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**NAMIBIA**  
**INTERVENTION ON ACCESSION TO THE UN WATER**  
**CONVENTION**

**at the 18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water  
Resources Management (IWRM) under the Water Convention  
(Geneva, 19-21 June 2023)**

**Presented by**  
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Esteemed colleagues,

Namibia is privileged to accede to the (UN Water Convention) as the first Southern African country and 50th country globally.

Namibia recognizes the importance of transboundary water cooperation, as we rely on perennial rivers that we share with our neighbours. We have concluded basin agreements for all of our transboundary rivers, and we anticipate that the Water Convention will reinforce our cooperation and supplement the deficiencies in our existing arrangements.

We are eager to learn from other parties on: how to jointly monitor and assess transboundary waters; how to enhance institutional mechanisms for transboundary water cooperation and hydro diplomacy; how to manage transboundary aquifers and conduct EIAs to protect our shared resources; and how to use the Handbook on Water Allocation in transboundary river basins.

We are appreciative of the twinning initiative with Finland (under the Water Convention Twinning Initiative), which will enable us to exchange experiences and good practices with an experienced party. This initiative will also facilitate our smooth transition into the Water Convention.

However, we will require some initial assistance in developing an implementation plan and mobilizing resources for our priority actions, as we endeavour to protect and use our transboundary water equitably and reasonably under the Water Convention; from the Secretariat, partners and other Parties, as case maybe.

We look forward to sharing our perspectives from the south and from our long history of transboundary water cooperation. We will also advocate for the Water Convention in our region (SADC), as we aspire to expand our global cooperation and discover solutions to transboundary water challenges, avert disputes, enhance cooperation, strengthen water governance, and ensure water security.

Finally, we thank the Water Convention Secretariat for their support throughout the accession process and look forward to working with them as full member of the Water Convention.