



**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE CARL HERMAN GUSTAV  
SCHLETTWEIN, MP AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND  
LAND REFORM (MAWLR), AT THE 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO  
THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES  
(WATER CONVENTION), GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
29 SEPTEMBER 2021**

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Excellences

Distinguished participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to begin by thanking the UNECE Secretariat for extending an invitation to Namibia for this very important gathering, the 9th Meeting of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

I am very happy to address this panel today to express Namibia's intention to accede to the Water Convention.

Namibia shares and is heavily depending on all her perennial rivers with neighboring countries. Therefore we have entered into bilateral and

multilateral Agreements to establish River Basin Commissions, aimed at promoting joint, rule based utilization and management and sustainable development of the internationally shared waters. Furthermore, Namibia has ratified the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses of 1997, and the Revised SADC Protocol on shared watercourses of 2000. Thus, Namibia has a long record of transboundary water cooperation anchored in multilateral cooperation for the fair, sustainable and integrated utilization and management of its shared freshwater resources.

Let me appreciate the opening up of the UNECE Water Convention, to allow other UN Member states outside of Europe to accede. Namibia sees this as a great opportunity to be part of this global framework. The Convention establishes principles and rules that form the basis for countries working together to protect and sustainably use their shared freshwater resources. Namibia being a downstream country in most of her transboundary shared watercourses relies on rules based cooperation which the Water Convention is centered around. In today's interconnected world, water availability is directly related to peace and security.

By acceding to the Water Convention, Namibia hopes to strengthen her capacity and add additional tools in catalyzing change towards water and peace nexus, as well gain new insights for enhanced transboundary cooperation, conflict prevention and regional stability.

Therefore, Namibia is hereby expressing her interest to accede to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and would like to request support from the Water Convention Secretariat during the accession process.

I thank you.