

## Item 5.b

# Implementation of the “Strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level”

Sibylle Vermont, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland



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



# Introduction to the Strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level

**Vision:** Transboundary waters worldwide are managed through cooperation between riparian countries in order to promote sustainable development, peace and security



# Introduction to the Strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level

## 5 strategic objectives

By 2030:

- **Objective 1:** Increased awareness of and political support for the Convention and transboundary water cooperation.
- **Objective 2:** Increased accession to the Convention.
- **Objective 3:** Increased support for implementation of the Convention and for transboundary water management.
- **Objective 4:** Increased support for implementation of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 6.5, through the Convention.
- **Objective 5:** Increased partnerships and synergies with other actors.

# Implementation of the Strategy – review of progress

- October 2018: **Adoption** of the *Strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level* by MOP in October 2018 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)
- February 2019: Bureau developed a **road map for implementation of the Strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level** (incl. concrete priority activities, timelines and responsibilities, for issues which are not already reflected in the programme of work)
- September 2019: Bureau **reviewed progress** in implementing activities of the roadmap

# Objective 1.1: Involving high-level and prominent actors in the promotion of the Convention and of transboundary cooperation



Activities identified to implement prioritized actions under Obj. 1.1 of the Strategy	Activities already implemented in 2019	Activities to be implemented in 2019/2020 / 2021
Refer to the Water Convention in statements / bilateral meetings during high-level global events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNEA-4 in Nairobi (March 2019)</li> <li>• Bilateral Commissions meetings</li> <li>• High-level special event on water and climate in New York (03/2019)</li> <li>• Stockholm WWW</li> <li>• Budapest Water Summit (Oct. 2019)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting of Friends of Water in NY and in other relevant meetings of the UN in New York</li> <li>• World Water Forum in Dakar in 2021</li> </ul>
Develop tailored communication materials (for diplomats, web-site, videos, maps)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochure of the programme of work developed by the Water Secretariat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop communication material on the Convention for diplomats</li> </ul>
Promote the Convention at regional events (EU Water Directors meetings, high level events on transboundary cooperation in Latin America and Asia...)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Water Directors meetings</li> <li>• Workshop for OMVG &amp; OMVS, contribution to events with AU, AMCOW, ECOWAS</li> </ul>
Identifying and building capacity of “champions” (RBOs, development partners....)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassadors’ meeting &amp; video on Convention’s benefits by NBA</li> <li>• Regional workshop for parliamentarians, counsellors of Head of States, NBA countries Ambassadors and focal points</li> <li>• Seminar on Convention at AfDB</li> <li>• Convention presented at VBA Council of Ministers meeting</li> </ul>	

## Objective 1.2 Increasing awareness among “multipliers”



Activities identified to implement prioritized actions under Obj. 1.2. of the Strategy	Activities already implemented in 2019	Activities to be implemented in 2019, 2020, 2021
Raise awareness and strengthen capacity of parliamentarians through an evolving process with Inter-Parliamentarian Union (IPU)	Background paper for meeting with IPU developed Contact with IPU for discussion with Bureau	
Raise awareness through other parliamentary networks in regions (such as Arab IPU)		Involve regional networks of parliamentarians in regional workshops (ex. MENA workshop)
Raise awareness of national parliamentarians through work in countries in process of accession		Invite Parliamentarians to national workshops in countries in process of accession
Raise awareness and strengthen capacity of diplomats in countries to reach out to their Embassies	Some Convention focal points reaching out to MFA	Equip diplomats with technical knowledge on water / cooperation (for ex. in KZ)
Raise awareness and strengthen capacity of diplomats through engaging with Permanent Missions to UNOG	On going, for certain countries	
Raise awareness & strengthen capacity of diplomats by promoting <i>EU Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy</i>	Conclusions promoted at national event in Lebanon (Apr. 2019)	
Use better other environmental organizations as ambassadors of the Convention such as IUCN and IPBES	Motion for 2020 IUCN Congress was submitted by WWF and co-sponsors	Possible organization of side event at IUCN Congress (with WWF)

## Objective 2.2 Creating a pool of experts on the Convention

Activities identified to implement prioritized actions under Obj. 2.2. of the Strategy	Activities already implemented in 2019	Activities to be implemented in 2019, 2020, 2021
Involve countries focal points (technical experts)	Chad's and Senegal's focal points promoted Convention in events in Western and Central Africa	
Identify technical and legal experts on various themes relevant to the Water Convention (ex. on the polluter-pays-principles, on hydro-diplomacy, on economy) to be mobilized to support capacity building on and implementation of the Convention in national and regional events		To be decided
Develop a list of profiles / skills needed and communicate it to Bureau to help them identify relevant experts in their administrations and to create roster of experts (mentioning field of expertise such as groundwater, language)		To be decided

## Objective 5.1 Promoting a regional approach to global implementation of the Convention

Activities identified to implement prioritized actions under Obj. 5.1. of the Strategy	Activities already implemented in 2019	Activities to be implemented in 2019, 2020, 2021
Build on expertise and networks of experts in RBOs and RECs to help identify important issues and priorities in a region / basin when planning regional / basin events	Kazakhstan hosted panel session during Astana Economic Forum (May 2019)	Some Bureau members to help by attending workshop in basins/regions.
Cooperate with UN regional commissions, such as ESCAP. Some UN regional commission might need a resolution to have a mandate to work more on supporting transboundary water cooperation	Secretariat: on-going Russian Federation and Kazakhstan following up with ESCAP	
Involve countries which have not yet shown interest in Convention's activities, invite them to cooperate and share experiences.	Secretariat met with SADC secretariat in July 2019 and identified opportunities for activities & promotion of Convention	Switzerland to support communication with SADC region

## Objective 5.2 Strengthening the cooperation with the Global Environment Facility

Activities identified to implement prioritized actions under Obj. 5.2. of the Strategy	Activities already implemented in 2019	Activities to be implemented in 2019, 2020, 2021
Communicate with GEF secretariat and GEF implementing agencies on opportunities for cooperation with Convention activities and on benefits it can offer to GEF projects (sustainability of projects results)		
Advocate for support to transboundary water cooperation in GEF future strategies and replenishments, incl. by stressing synergies with other GEF focal areas		Bureau members will advocate
Document GEF projects that were approved (ex. Drin project) to help preparation of new GEF project documents		
Organize a training of GEF focal points on the Water Convention after consultation with GEF		
Work with GEF on elaboration of information package on GEF IW projects and training on GEF projects (success criteria for project preparation, mechanism for applying for funds through implementing agencies, scale of project, availability of funds...) and disseminate it to countries interested in implementing transboundary water projects.	Discussed with GEF during meeting in Washington DC on 21 March.	

## Objective 5.3 Consolidating cooperation with long-established partners and enhancing their use of the Convention's framework

Activities identified to implement prioritized actions under Obj. 5.3. of the Strategy	Activities already implemented in 2019	Activities to be implemented in 2019, 2020, 2021
Review possible partners and prioritize needs for consolidation of cooperation with organizations		
Attend relevant partners' event	Secretariat participated at EURO-INBO meeting (June 2019, Finland)	
Understand and align to the work culture / approach of partners		
Further strengthen cooperation with Development Banks (such as AfDB, ADB, IDB)	Secretariat: on-going cooperation with AfDB, discussion with IDB	Possible joint activities with IDB Kazakhstan and IWAC to follow up future activities with ADB



Thank you for your attention!