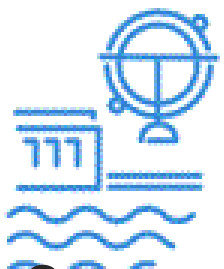


Item 5 (a)

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

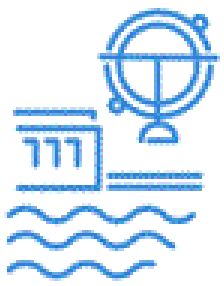
Bernadette Araba ADJEI
Ghana/ Water Resources Commission



1. Main achievements – West and Central Africa regions

- Cameroon: Parliament approved the law of accession to the Convention in November 2021; expect deposit of the accession instruments soon
- Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia: the Government approved the law of accession in January 2022
- Increased officials' awareness and understanding of the Convention and capacity to implement in The Gambia (national workshop - December 2021) and Togo (workshop to support development of a national plan, February 2022)
- Awareness raised on the Convention **among OMVG/OMVS countries** (regional workshop, Banjul, December 2021)

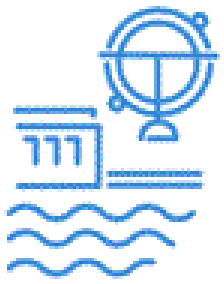




1. Main achievements – East and Southern Africa regions

- Understanding of and capacity to accede to and implement the Convention increased (national workshops to discuss benefits of accession in **Uganda - February 2022; Zambia - May 2022 and Namibia - June 2022**) → confirmed intention to accede and nominated Convention national focal points





1. Main achievements – Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region



- Major progress towards accession in Iraq
- Capacity built on Convention and its activities through contribution to various subregional workshops, webinars, course on water diplomacy and transboundary cooperation (Workshop “Pursuing Equitable Transboundary Water Arrangements”, Amman, Jordan, November 2021; 4th Mediterranean Water Forum, Malta and on-line, December 2021)



1. Main achievements – Latin America and Caribbean region



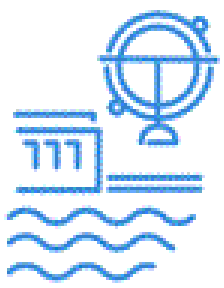
- Increased knowledge on the Convention and its activities, through contribution to XXII Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA) - Contribution to the Technical Dialogues “Progress and challenges in transboundary water management cooperation in the framework of accelerating SDG6 applied to SDG target 6.5 and its indicator 6.5.2”, November 2021)
- Interest in Convention prompted by regional workshop on transboundary waters in Central America (with CCAD & GWP-CAM, May 2022)
- Several countries further inquired about the value added of becoming Party to and implementing the Convention.
- A regional consultant for Latin America and Caribbean region was hired
- Strengthened partnership with OAS, CCAD, CODIA, IDB



1. Main achievements – **Water Convention Activities at the 9th World Water Forum in Senegal, 21-26 March 2022**

- **Co-Lead Organization_priority 3 on Cooperation (MoU signed with Senegal)**
- ❑ **Co-organising multiples sessions, including High-Level** focused on tackling the most important and cross-cutting issues in transboundary water cooperation
- ❑ **Lead organizer of the Pavilion on Transboundary Water Cooperation**(*with the support of Switzerland and EU): Coordinated platform and a space for the promotion of the work and activities of relevant actors on TB water cooperation
- ❑ **Secretariat met with several Ministers and high-level delegates about accession** - helped accelerate processes, for example, in **Zambia** + led to further requests for follow up missions in 2022 on potential accession, for example, **Tanzania national workshop** and **Botswana & Lesotho** requested missions.





1. Main achievements – Event for Ambassadors in Geneva as follow up to the **World Water Forum, 10 June 2022**



- ❑ **Event for Ambassadors in Geneva as follow up to the WWF, June 2022** (co-organized by Senegal, EU Delegation, UNECE, with contribution of Togo, Finland, Chad, Ghana, Gambia, France, Netherlands, Tadjikistan, Slovenia, OMVS)
- ❑ **The meeting concluded with a call to discuss transboundary water cooperation as one of the main topics of the 2023 UN Water Conference (22-24 March 2023, New York)**



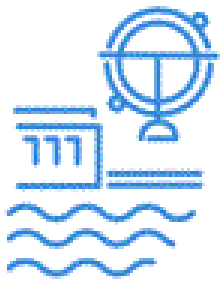


1. Main achievements: overview of progress



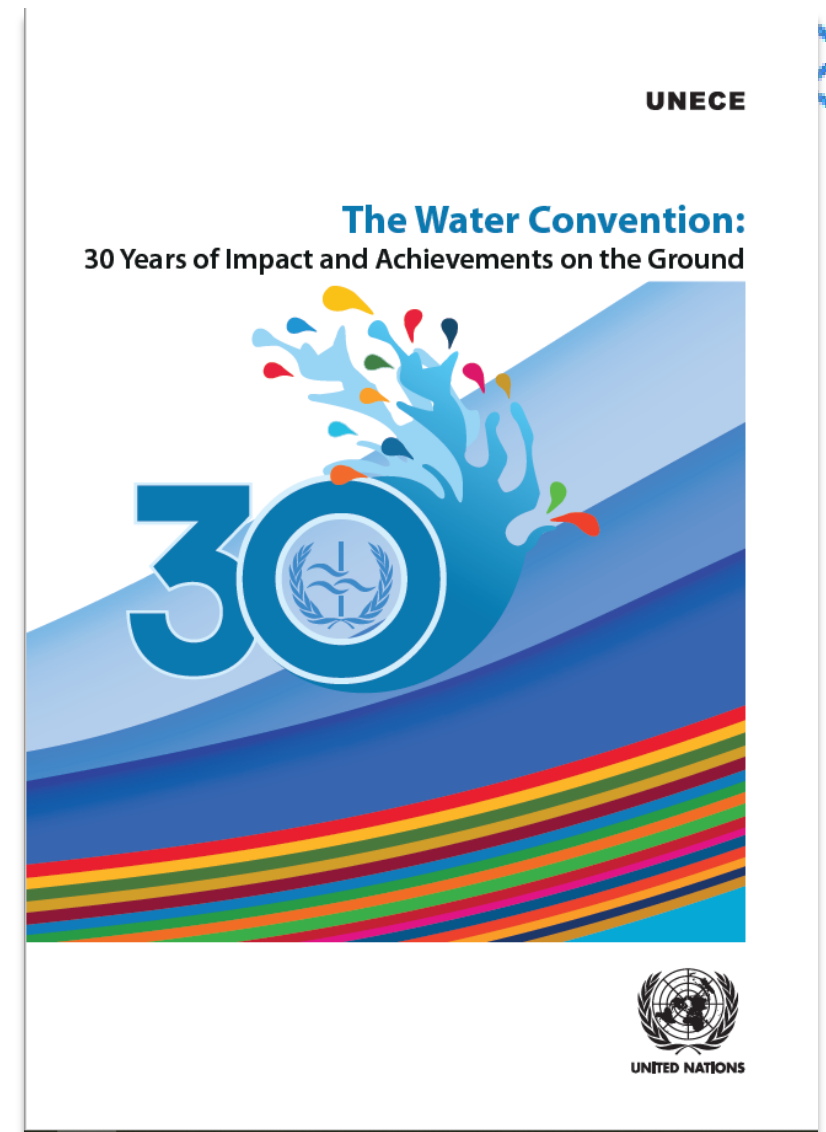
Better knowledge and understanding of benefits of the Convention, and progress towards accession, supported by legal & technical guidance by the secretariat to countries:

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Benin | Bolivia | Botswana | Burkina Faso | Cameroon |
| Dominican Republic | | Central African Republic | | Côte d'Ivoire |
| Congo | Gambia | Guatemala | Honduras | Iraq |
| Lebanon | Namibia | Niger | Nigeria | Panama |
| Paraguay | Peru | Tanzania | Tunisia | Vietnam |
| Uganda | Zambia | | | |



1. Main achievements: New publication on impacts of the Convention

- MOP-9 requested development of a study on the impacts of the Water Convention
- Early 2022: open call for proposals to countries and partners to submit success stories about impacts
- New publication prepared based on success stories submitted and additional interviews
- Reflects the glowing global impact of the Convention
- To be launched on 30 June 2022 during the special event marking the 30th anniversary





2. Lessons learnt for future work



- Need to further reach out to **Permanent Missions (Ministries of Foreign Affairs) and Parliamentarians**, key 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
- Stakeholder workshops to raise awareness and capacity on the Convention = need to clarify with countries interested in accession that 1) aside from 1 national workshop which the secretariat can generally support, **countries are normally expected to organize and pay for any additional workshops themselves e.g. Nigeria** 2) that **stakeholder workshops can be more efficient when planning implementation after accession to ensure broad-based engagement for concrete plans e.g. Togo**



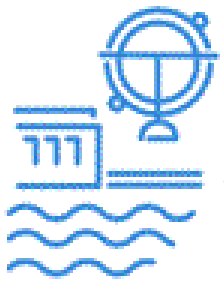
3. Planned activities for this area of work in 2022-2024



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 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



3. Planned activities for this area of work in 2022-2024



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

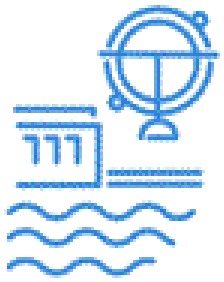
1.1.2. Supporting accession to and implementation of the Water Convention for new Parties

- 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 and donors



Thank you



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For more information: <https://www.unece.org/env/water/>



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