Item 12. Resources for the implementation of the programme of work

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Current financing of the Water Convention

Water Convention mostly funded from extrabudgetary contributions, both for Secretariat and activities. No mandatory contribution scheme.

Main contributors (Parties): EU, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Austria, Hungary, Norway, Bulgaria, Poland, North Macedonia, Estonia, Azerbaijan, Slovenia, Portugal.

Also contributions from partners for specific projects: GWP-Med, UNDP/GEF, UN-Water.

In addition, many in-kind contributions.
Targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention

- Convention mainly relies on extrabudgetary resources
- Only a part of all the Parties contribute
- Fundraising and reporting is time-consuming

• MOP9 adopted decision IX/3 on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)
• Targets = drivers to address the main challenges and uncertainty encountered in financing the programme of work
Objective 1: Achieve a fairer sharing of the burden of financing the implementation of the programme of work (PoW).

Targets: By 2024, at least 50% and by 2030, at least 66% of all Parties finance the PoW.

Objective 2: Improve reliability and predictability of funding

Targets: By 2024, 50% and by 2030, 66% of all Parties contribute regularly to PoW implementation.

Objective 3: Support a balanced implementation of all programme areas and simplify donors’ requirements to increase efficiency

Targets: By 2024, 50% and by 2030, 66% of all contributions are unearmarked and do not require individual reports.
Baseline: 2016–2018: 17% of all contributions 2019-2021: 41% of all contributions
Overview of contributions and provisional expenditures for implementation of programme of work in 2021

Balance on 31 December 2020: $5,162,130

Contributions in 2021: $2,287,149

Expenditures (approx.) in 2021: $3,157,983

Balance on 31 Dec. 2021 (approx.): $4,291,296

Expenditures > Contributions, balance is decreasing
Evolution of contributions and expenditures (2013 - June 2022), USD

- Contributions
- Expenditures

Estimates till 15 June
Conclusions and trends

• Continuous increase in financial expenditures in recent years, due to the expansion of the scope and activities of the Convention. Temporary decrease in expenditures due to COVID pandemic in 2020-2021, but since end 2021, activities accelerate again.

• Contributions decreased in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic. However, trend is not following the renewed needs since 2021 --> more contributions needed to ensure implementation of 2022-2024 programme of work

• Importance of high reserves to absorb temporary gaps between contributions and expenditures, to ensure continuity of secretariat staff funding and implementation of activities of the programme of work.

• Still reliance on main donors – financing remains a challenge

• Appreciate contributions by new contributors, and also from different ministries in a same country; all contributions are useful, also in-kind

• Positive examples of unearmarked contributions and those with no separate reporting requirements => reducing Secretariat’s workload, saving staff resources, ensuring efficiency.
Thank you
(please include your contact information)

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For more information: https://www.unece.org/env/water/  (include link of the programme area)

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