



WATER
CONVENTION



UNECE

The 1992 Water Convention: general aspects and new developments

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“Frequently Asked Questions on the 1992 Water Convention: Exploring Possibilities with the Latin American and the Caribbean Countries”, 7 December 2021

The Water Convention history

- 1960s-1970s: over 30 decisions, guidelines, recommendations on water and environment by UNECE Committee on Water Problems
- Convention negotiated 1989-1992
- Signed 1992, in force 1996

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ECE GOVERNMENTS ON ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS FOR RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES

Prepared by the Seminar on Economic Instruments for Rational Utilization of Water Resources, held in Veldhoven (Netherlands) in 1980, and endorsed by the Committee on Water Problems at its twelfth session.

As water is becoming a limited and valuable resource and its development requires increasing investments, it is now generally accepted that its use must be most efficient and must secure the highest possible level of national welfare. In water management,



The Water Convention – from regional to global

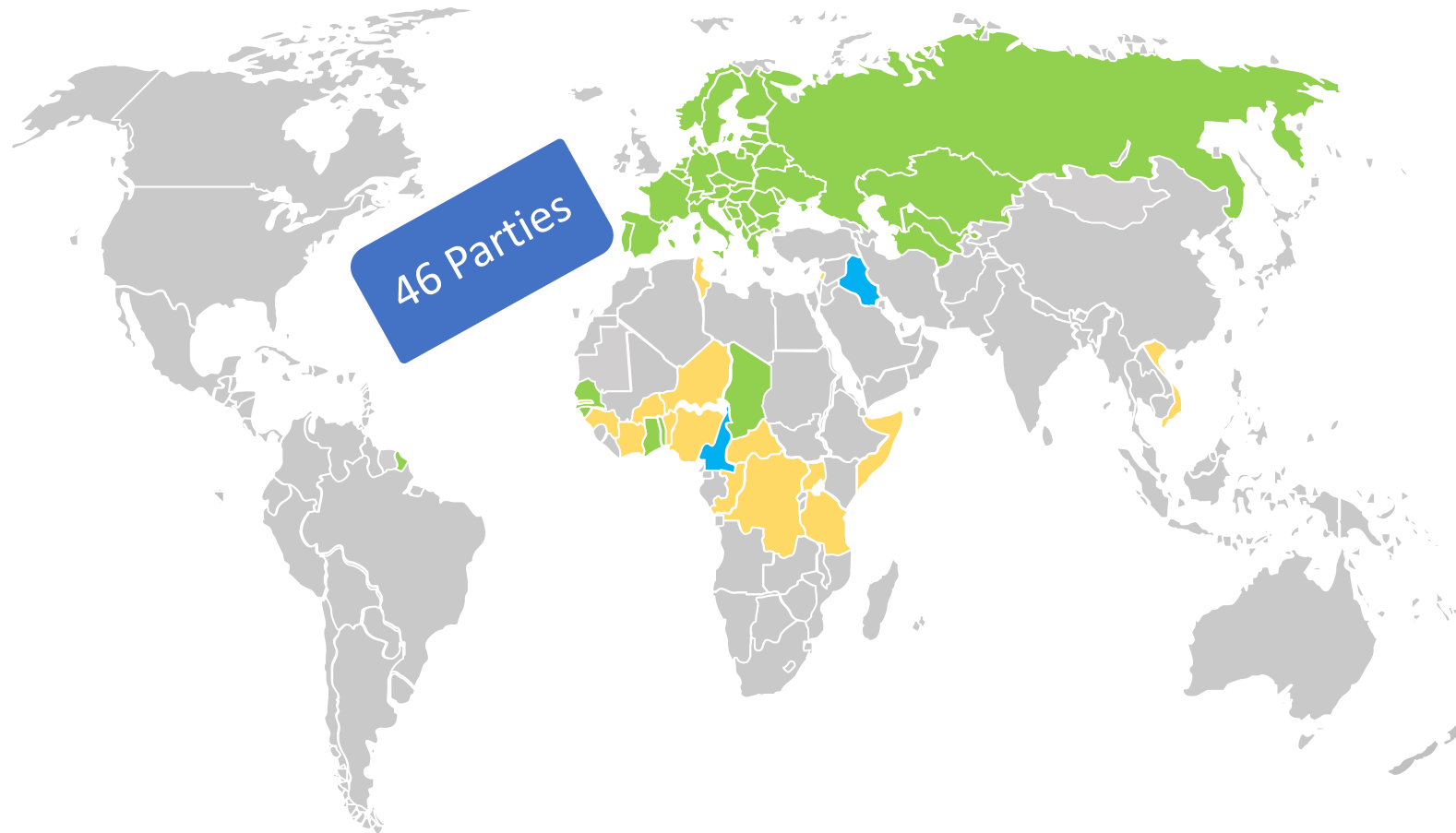


Amendments

- Apply the principles worldwide => broaden political support for transboundary cooperation
- Interest from countries outside the region
- Willingness to learn from other regions

2016: the Convention is a global instrument

Global opening



**Parties to the Convention (46):
newest Parties – Ghana (2020),
Guinea Bissau and Togo (2021)**

**Countries very close to accession:
Cameroon, Iraq**

**Countries in the process of
accession (>10)**

Globalization guided by the **Strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at global level**

“The 1992 Water Convention is a powerful tool to advance cooperation, prevent conflicts and build resilience. I welcome its growing membership and **call on all Member States to join both the 1992 Water Convention and the 1997 Watercourses Convention** and ensure their full implementation.” (2021)



The Water Convention: key pillars



Water Convention Key Principles

Principle of prevention of
transboundary impact

Principle of equitable and
reasonable utilization

Principle of cooperation

Main objective



Foster
cooperation over
transboundary
waters in order to
ensure that they
are **sustainably
and equitably
managed**

The Water Convention obligations



Obligations for all Parties (Part I)

Licensing of waste-water discharges and monitoring of authorized discharges

Setting emission limits based on BAT

Application of best environmental practices

Minimization of the risk of accidental pollution

Application of EIA and other assessments

Exchange of information

The Water Convention obligations



Obligations for Riparian Parties (Part II)

Conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements and creation of joint bodies

Joint monitoring and assessment

Common research and development

Exchange of information between Riparian Parties

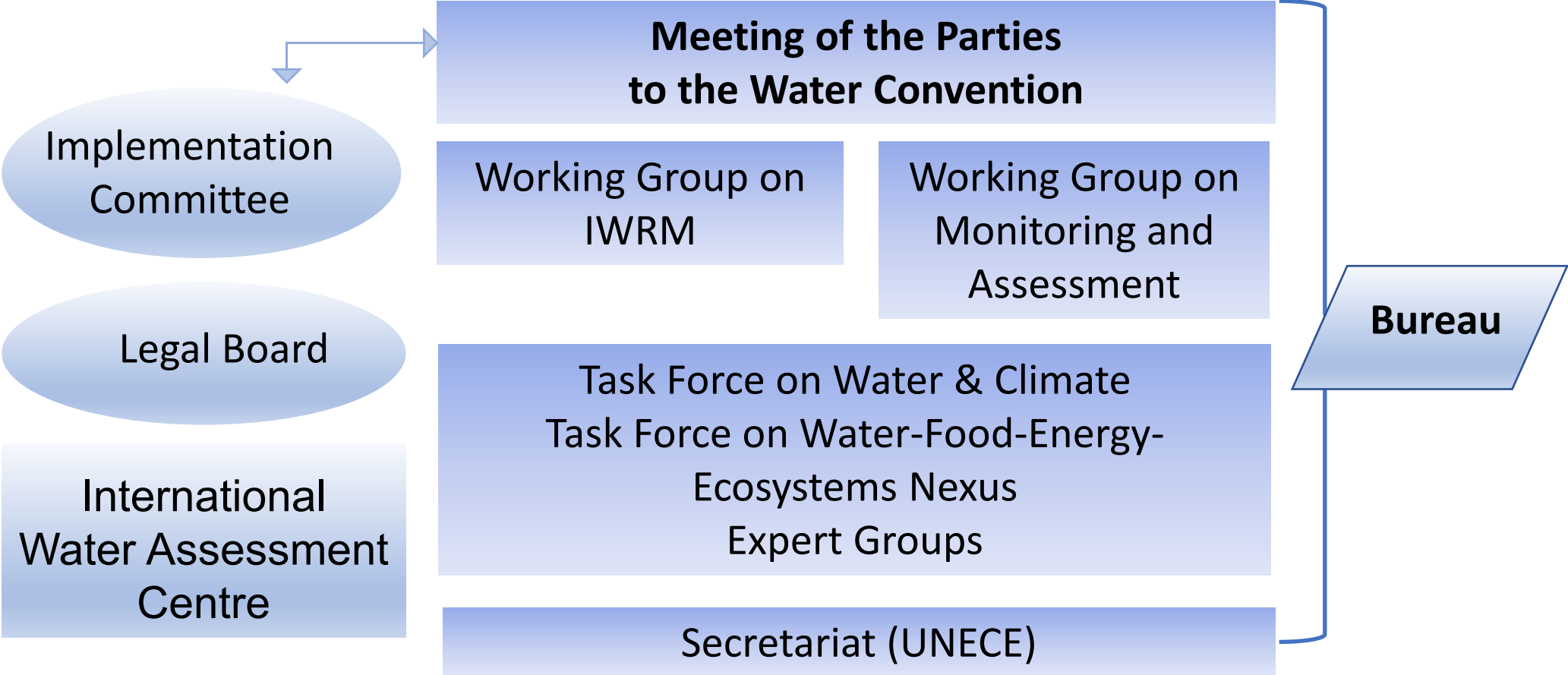
Consultation

Warning and alarm systems

Mutual assistance

Public information

Institutional framework

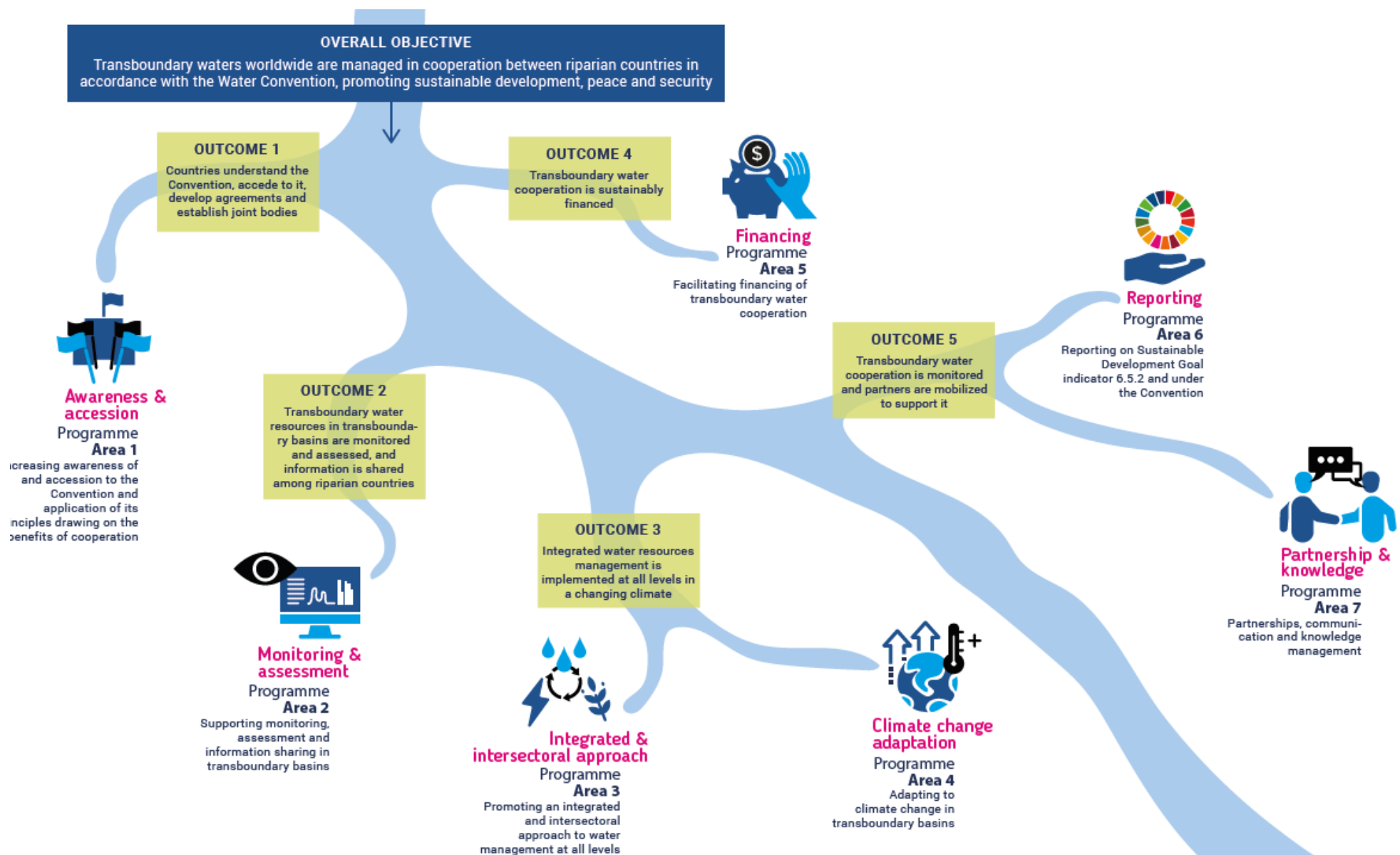


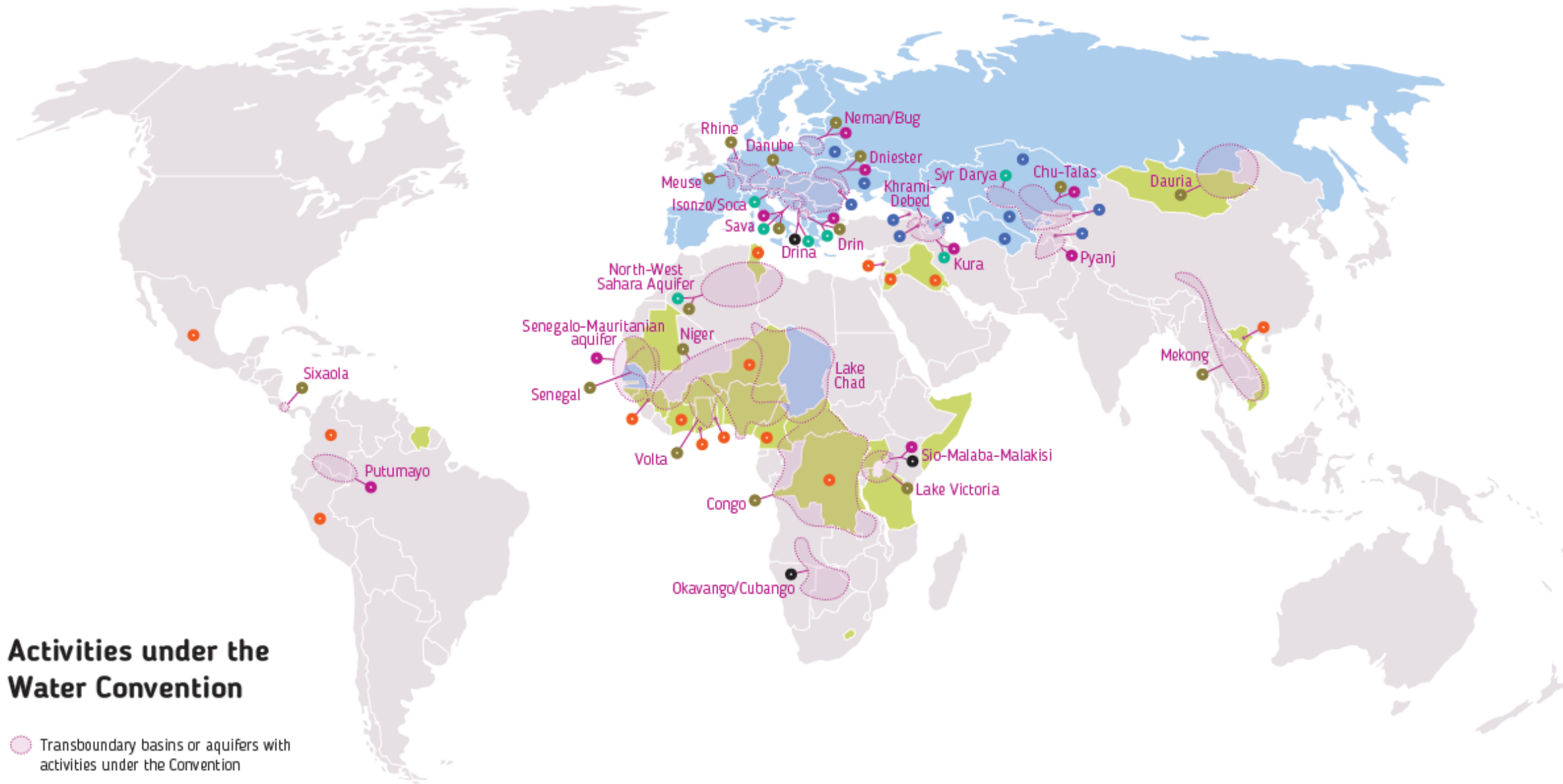


Implementation Committee

- 2012: Decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance
- “simple, non-confrontational, non-adversarial, transparent, supportive and cooperative in nature”
- 9 members, who serve in their personal capacity
- Persons with experience and recognized expertise in the fields related to the Convention, including legal and/or scientific and technical expertise
- Geographical distribution of membership and diversity of experience
- Considers: “requests for advice”; “submissions by Parties”; “Committee initiative”

Programme of work 2022-2024





Activities under the Water Convention

Transboundary basins or aquifers with activities under the Convention

Areas of work

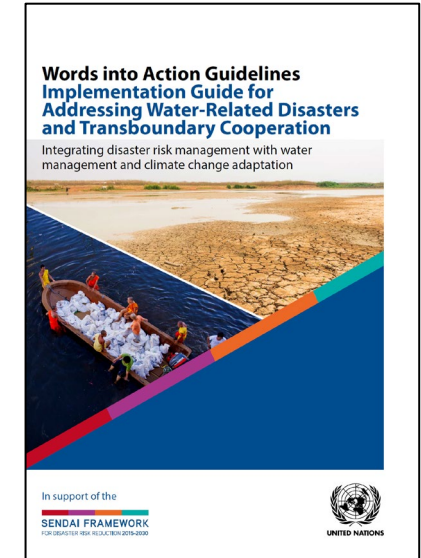
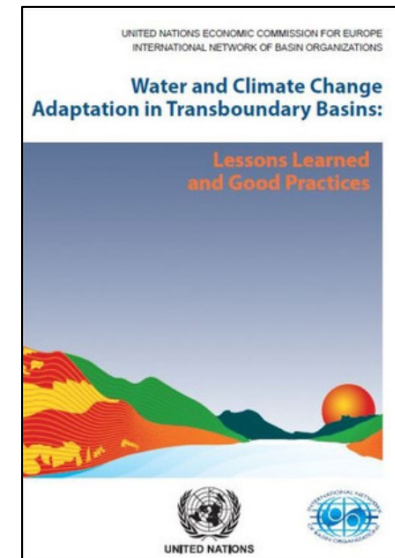
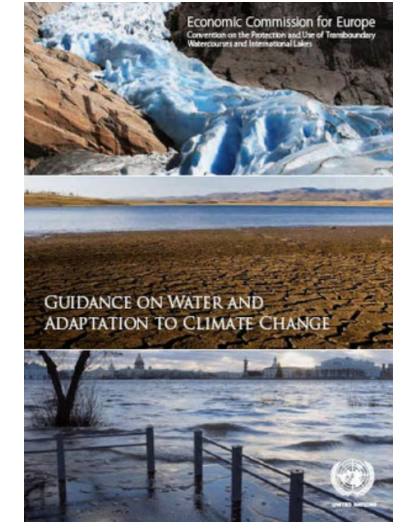
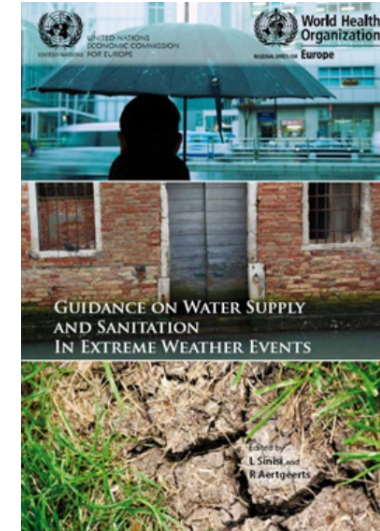
- Support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies
- Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

Country Status

- Adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins
- Opening of the Convention, promotion and partnerships
- National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative
- Parties
- Countries which have started a discussion on accession

Programme area: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

- Task Force on Water and Climate since 2006
- Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation: *Chu Talas, Congo, Danube, Dauria, Dniester, Drin, Lower Mekong, Meuse, Neman, Niger, North Western Sahara Aquifer System, Rhine, Sava, Senegal, Sixaola, Lake Victoria, Volta, Amazon*
- Guidance documents
- Projects on the ground
- Input to global processes on CC and DRR
- Preparation of bankable projects



Programme area: Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

- Reporting under the Convention introduced in 2015
- Reporting under the Convention is combined with reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 => **Parties use the same template and complete it only once**
- 1st reporting exercise in 2017/18
- 2nd reporting exercise in 2020/21





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For more information:

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