate;
- **Facilitate regular and active involvement in the activities under the Convention** (ensure the coordination of relevant national institutions, nomination of national experts and delegates for workshops and intergovernmental meetings under the Convention);

Responsibilities of the focal points (2)

- **Ensure and facilitate**, through the appropriate consultative process, **the preparation and submission of national reports** under the Convention, SDG global indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation;
- **Follow up on secretariat requests** (information and inputs based on decisions by the Meeting of the Parties or other subsidiary bodies);
- **Disseminate information on the implementation of the Convention** and other relevant national developments in the framework of the Convention's meetings and those of other relevant national and international forums;
- **Facilitate** possible voluntary **contributions** to the Convention's trust fund;

Overview Focal Points nomination status :

Since October 2018, **89 official nominations** have been received by the secretariat:

→ **36 Parties**

→ **53 non-Parties**

National Focal Points of the Water Convention

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	EU
AFGHANISTAN																					
																					
<p>Mr. Wais Ahmad Basiri Director General of Water Resource Management Ministry of Energy and Water Phone: +93 799 100382 E-mail: waisbasiri@yahoo.com</p> <p>Mr. Mohd Hassan Faizee Deputy Director General of Border Affairs and Transboundary Water Ministry of Foreign Affairs Phone: +93 788034190 mhassanfaizee@gmail.com</p>																					
ALBANIA																					
																					
<p>Ms. Gerta Lubonja General Director of Water Resources Management Agency Water Resources Management Agency Prime Minister'office Bulevardi "Deshmoret E Kombit" 1001 Tirana Phone: +355 6720 705 76 E-mail: gerta.lubonja@ambu.gov.al</p>																					
ALGERIA																					
																					
<p>Ms. Hassina Hammouche Assistant Director Ministry of Water Resources Phone: 00213 557 585 024 E-mail: hammouchehassina@yahoo.fr</p>																					

List of the current focal points available at:

https://www.unece.org/env/water/nfp_convention.html

Key messages (1)



- **All countries Parties** to the Convention which have not yet done so, **are requested to officially designate** a focal point by the end of the year 2019
- **Countries non-Parties** to the Convention which have not yet done so, **are encouraged to officially designate** a focal point by the end of the year 2019
- Being a focal point **does not have any financial implications**– it is rather an *in kind-role* (opportunity to share your country experiences in the Convention’s platform)
- Nominating a focal point **does not imply any commitment to ratify the Water Convention**

Key messages (2)



- **Possibility** to nominate **more than one focal point**; **focal points** can come from **different Ministries** (eg. Water, Foreign Affairs) and from **different levels**
- If a **change occurs**, please **communicate it to the secretariat** with new focal point contacts
- Focal points should mobilize **appropriate expertise** within their country (**tailored to the topics discussed** in meetings/conferences)
- Focal points should **report back to their Ministry** when taking part in the Water Convention related activities (**two way channel**)

Thank you!

Key documents for focal points:

How to better promote the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health: a guide for focal points

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2009/Wat/mp_wat/ECE_MP_WAT_2009_13_e.pdf

Decision on the designation and responsibilities of focal points

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2018/WAT/10Oct_10-12_8thMOP/Official_docs/ECE_MP.WAT_2018_7_ENG.pdf