Item 1.1
Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
Main achievements - African regions

- 3 new Parties: Ghana (20 September 2020), Guinea-Bissau (12 September 2021), Togo (28 September 2021)

- Understanding of and capacity to accede to and implement the Convention increased (national workshops to discuss benefits of accession in Côte d’Ivoire, April 2019, and Cameroon, November 2019) → confirmed intention to accede

- Progress towards accession in: Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, the Congo, the Gambia, Nigeria and Uganda.

- Awareness raised on the Convention among OKACOM countries (presentation in Botswana, July 2019)
Main achievements: Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region

- Benefits of acceding to the Convention recognized as an outcome of extensive national discussions in Iraq, Lebanon (high-level consultation, April 2019) and Tunisia, combined with regional dialogue (regional workshop in Beirut, March 2020).
- Capacity built on Convention and its activities through contribution to on-line course on water diplomacy and workshops.
- Major progress towards accession in Iraq.
- Progress in other countries slowed down due to political instability within the countries, and overall political sensitivity of the issue of transboundary waters.
Main achievements: South Asia and South East Asia regions

- Slow progress towards accession
- Viet Nam analyzed Convention’s compatibility with national laws
- Strengthen awareness of and capacity regarding the Convention (regional webinars - November 2020 and February 2021)
Main achievements: Latin America and Caribbean region

- Increased knowledge on the Convention and its activities, through contribution to various subregional workshops, webinars, course (OAS Session of Inter-American Council for Integral Development and Permanent Council, March 2019; Course on Water Governance for CCAD region, Aug-Sept. 2021; CODIA webinar, Feb. 2021)
- Interest in Convention prompted by regional dialogue on transboundary waters in Central America (with CCAD & GWP-CAM, June 2021)
- Several countries further inquired about the value added of becoming Party to and implementing the Convention.
- Strengthened partnership with OAS, CCAD, CODIA, IDB
Main achievements: promotion and trainings

- Benefits of implementation of the Convention at the regional level discussed, and capacities of professionals, during **regional training sessions on international water law**
  - Regional training on how to use the 2 global water conventions to advance transboundary water cooperation (Senegal, 18-19 June 2019)
  - Training on International Water Law for countries experts in support of the negotiation process for the establishment of RBO in Central Africa (February 2020)

- **Key contributions of river basin organizations in raising awareness and promoting accession** to the Convention
  - Workshop for Niger Basin Authority countries (Côte d’Ivoire, 11 April 2019)
  - Presentation at the Ordinary Session of the Volta Basin Authority Council of Ministers (May 2019)
  - Resolution by Mono River Basin Authority to encourage accession (January 2021)
Main achievements: overview of progress

Better knowledge and understanding of benefits of the Convention, and progress towards accession, supported by legal & technical guidance by the secretariat to countries:

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Main achievements – Publications and brief

• Publication **Frequently Asked Questions on the 1992 Water Convention with the Road map to facilitate accession processes** answering more than 50 questions (webinar in English - Nov 2020 and French – June 2021)

• UN-Water policy brief **“The United Nations global water conventions: Fostering sustainable development and peace”** (December 2020)

Benefits of acceding to UN global water conventions include:

1. Reinforcing transboundary cooperative arrangements
2. Realising the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
3. A common platform to share experiences, enhance capacity and advance water diplomacy
4. Strengthening water governance at both national and transboundary levels
5. Increasing finance for transboundary basin development
6. Increasing political support for transboundary cooperation at the global level
Lessons learnt for future work

• Need to reach out to Permanent Missions (Ministries of Foreign Affairs) and Parliamentarians, keys actors for accession processes
• Need to focus both on support to accession and preparing for future implementation of the Convention
• Exchange of experiences between Parties and countries studying in accession, and between countries advanced in and countries initiating accession process (twinning) = accelerating factor
• Still a need to further raise awareness and clarify remaining misunderstandings on the Convention in several sub-regions
• Regional organizations and RBOS = key partners to accelerate progress
Proposed future activities for 2022-2024

**Lead Parties:** Finland, France, Germany, Ghana and Hungary

**1.1.1. Raising awareness and knowledge of the Convention**

- Promotion of the Convention, its activities and the guidelines developed on relevant occasions, including through the organization of presentations, sessions and/or side events at up to 10 global and regional meetings, such as the World Water Forum, World Water Week, Africa Water Week, Arab Water Week, the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, etc.

- Strengthening cooperation with partners

- Organization of 2 training sessions of practitioners

- Organization of and contribution to trainings on global water conventions and international water law

- Development of a study on the Convention’s impact in different regions, to support countries in understanding the benefits of acceding
1.1.2. Supporting accession to and implementation of the Water Convention for new Parties

- Support to countries to accede to the Convention (provision of legal and technical advice and organization of up to 7 national workshops to study benefits accession and next steps)
- Organization of up to 4 regional, sub regional and basin events on the Convention (in Africa, Asia and Latin America)
- Exchange of experiences through twinning between countries in accession and recent Parties with older Parties to the Convention

Partners: RBOs, RECs, UN regional commissions, IGOs, NGOs, academia

Resource requirements for activity 1.1: $1,732,000
Partners and donors

9th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention
29 September – 1 October 2021 Geneva & Hybrid
Thank you

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