



## Sub-National Workshop

### **Zambia sub-national stakeholder workshop in the Congo Basin: Accession to the Water Convention and related transboundary water governance processes**

13 & 14 September 2022  
Mansa, Zambia

#### **1. Background**

Zambia has taken numerous measures to promote cooperation with neighbouring States in the management and development of its shared waters, in accordance with the provisions of international law. The transboundary Zambezi and Congo River Basins each cover approximately 75% and 25%, respectively, of Zambia's territorial area. Zambia is a party to basin agreements and is a member state of basin organisations including the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) with all riparian states, the Zambezi River Authority (Zambia & Zimbabwe) and the Lake Tanganyika Authority (Zambia, Burundi, Tanzania, Congo DR). Zambia is a party to the 2000 SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses.

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is a global legal and inter-governmental framework which aims to strengthen cooperation in the field of transboundary waters and to promote protection and sustainable use of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. The Convention has been open for accession by all United Nations Member States since 1 March 2016 and five African countries have already acceded to it and many others are in various stages of the process of accession, including Zambia. The UN Secretary-General encourages states to accede to and implement both conventions as mutually complementary.

Zambia's relevant ministries have been engaging regularly with Convention's secretariat since August 2021 in order to assist the ministries involved in preparing for the formal accession process. On 31 March this year, the Minister of Water Development and Sanitation, Hon. Mike Elton Mposha, sent a letter stating Zambia's interest in accession. Along with the formulation of a concrete road map to guide Zambia's accession process, a high-level commitment for Zambia's accession was the main outcome of a National workshop on Zambia's accession process, organized on 26-27 May 2022 by Zambia in partnership with UNECE and the European Union. Sub-national stakeholder engagement workshops were foreseen as part of the road map in Zambia's two major transboundary basins.

This sub-national stakeholder workshop is being convened to raise stakeholder awareness in the Congo Basin on the Water Convention, the accession process and benefits of accession. Additionally, Zambia has initiated the process to become a party to the Commission Internationale du bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS) and is planning to develop an agreement and river basin authority for the Luapula River shared between Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This workshop aims to support acceleration of both related transboundary water governance processes in the Congo basin.

## 2. Purpose

The general objective of this particular workshop within the Congo basin in Zambia is to inform stakeholders about the Water Convention, to share about the processes initiated by Government of Zambia to become party to the Water Convention and other related water governance processes in the Congo basin and finally to discuss the next steps in accelerating the accession process and other related processes.

Specifically, the workshop will allow to:

- Inform stakeholders about the Water Convention and CICOS Agreement;
- Identify the benefits, possible advantages and strategic objectives of accession to Water Convention, becoming a member of CICOS and developing a Luapula River framework;
- Inform about the accession process, benefits and implementation by new African Parties;
- Discuss practical implementation of the Water Convention to meet water resource management challenges in Zambia in the Congo basin, based on the experience of existing Parties;
- Present the initiatives started by the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection as part of Zambia's accession process to the Water Convention;
- Hold Question and Answer session with stakeholders on the Water Convention and accession process, CICOS and membership process, plans for Luapula River agreement and institution;
- Discuss the next steps and road map in Zambia's accession process to the Convention;
- Discuss and agree next steps in the process for Zambia to become a party to CICOS;
- Discuss and agree next steps for developing agreement and institution on the Luapula River;

## 3. Expected results

The expected results pursued through this workshop are:

- Stakeholders are informed about the Water Convention cooperation framework at the global level and discuss Zambia's engagement with the Convention's Programme of Work 2022-24;
- The advantages for States to become party to the Water Convention are presented;
- Update on the efforts initiated for Zambia's accession to the Convention is presented;
- Actors are informed on accession process next steps and the contribution of this process to Zambia's national water management and transboundary water cooperation are discussed;
- Next steps in the process for Zambia to become a party to CICOS are agreed and documented;
- Next steps for developing an agreement and institution on the Luapula River are agreed and documented;

## 4. Participation

The workshop will bring together representatives from:

- Relevant ministries in Zambia regarding transboundary water resources;
- Relevant basin organizations pertaining to Zambia's shared waters in the Congo Basin, including CICOS and the Lake Tanganyika Authority;
- Relevant diplomatic missions in Zambia, including the European Union;
- Relevant national offices of international and regional organizations, including WWF, SADC, GIZ, GWP;
- Traditional and indigenous leaders from within the Congo basin in Zambia;
- Relevant academia, civil society and independent national and international experts.