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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Financing of the Convention

Overview of contributions and expenditures in 2019–2021

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present document reports on the contributions and expenditures related to the implementation of the programme of work for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes for the period 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1), adopted at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Nur-Sultan, 10–12 October 2018). It complements the report on the implementation of the programme of work for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/2).

At its fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth meetings (respectively, Geneva, 22–24 October 2019, 30 September–2 October 2020, and 26–28 April 2021), the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management reviewed the annual status of contributions and expenditures. This document provides an overview of contributions and expenditures for all trust funds used to implement activities under the Convention's programme of work, for the whole of the period 1 June 2018–31 May 2021.

The Meeting of the Parties may wish to:

- (a) Endorse the report on contributions and expenditures;
- (b) Express its gratitude to the Parties to the Convention, especially those that have led activities, and to the organizations and partners that have provided human and financial resources to implement the programme of work;
- (c) Call on the Parties and partners to continue to provide financial support for the implementation of the future programme of work, and to provide such resources without earmarking them, if possible;
- (d) Encourage countries and partners that have not yet contributed to provide financial resources for the implementation of the future programme of work.

I. Balance as at 31 May 2018

1. As at 31 May 2018, the approximate balance of the Water Convention's trust funds was \$3,252,185.¹

II. Contributions received during the period 2018–2021

2. A total of \$11,453,774 was received during the period 1 June 2018–31 May 2021. A breakdown of contributions received by year is set out in tables 1–4 below.

A. Contributions to the trust funds² from 1 June to 31 December 2018

Table 1
Breakdown of contributions from 1 June to 31 December 2018

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars^a</i>	<i>Earmarked/explanation</i>
Serbia	20 June 2018	EUR	4 600	5 425	Unearmarked
Switzerland	22 June 2018	CHF	50 000	50 761	WGIWRM-WGMA
Finland	10 July 2018	EUR	100 000	117 925	Unearmarked
Finland	18 July 2018	EUR	50 000	56 882	Water quality project
IUCN	23 July 2018	USD	13 936	13 936	Benefits
Kazakhstan	28 July 2018	USD	145 800	145 800	MOP8
UNDP-GEF	31 July 2018	USD	75 000	75 000	Drin River basin project
UNESCO	9 Aug. 2018	USD	33 000	33 000	Climate, nexus
Germany	9 Aug. 2018	EUR	50 000	57 870	MOP8
Switzerland (SDC)	20 Aug. 2018	USD	428 000	428 000	Benefits, climate change, nexus, opening
Italy	12 Sep. 2018	EUR	250 000	289 352	Unearmarked
Sweden	24 Sep. 2018	SEK	800 000	87 931	MOP8
Germany	11 Oct. 2018	EUR	65 000	74 830	Chad event for accession
European Union	19 Oct. 2018	EUR	25 000	28 902	Unearmarked
Switzerland	26 Oct. 2018	CHF	70 000	72 091	MOP8
Finland	30 Oct. 2018	EUR	20 000	23 121	Unearmarked
Finland	16 Nov. 2018	EUR	43 900	49 886	Chu-Talas project
Netherlands	16 Nov. 2018	EUR	200 000	273 274	Unearmarked
ADB	28 Nov. 2018	USD	5 000	5 000	Workshop on financing
Germany	7 Dec. 2018	EUR	49 100	55 859	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2, benefits, Partnerships
Switzerland (SDC)	12 Dec. 2018	USD	30 000	29 750	Workshop on financing
EIB	17 Dec. 2018	EUR	7 000	7 964	Climate change
Norway	17 Dec. 2018	USD	100 683	100 683	Implementation and reporting

¹ ECE/MP.WAT/2018/3, para. 4.

² These include the Water Convention trust fund and other trust funds used to implement activities under the Convention's programme of work, namely the trust funds for the Drin River basin project, the project to support the transition of Kazakhstan to a green economy model, the European Union Water Initiative Plus National Policy Dialogues for Eastern Partnership countries and the UN-Water trust fund.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars^a</i>	<i>Earmarked/explanation</i>
Estonia	21 Dec. 2018	EUR	8 000	9 101	Unearmarked
<i>Interests and refunds in 2018</i>		<i>USD</i>	<i>104 071</i>	<i>104 071</i>	
Total				2 196 413	

Abbreviations: ADB, Asian Development Bank; EIB, European Investment Bank; IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature; MOP8, eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties; SDC, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; SDG, Sustainable Development Goal; UNDP-GEF, United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; WGIWRM, Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management; WGMA, Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

^a United States dollars. Exchange rates from currency of contribution to dollars are calculated as at the date of funds transfer. Figures are rounded.

B. Contributions to the trust funds³ from 1 January to 31 December 2019

Table 2
Breakdown of contributions in 2019

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>	<i>Earmarked/explanation</i>
Luxembourg	14 Jan. 2019	EUR	2 500	2 854	Unearmarked
UNDP Albania	31 Jan. 2019	USD	55 000	55 000	Drin project
(Refund to UNDP Albania)	7 Oct. 2019	USD	(8 942)	(8 942)	Drin project leftovers
UN-Water	26 Feb. 2019	USD	11 119	11 119	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Luxembourg	18 Mar. 2019	EUR	4 750	5 404	Unearmarked
UN-Water	18 Mar. 2019	USD	72 526	72 526	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
European Union	1 Apr. 2019	EUR	903 051	1 027 362	EUWI+ NPDs Eastern Partnership
Italy	4 Apr. 2019	EUR	178 000	199 776	Nexus assessment in Drina River basin
European Union	12 Apr. 2019	EUR	659 854	733 714	Promoting accession to the Water Convention
Germany	16 Apr. 2019	EUR	30 000	33 822	First meeting of the Drafting Group on the Guide to Reporting (9–10 May 2019)
Switzerland	29 Apr. 2019	CHF	65 000	64 806	Workshop on ecosystem-based adaptation, tenth meeting of the Task Force on

³ These include the Water Convention trust fund and other trust funds used to implement activities under the Convention's programme of work, namely the trust funds for the Drin River basin project, the opening of the Convention project, the European Union Water Initiative Plus National Policy Dialogues (EUWI+ NPDs) for Eastern Partnership countries and the NPDs in Central Asia and the UN-Water trust fund. Among projects supporting implementation of the Convention according to programme area 1.3, the project funded by UNDP-GEF on the Drin River basin was included, whereas the following projects were not: projects on dam safety; and the network of Eastern Europe water management organizations funded from the Russian Federation contribution to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>	<i>Earmarked/explanation</i>
					Water and Climate (29 Apr.–1 May 2019)
Kazakhstan	21 May 2019	USD	74 000	74 000	Unearmarked
France	31 May 2019	CHF	79 186	77 557	Unearmarked
Netherlands	6 June 2019	EUR	50 000	55 617	High-level workshop on financing transboundary basin development and MOP8 (9–12 Oct. 2018)
UN-Water	28 June 2019	USD	29 703	29 703	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Austria	5 July 2019	EUR	10 000	11 364	Reporting
Switzerland (SDC)	11 July 2019	USD	550 000	550 000	Unearmarked
European Union	22 July 2019	EUR	25 000	28 409	Unearmarked
Luxembourg	13 Aug. 2019	EUR	11 000	12 263	Unearmarked
Finland	22 Aug. 2019	EUR	25 000	27 964	Unearmarked
GWP-Med	17 Sep. 2019	EUR	235 447	255 724	Nexus in South-Eastern Europe
Hungary	17 Sep. 2019	USD	15 000	15 000	Unearmarked
European Union	24 Sep. 2019	EUR	200 000	219 780	EUWI+ NPDs Central Asia
Sweden	3 Oct. 2019	SEK	900 000	91 827	Workshop on data exchange and fifteenth meeting of WGMA (4–6 Dec. 2019)
Germany	5 Nov. 2019	EUR	25 000	27 778	Workshop on data exchange and fifteenth meeting of WGMA (4–6 Dec. 2019)
Netherlands	6 Nov. 2019	EUR	200 000	222 222	Unearmarked
UNESCO	14 Nov. 2019	USD	22 000	22 000	IW:LEARN 4
Finland	20 Nov. 2019	EUR	10 000	11 111	Unearmarked
Switzerland (FOEN)	6 Dec. 2019	CHF	100 000	100 100	WGIWRM, Expert Group on water allocation and regional workshop on reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 (21 Oct. 2019)
Italy	16 Dec. 2019	EUR	39 935	43 933	Nexus assessment in Drina River basin
Norway	16 Dec. 2019	NOK	884 747	96 430	Implementation Committee, reporting and benefits of cooperation
North Macedonia	27 Dec. 2019	USD	1 000	1 000	Unearmarked
Finland	27 Dec. 2019	EUR	200 000	220 022	Unearmarked
Estonia	30 Dec. 2019	EUR	5 000	5 501	Unearmarked
<i>Interests and refunds in 2019</i>		<i>USD</i>	<i>105 369</i>	<i>105 369</i>	
Total				4 502 415	

Abbreviations: EUWI+ NPDs, European Union Water Initiative Plus National Policy Dialogues; FOEN, Federal Office for the Environment; GWP-Med, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean; IW:LEARN, International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network.

C. Contributions to the trust funds⁴ from 1 January to 31 December 2020

Table 3
Breakdown of contributions in 2020

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>	<i>Earmarked/explanation</i>
GWP-Med	6 Feb. 2020	EUR	77 000	84 895	Water cooperation in the Mediterranean
UN-Water	11 Feb. 2020	USD	15 219	15 219	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Luxembourg	9 Mar. 2020	EUR	2 000	2 198	Unearmarked
UN-Water	10 Mar. 2020	USD	30 701	30 701	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Germany	19 Mar. 2020	EUR	30 000	33 937	Workshop on legal frameworks (28–29 July 2020)
European Union	24 Mar. 2020	EUR	447 461	506 178	EUWI+ NPDs Eastern Partnership
Austria	27 Mar. 2020	EUR	10 000	11 312	Reporting
Bulgaria	3 Apr. 2020	EUR	3 000	3 311	Unearmarked
OSCE	15 Apr. 2020	EUR	41 610	45 927	Dniester River basin project
Kazakhstan	15 Apr. 2020	USD	74 000	74 000	Unearmarked
Hungary	19 May 2020	USD	12 000	12 000	Unearmarked
Sweden	4 June 2020	SEK	860 000	89 911	Nexus Task Force and allocation
European Union	17 June 2020	EUR	25 000	28 441	Unearmarked
OSCE	13 July 2020	EUR	41 610	46 596	Dniester River basin project
UNESCO	23 July 2020	USD	5 000	5 000	GEF IW: LEARN 4
France	7 Aug. 2020	EUR	70 000	82 353	Opening of the Convention
Switzerland (SDC)	19 Aug. 2020	USD	549 975	549 975	Unearmarked
Switzerland (FOEN)	26 Aug. 2020	CHF	75 000	82 327	WGIWRM, Task Force on water and climate, publication Frequently Asked Questions

⁴ These include the Water Convention trust fund and other trust funds used to implement activities under the Convention's programme of work, namely the trust funds for the opening of the Convention project, the EUWI+ NPDs for Eastern Partnership countries, the NPDs in Central Asia and the UN-Water trust fund. Some contributions received to fund projects supporting implementation of the Convention according to subprogramme area 1.3, in particular those by OSCE for the project in the Dniester River basin and by the European Union for the project in the Senegalese-Mauritanian Aquifer basin, were included, whereas contributions to fund the following projects were not: project on dam safety; and the network of Eastern Europe water management organizations funded from the Russian Federation contribution to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>	<i>Earmarked/explanation</i>
Switzerland (FOEN)	26 Aug. 2020	CHF	53 000	58 178	Reporting under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Luxembourg	28 Aug. 2020	EUR	9 000	10 601	Unearmarked
UN-Water	10 Sep. 2020	USD	9 900	9 900	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
UN-Water	16 Sep. 2020	USD	30 701	30 701	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
European Union	30 Sep. 2020	EUR	1 054 605	1 226 296	Promoting accession to the Water Convention
UN-Water	1 Oct. 2020	USD	85 046	85 046	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Germany	14 Oct. 2020	EUR	27 500	32 277	Study on financing of cooperation, reporting
Finland	29 Oct. 2020	EUR	20 000	23 474	Unearmarked
Finland	17 Nov. 2020	EUR	200 000	235 018	Unearmarked
UN-Water	1 Dec. 2020	USD	20 193	20 193	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Germany	7 Dec. 2020	EUR	30 000	35 842	Publications and translations
Netherlands	8 Dec. 2020	EUR	200 000	238 949	Climate change activities
Finland	11 Dec. 2020	EUR	11 000	13 142	Unearmarked
Finland	23 Dec. 2020	EUR	14 916	17 821	Water allocation
Azerbaijan	29 Dec. 2020	USD	1 000	1 000	Unearmarked
European Union	29 Dec. 2020	EUR	184 113	219 968	EUWI+ NPDs in Central Asia
<i>Interests and refunds in 2020</i>		<i>USD</i>	<i>58 932</i>	<i>58 932</i>	
Total				4 021 619	

Abbreviations: OSCE, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

D. Contributions to the trust funds from 1 January to 31 May 2021

Table 4
Breakdown of contributions from 1 January to 31 May 2021

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>	<i>Earmarked/explanation</i>
Luxembourg	19 Feb. 2021	EUR	4 000	4 854	Unearmarked
France	8 Apr. 2021	EUR	70 000	82 063	Unearmarked
European Union	12 Apr. 2021	EUR	299 488	351 100	EUWI+ NPDs Eastern Partnership

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>	<i>Earmarked/explanation</i>
UN-Water	28 Apr. 2021	USD	50 528	50 528	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Kazakhstan	5 May 2021	USD	74 000	74 000	Unearmarked
GWP-Med	7 May 2021	EUR	41 066	49 717	Nexus in South-Eastern Europe
Estonia	13 May 2021	EUR	100 000	121 065	Unearmarked
Total				733 327⁵	

III. Provisional expenditures from 1 June 2018 until 31 May 2021

3. Total expenditures from 1 June 2018 until 31 May 2021 were \$9,145,583. This figure is provisional, especially for the period 1 January–31 May 2021.

4. This includes: expenditures from 1 June until 31 December 2018 that were used for the finalization of activities under the programme of work for 2016–2018; and expenditures from 1 January 2019 until 31 May 2021 that were used to implement activities under the programme of work for 2019–2021. A breakdown of costs by programme area, inclusive of programme support costs, is set out in tables 5 (for the period 1 June–31 December 2018) and 6 (for the period 1 January 2019–31 May 2021) below.

A. Expenditures from 1 June to 31 December 2018

Table 5

Breakdown of costs by programme area of the programme of work for 2016–2018 from 1 June to 31 December 2018

<i>Description^a</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>
(a) Official meetings: (Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties)	
Staff and personnel costs ^b	97 781
Contract services ^c	70 677
Operating and other direct costs ^d	90 207
Travel ^e	225 549
Others	5 537
Subtotal (a)	489 752
(b) Programme area 1: Support to implementation and application^a	
Staff and personnel costs	161 859
Contract services	14 438
Operating and other direct costs	3 435
Grants ^f	16 167
Travel	16 115
Subtotal (b)	212 013
(c) Programme area 2: Benefits of transboundary cooperation	

⁵ In addition, a contribution of Poland of \$13,000 was received on 24 June 2021. The amount will be included in the next report to be submitted to the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

<i>Description^a</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>
Staff and personnel costs	54 643
Contract services	2 928
Operating and other direct costs	6 297
(Travel) ^g	(2 778)
Subtotal (c)	61 090
(d) Programme area 3:	
Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus	
Staff and personnel costs	104 658
Contract services	4 416
Operating and other direct costs	6 100
Travel	37 970
Subtotal (d)	153 143
(e) Programme area 4:	
Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins	
Staff and personnel costs	122 885
(Contract services)	(1 035)
Operating and other direct costs	2 777
(Grants)	(14 423)
Travel	15 508
Subtotal (e)	125 713
(f) Programme area 5:	
Opening, promotion and partnerships	
Staff and personnel costs	127 370
Contract services	17 591
Operating and other direct costs	16 455
Grants	1 885
Travel	35 920
Subtotal (f)	199 220
(g) Programme area 6:	
European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues^c	
Staff and personnel costs	356 826
Operating and other direct costs	13 337
Grants and contract services	38 371
Travel	62 797
Subtotal (g)	471 332
Total ((a)–(g))	1 712 263

Note: All figures include 13 per cent United Nations standard programme support costs. For contributions from the European Union and UN-Water, programme support costs are 7 per cent.

^a Categories of expenditures in the present report follow the categories in the Umoja administrative and financial system. The footnotes below explain the different categories.

^b This includes staff costs, consultancies costs and consultants' travel costs.

^c This includes costs for individual contractors, for example, for: outsourced translations; procurement, for example for catering services for conferences and events, etc.

^d This includes all logistics costs, for example, for events organized outside Geneva, and costs for translation, layout and printing of publications by the United Nations Office at Geneva, as well as extrabudgetary interpretation costs.

^e This includes staff travel costs, as well as travel support to eligible participants.

^f This includes costs for grants for not-for-profit organizations to carry out activities under specific projects.

^g This corresponds to refunds of costs related to previous travel, which had been cancelled.

B. Provisional expenditures from 1 January 2019 to 31 May 2021

Table 6

Breakdown of costs by programme area of the programme of work for 2019-2021 from 1 January 2019 to 31 May 2021

<i>Description^a</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>
(a) Official meetings (Working Group and Bureau meetings)	
Staff and personnel costs	197 876
Contract service	83 158
Operating and other direct costs	38 348
Equipment, vehicles and furniture	8 951
Travel	147 242
Subtotal (a)	475 576
(b) Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation^b	
Staff and personnel costs	1 237 370
Contract service	90 909
Operating and other direct costs	84 312
Equipment, vehicles and furniture	726
Grants	20 327
Travel	262 005
Subtotal (b)	1 695 649
(c) Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins	
Staff and personnel costs	147 861
Contract service	11 646
Operating and other direct costs	8 591
Travel	125 220
Subtotal (c)	293 318
(d) Programme area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels^c	
Staff and personnel costs	2 788 741
Contract service	69 820
Operating and other direct costs	75 174
Grants	38 961
Travel	178 154
Subtotal (d)	3 150 850
(e) Programme area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins	

<i>Description^a</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>
Staff and personnel costs	503 929
Contract service	16 252
Operating and other direct costs	22 386
Travel	165 444
Subtotal (e)	708 011
(f) Programme areas 5: Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation	
Staff and personnel costs	169 198
Contract service	33 104
Operating and other direct costs	9 074
Travel	11 042
Subtotal (f)	222 419
(g) Programme area 6: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention	
Staff and personnel costs	476 663
Contract service	71 651
Operating and other direct costs	24 662
Travel	90 825
Subtotal (g)	663 801
(h) Programme area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management	
Staff and personnel costs	153 976
Contract service	15 481
Operating and other direct costs	23 513
Grants	1 151
Travel	29 576
Subtotal (h)	223 697
Total ((a)–(h))	7 433 320^d

^a Categories of expenditures in the present report follow the categories in the Umoja administrative and financial system. The different categories are explained in the footnotes of table 5.

^b Expenses reported under programme area 1 include some expenses for projects on the ground implemented under subprogramme area 1.3. Such costs were not incorporated into the budget of the programme of work adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session, as these are project-driven activities dependent on the availability of funds.

^c Expenses reported under programme area 3 reflect all expenditures related to the contributions from the European Union for Eastern Neighbourhood countries (in the framework of the European Union Water Initiative Plus project) and for Central Asia. However, it should be noted that the two projects funded activities beyond the Convention's programme of work. In particular, approximately 15 per cent of the expenditures are related to the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention and its programme of work.

^d The years 2020 and 2021 were special due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which significantly affected the implementation of activities under the Convention. It led to the cancellation of all travel from early March 2020 and the postponement of several activities. Expenses are therefore lower than in previous years, but this is not representative of the evolution of costs and activities under the Convention.

IV. Approximate balance as at 31 May 2021

5. The approximate provisional balance of the various trust funds as at 31 May 2021 was \$5,560,376. For additional explanations, please see section VI below.

V. In-kind contributions

6. The present section summarizes the in-kind contributions to implementation of the programme of work. Unfortunately, it is difficult to keep track of all contributions because the secretariat is not always informed thereof. Therefore, this list should not be considered comprehensive and the secretariat apologizes for any unintended omission.

7. France and Italy funded junior professional officers in the secretariat during part of the triennium.

8. Numerous experts contributed to the preparation of the following publications: *Funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development*; *Practical guide on the development of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation*; *Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context*; and *Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2* (ECE/MP.WAT/60).⁶

9. Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Lebanon, Senegal and Uganda provided in-kind support for the national, regional and subregional capacity-building events on the Water Convention that they hosted, namely:

- A national workshop on the Water Convention for Cameroon (Yaoundé, 5 and 6 November 2019).
- A regional workshop on the Water Convention for Niger River basin countries (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 11 April 2019).
- A national workshop on the Water Convention for Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 15 April 2019).
- A high-level consultation "The Water Convention: an opportunity for Lebanon?" (Beirut, 11 April 2019).
- A regional "train the practitioner" workshop on how to use the two global water conventions to advance transboundary cooperation on the ground (Dakar, 18 and 19 June 2019).
- A national meeting on strengthening understanding of the Water Convention in Uganda towards possible accession (Kampala, 15 November 2019).

10. Representatives of Parties to the Water Convention, and particularly, but not exclusively, members of the Bureau (for example, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Senegal and Switzerland), together with Chad, Ghana, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain, significantly contributed to raising awareness on the Convention, for example, by sharing their experience during national and regional workshops and webinars on the Water Convention in countries that are progressing towards accession. Several Parties also mobilized their embassies and diplomatic channels to promote the Convention (for example, the European Union and its member States, Kazakhstan and Switzerland).

11. Hungary provided in-kind support for the promotion of the Convention, including the organization of a side event at the Budapest Water Summit (Budapest 15–17 October 2019).

12. Slovenia contributed time and expertise to co-organizing the online High-Level Panel Session on transboundary watersheds: sharing basins for people, planet, prosperity and peace at the European Development Days on 16 June 2021, and a similar session at the "Water and beyond: EU transformative approaches for international partnerships conference" (18–21 January 2021), and further promoting the Convention.

⁶ These publications will be made available at https://unece.org/publications/oes/welcome?f%5B0%5D=program%3A441&f%5B1%5D=work_area%3A1046.

13. Several organizations supported awareness-raising on the Convention and its global opening in various regions, by co-organizing events, mobilizing financial resources to host events and/or support travel of experts, providing time and expertise to promote the Convention in basins and regions, etc. This includes, among other partners:

- River basin organizations, such as the Volta Basin Authority, the Mono River Basin Authority, the Niger Basin Authority, the Gambia River Basin Development Organization and the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission.
- Regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the African Union, the African Ministers' Council on Water and the Organization of American States.
- Regional economic communities in Africa, such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States, and in Latin America, such as the Central American Commission on Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System.
- United Nations regional commissions, for example the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), by providing a consultant to support the process of accession to the Water Convention in the Niger, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), by co-organizing and funding the travel of experts for a regional workshop "Enhancing transboundary water cooperation in the [Middle East and North Africa] region: progress, challenges and opportunities" (Beirut, 3 and 4 March 2020).
- United Nations country teams in target countries.
- Other organizations, such as GWP and its regional water partnerships (for example, for the southern Mediterranean region, GWP-Med, through the project "Making Water Cooperation Happen in the Mediterranean", funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and the Geneva Water Hub, and academia.

14. Several partners provided in-kind time and support to the organization of webinars promoting the Convention and its activities. The Geneva Environment Network co-organized with ECE and hosted several webinars, namely "The Water Convention and transboundary water cooperation" as part of the Geneva Environment Dialogues special COVID-19 series (26 May 2020), the launch of the publication *Frequently asked questions on the 1992 Water Convention with the Road map to facilitate accession processes*⁷ in English (17 November 2020) and French (17 June 2021). The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Oxfam Transboundary Rivers of South Asia and the Indian Environment Law Organization provided time, expertise and logistical support in the development and implementation of a regional webinar on South Asia Transboundary Rivers (9 November 2020). The Mekong River Commission secretariat provided time and expertise in the development and implementation of a regional webinar for South East Asia (3 February 2021).

15. The Geneva Water Hub hosted several meetings under the initiative on the Senegalese-Mauritanian aquifer basin, namely a round table on transboundary collaboration on the Senegalese-Mauritanian aquifer system (Versoix, Switzerland, 6 and 7 February 2019) and virtual/hybrid meetings of the regional Working Group (first meeting, 22 October 2020; second meeting, 1 and 2 December 2020; third meeting, 10 and 11 February 2021; and fourth meeting, 9 June 2021).

16. OSCE, within the UNDP/GEF project, supported the transboundary cooperation process on the Dniester River basin, including the operationalization of the Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester Basin, the functioning of its working groups, the development of the transboundary river basin management plan, and the contribution of the Dniester stakeholders to various Convention meetings and events.

⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.20.II.E.34.

17. University College London organized an online conference on the Implementation Committee of the Water Convention on 22 April 2021.
18. In the development of the *Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context*, Finland provided in-kind time and expertise through the Finnish Environment Institute. The University of Eastern Finland also contributed additional time and expertise. The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) contributed time and expertise, through funding provided by Kazakhstan, by implementing a parallel regional process on transboundary water allocation that was coordinated with the Handbook's major milestones, the case studies and technical recommendations of which fed into the Handbook. The process involved, in addition to expert meetings, the organization of a "Regional meeting on water allocation and environmental flow assessment in a transboundary context" (Nur-Sultan and virtual, 22 and 23 September 2020) for Central Asia and neighbouring States. Hungary provided in-kind support to the organization of an online regional workshop on transboundary water allocation.
19. Finland engaged consultants to support work on the stocktaking of nexus solutions and investments for programme area 3, activity 3.2. Finland and Germany engaged a consultant in 2019 to support the Convention's global opening.
20. GWP-Med and ECE worked on the nexus assessment on the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System in cooperation with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory. GWP-Med also supported the nexus assessments on the Drin and Drina River basins, in terms of regional level dissemination, in South-Eastern Europe more generally. The ECE Sustainable Energy Division ensured the publishing of the joint publication *Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment*,⁸ and promoted it, including through the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and by organizing a joint capacity-building webinar devoted to this "toolkit" publication (19 October 2020).
21. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with ECE and the Inter-American Development Bank, hosted an online expert consultation meeting on nexus solutions and investments (22 February 2021).
22. Several European Union and Eastern Neighbourhood countries sent experts to NPD meetings in order to share their experience with river basin management and implementation of the Convention and the European Union water directives. NPD beneficiary countries co-financed some of the national steering committee meetings. In addition, some NPD Steering Committee meetings, in particular in Central Asia, were financed by OECD and the European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation (WECOOP) project.
23. The Netherlands provided in-kind expertise in the form of one lead expert for programme area 4 on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins.
24. INBO and the World Meteorological Organization provided significant support for climate change activities under the Convention.
25. ESCWA, UNESCO Djakarta, UNESCO Yaoundé (twice) and the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA) respectively hosted five regional workshops on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and directly funded the travel of some eligible experts.
26. GWP and other partners supported several countries in preparing their national reports for the second reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.
27. ESCWA prepared a regional report on *Progress on Shared Water Resources Management in the Arab Region: Regional baseline for SDG Indicator 6.5.2*,⁹ based on the results of the first reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), ESCWA and CODIA are

⁸ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.20.II.E.17.

⁹ E/ESCWA/SDPD/2018/WP.1, Working Paper, 27 December 2018.

preparing regional reports for, respectively, Africa, the Arab region and Ibero-America, based on the results of the second reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2.

28. Kazakhstan financed the running costs as well as most activities of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC). Slovakia supported some IWAC activities through in-kind support.

29. Some partners, such as the Union for the Mediterranean, GWP-Med and GEF IW:LEARN, directly funded the travel of some eligible experts to some meetings of Convention bodies and other events within the framework of the Convention, including workshops on climate change.

VI. Analysis, trends and lessons learned

30. The period 2019–2021 has been marked by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected the implementation of activities under the Convention in 2020 and 2021. From March 2020, intergovernmental meetings under the Convention were held virtually or in a hybrid mode, and some had to be postponed. These developments led to decreased expenditures in 2020 and 2021, in particular regarding travel, but this cannot be considered as representative of the trend in the evolution of the Convention as a global instrument and the related expected gradual increase in expenditures for activities in the medium and longer term. So far, the pandemic has had limited effects on the level of financial contributions (only few donors could not continue their contributions or reduced the amount) since several contributions are based on multi-annual agreements. However, there is a risk that the level of contributions will further decrease in the future due to the financial consequences of the pandemic, with potentially negative impacts on the work programme implementation.

31. In general, as can be seen from graph below, there has been a continuous increase in financial contributions and expenditures in recent years, due to the expansion of the scope and activities of the Convention. A significant part (more than a third) of these funds (primarily from the European Union) are allocated to activities under the European Union Water Initiative Plus National Policy Dialogues and for promoting the Convention (programme areas 1 and 3). As can also be seen in the graph, financial contributions usually follow a certain trend in that they usually drop in the final year of the work programme implementation such as 2018 and 2021, while expenditures remain at a similar level – this explains the need for a sufficient balance.

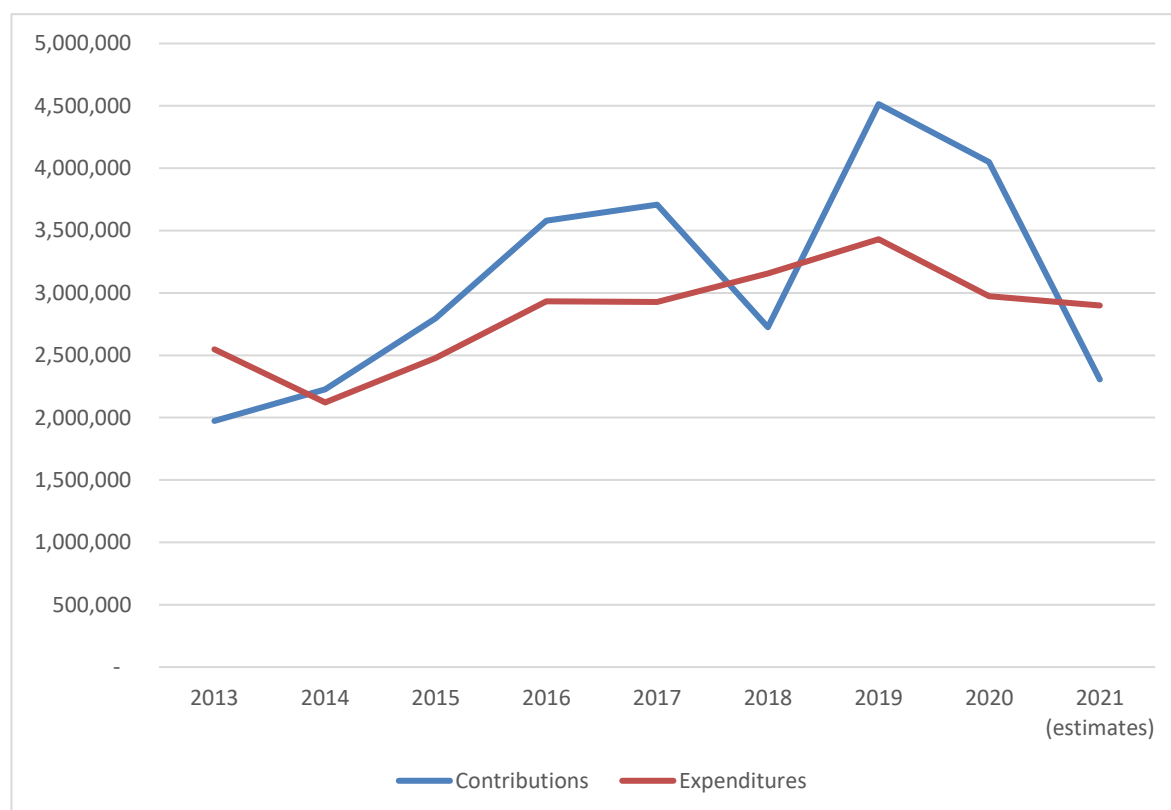
32. It is encouraging to see a positive evolution in the period 2019–2021, with a number of additional new donors among Parties (such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia and Poland). An increase in the number of unearmarked contributions is also to be noted, which allows for progress to be made on the entire programme of work. This gives the secretariat more flexibility and allows it to allocate resources where they are most needed. But some countries have reverted back to earmarked contributions due to national circumstances or stopped their contributions.

33. The way the work under the Convention is financed remains a significant challenge. The implementation of the programme of work still relies primarily on a few main donors. In addition, most contributions are still earmarked and often entail burdensome administrative procedures in terms of project proposals and reporting to donors. The secretariat therefore spends significant resources not only for fund-raising, but also for the administration of earmarked contributions, in addition to the reporting to the Meeting of the Parties and the Convention's bodies. Moreover, this means that the activities implemented are not always those that are the most needed, but those for which funding can be mobilized. This prompted the development of draft targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention.¹⁰ It is hoped that the positive evolution observed during the period 2019–2021 will continue in the future and that the implementation of the

¹⁰ see ECE/MP.WAT/2021/8.

above-mentioned targets will drive progress on addressing the challenges encountered in financing the programme of work.

Evolution of expenditures and contributions related to all trust funds supporting implementation of the Convention's programme of work



34. As in the past, priority must be given to funding for secretariat staff members, most of whom are extrabudgetary. Moreover, resources for staffing costs need to be received and reserved in advance so that staff members can be hired, and their contracts extended. As at the end of 2021, some \$2,400,000 from the balance will need to be set aside in order to reserve funds for all staff members' salaries for 2022.