

Web seminar: Geneva Environment Dialogues | #8

**COVID-19 Impacts on the Global Environmental Agenda:
The Water Convention and Transboundary Water
Cooperation**

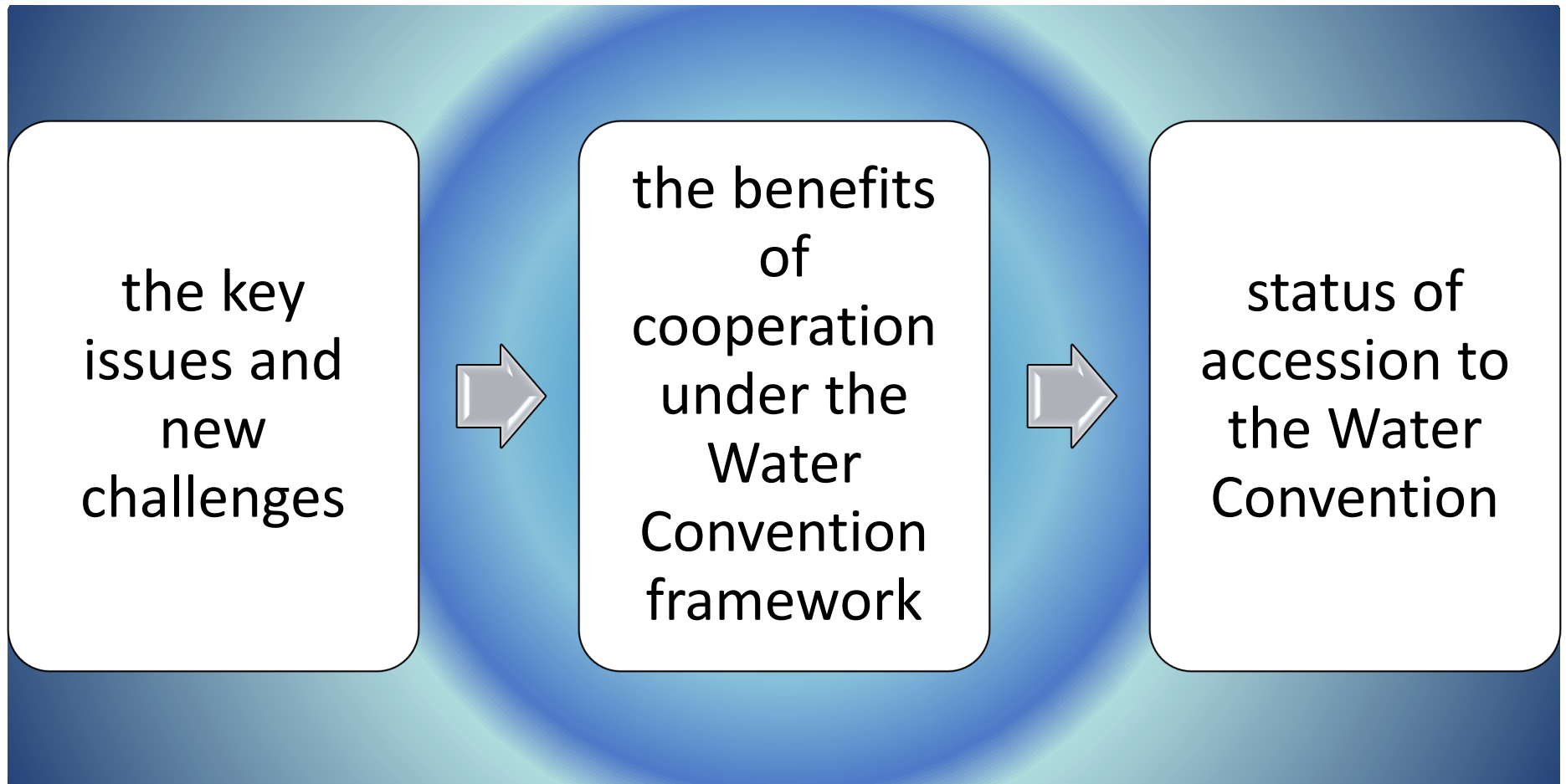
GHANA'S PERSPECTIVE

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FOCUS OF PRESENTATION

Ghana's perspective on transboundary water resources under the current COVID-19 circumstances



DEALING WITH THE ISSUES, ESSENTIALS OF COOPERATION AND THE NEW CHALLENGES

Transboundary operations

- work practically through 3 local transboundary river basin secretariats and the Volta Basin Authority (international body)

Review of plans

- Activities held virtually or postponed or reconceptualized
- Limited field activities initiated

Reprioritization and reallocation of resources

- Government prioritised supply of clean water,
- Targeted vulnerabilities highly exposed to hazards - floods,
- Post COVID-19 recovery
- Substantial reallocation of internal resources to safe water and flood (national and transboundary causes)

Adopting and Implementing COVID-19 Protocols

- Country pushed to adopt a more integrative approach
- A TB project **redesigned to include** COVID-19 prevention protocols.
- Field exercises commenced with strict observation of protocols

Reporting on the status of the SDG 6.5

- Reporting on the status of SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 commenced
- Initial virtual communication with immediate riparian focal points and local basin secretariats

New Challenges

1. Adjusting to the new circumstances and ensuring interventions are achieved.

2. Recovery measures may increase pressures on transboundary water resources - quantity, quality and health aspects

3. Need to improve information exchange and monitoring of transboundary rivers.

BENEFITS OF COOPERATION UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION FRAMEWORK

- ✓ Adoption of specific standards and procedures provided by the Convention for single transboundary project:
 - Single trans-border water infrastructure, the Pwalugu Multipurpose Dam.
- ✓ Improving water governance - International principles, standards and practices to:
 - enhance the management of Ghana's international watercourses; and
 - contribute to the implementation of SDG target 6.5.

FINALLY:

- Ghana has virtually completed accession to the Water Convention.
- President signed the instrument on April 24, 2020.
- Verge of submission to the UN Treaty Section.
- We take this opportunity to urge our riparian neighbours in particular to also accede to the Convention.