



Republic of Botswana

BOTSWANA INTERVENTION

Botswana had interest to become a party to the UN Water Convention several years ago but we have now officially expressed interest on becoming a party via letter to the secretariat in March 2023. This had taken some time because leadership had to appreciate the process of accession and what are the benefits and contribution once a party to the Convention.

Progress: in the last year Botswana Minister for Lands and Water Affairs Hon. Dr Kefentse Mzwinila met with the UN Water Convention Secretary on two occasions: last year December at the UN Groundwater Summit in Paris and this year at UN 2023 Water Conference. Discussion focused on Botswana acceding to the Convention.

I am glad to nuance that Botswana has started the process of acceding to the UN Water convention. We have established an Inter-ministerial Technical Committee to assist in that regard.

We had a Stakeholder sensitization workshop on 22nd May 2023. We plan to hold a National Workshop in August 2023 which intends to bring High level decision makers, key stakeholders, and experts and possibly extend invitation to African Countries that are already party to UN Water Convention to share experience of the journey in being party to the Convention and those countries that recently joined to share accession process experience.

We have learned that there is a possibility of twinning with an experienced party to the UN Water Convention to support a new upcoming party and therefore we are much interested in participating in this twinning initiative.

We would therefore appreciate resource support from parties and partners to the upcoming National Workshop we are intending to host and thereafter for assistance on implementation once accession is completed.