

Progress under the Water convention



Mr. Peter Kovacs, Vice-Chair of the Water Convention



5th session

**Meeting of the Parties to the
Protocol on Water and Health**

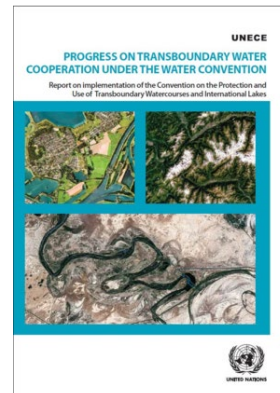
19-21 November | Belgrade | Serbia



Outcomes of the 8th session of the Meeting of the Parties in Nur Sultan



- First MOP in central Asia with **2 new Parties** from outside the pan-European region;
- **More than 15 countries** from **outside the Pan-European region** announced their **interest to ratify** the Water Convention;
- Adoption of the **new strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at global level** that aims to **strengthen cooperation and partnerships for the management of transboundary waters** worldwide in order to promote **sustainable development, peace and security.**
- New programme area **on financing transboundary water cooperation:**
- Launch of the **first report on implementation of the Convention;**
- Launch of **3 new publications:**
 - Words into Action-implementation guide on addressing water-related disasters and transboundary cooperation
 - Methodology on assessing the water-food-energy ecosystem nexus
 - Brochure on identifying, assessing and communicating benefits of cooperation.



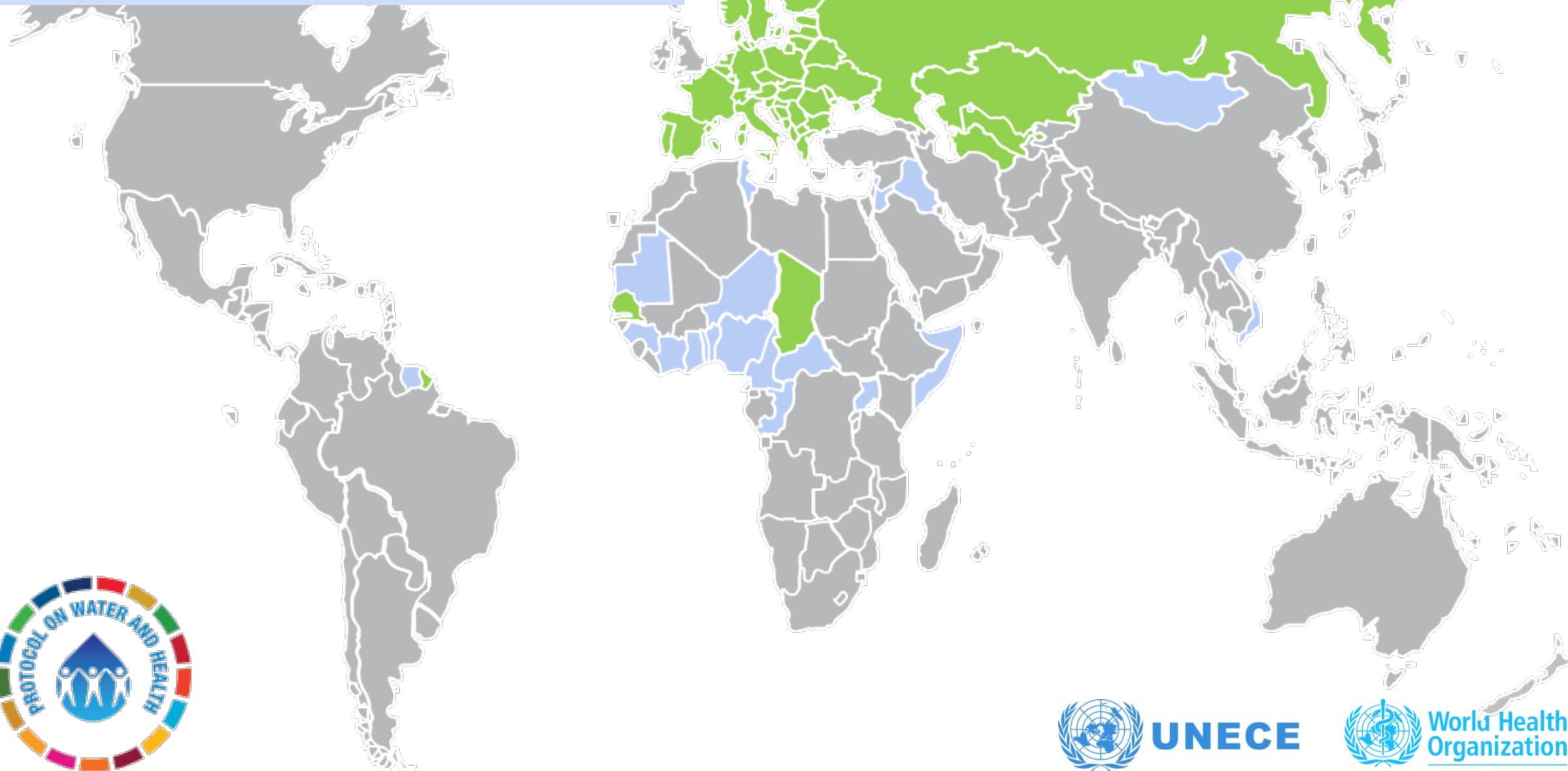
Opening, Outreach activities and new Parties

- Currently **43 parties** –including **Chad** and **Senegal** (joined in 2018)
- Implementation of the **strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level**
- Regional and national workshops organized, e.g. in Cameroon, Ghana, Lebanon, Ivory Coast, Tunisia, Uganda etc..
- **More than 100 countries** involved in the Water Convention activities - exchanging experiences and knowledge to prompt progress in cooperation
- When promoting the Convention outside the UNECE region, we often witness interest in the Protocol



Parties to the Water Convention (43)

Parties in the process of accession to the Water Convention (>20)



Water Convention Programme of Work 2019-2021



Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation



Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins



Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels



Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins



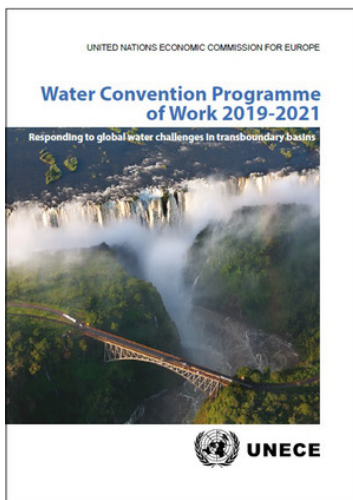
Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation



Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention



Partnerships, communication and knowledge management



UNECE



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Collaboration in 2017-2019

- In **2017**: the **Protocol** and the Convention jointly held a **Global Workshop on Water Scarcity** aimed to **accelerate actions to address water scarcity and thereby reduce the related health, social, economic and environmental risks**, by sharing **practical solutions**, in particular from the perspective of transboundary water cooperation and health impact.
- Organized under the leadership of the Governments of Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland.
- Welcomed 146 participants from across the world.

Outcome:

→ Enabled to increase capacity for addressing water scarcity, thereby reducing the related health, social, economic and environmental risks by sharing practical solutions, tools and approaches from the perspective of transboundary water cooperation.



Future cooperation with the Protocol

- Continued cooperation under the **NPDs** which are fundamentally a tool to strengthen national water governance, like the Protocol itself
- Jointly organize with the Water Convention, a workshop on **climate change adaptation**, the thematic focus of which might include, for example, **water and disaster risk reduction, water scarcity, ecosystem-based adaptation and financing of climate change adaptation** (in coordination with programme areas 4 and 5)
- Other areas of work under the Convention where a health component could be highlighted: e.g. in the work on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and in the future comprehensive assessment



Thank you for your attention



More information :

<http://unece.org/env/water>
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