

## National dialogue

### National workshop related to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: Zambia's accession process 26-27. May 2022

Opening session

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Special Envoy for Transboundary Waters, Ministry of the Environment, Estonia

Excellences

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we already talked, such a National **workshop** on the Convention **is important event** of the accession process to the Water Convention. Discussions on the benefits of the Convention and the challenges of the implementation among key actors, with relevant ministries, basin organizations and water convention experts are important.

Ladies and gentlemen,

International practise during last decades show, that principles and obligations of the **Water Convention improves water resources management and water governance**. So, in large extent there are many positive examples about that.

During last decade many studies showed, that we all need to **pay more attention to ecosystem**.

Here application of the ecosystem approach can enhance national systems for water resource management and protection were relevant implementation plans and reviews are effective and can help.

At the same time, we need to use water resources effectively-for economy, for people, for nature, keeping in mind sustainable development principles and goals.

Work in frame of Water Convention **can also strengthen cooperation** in the basins they share. Here we see that Zambia , you can offer your experiece what you have working with transboundary waters for decades.

That is very important to have peaceful and constructive management in practice. Political will is important factor, as we see in many places.

Participation in the Water Convention and **compliance with its provisions** serve a clear evidence of the willingness of riparian countries to cooperate and thus **enhance the eligibility of international funding**. Funding is key factor to improve real environmental situation in basin.

So I hope, that during this workshop we are able to discuss over several important topics, **with the idea to prepare well and to speed up accession** to the Water Convention.

Thank you for your attention.