

# Item 6 (a)

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

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# 1. Main achievements – Overview of Progress

- 4 new Parties since last meeting of the WG-IWRM in June 2022
- Better knowledge and understanding of benefits of the Convention, and progress towards accession, supported by legal & technical guidance by the secretariat, in numerous countries:

Benin	Bolivia	Botswana	Burkina Faso	Central African Republic	
Côte d'Ivoire	Congo	Costa Rica	DR Congo	Dominican Republic	
Ecuador	El Salvador	Gambia	Guatemala	Guinea	Jordan
Lebanon	Lesotho	Mauritania	Niger	Panama	Paraguay
Peru	Sierra Leone	Somalia	South Sudan	Tanzania	Tunisia
Vietnam	Uganda	Uruguay	Zambia		

## 2. Achievements and activities – West and Central Africa regions

- Cameroon and Nigeria : acceded to the Water Convention
- Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia: Parliament approved the law of accession in 2023; deposit of the accession instruments expected soon
- Sierra Leone: **Cabinet** approved the law of accession in April 2023
- Increased officials' awareness and understanding of the Convention and capacity to implement in Nigeria (national workshop – July 2022), Niger (national workshop – March 2023) and Togo (workshop to validate a national plan, June 2023)
- Twinning Initiative (Sierra Leone & Ghana) to support accession - Training on Water Governance (May 2023) / Twinning Initiative (Chad & France) to support implementation – kick off project to support development of a National implementation Plan (May 2023)
- Awareness raised on the Convention among the West African Economic and Monetary Union Member States (Regional workshop, Ouagadougou, May 2023)
- Awareness raised on the Convention among journalists in Africa (Africa21 event) August 2023





## 2. Achievements and activities – East and Southern Africa regions

- **Namibia**: acceded to the Water Convention
- Understanding of and capacity to accede to and implement the Convention increased (Sub-national stakeholder workshops for Zambia's Accession in **Zambia** - September 2022; national workshop to discuss benefits of accession in **Tanzania** - December 2023; Accession kick off meeting with national stakeholders in **Botswana** - May 2023) → confirmed intention to accede.

Supported ES of **CICOS** to brief **Zambia**'s Minister on joining CICOS, August 2023

Awareness raised and capacity built on Convention, its activities and international water law as co-organizer of **Pan-Africa Training on International Water Law & Governance** in **Uganda**, September 2022. Supported national officials to participate.

- Twinning Initiative (**Namibia** & Finland) Kick off meeting May 2023 with pilot project developed until December 2024.
- Several countries further inquired about the value added of becoming Party to and implementing the Convention (**South Sudan** began initial steps towards accession)
- Awareness raised on the Convention among **journalists in Africa** (Africa21 event) February 2023



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## 2. Achievements and activities – Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region

- Iraq: acceded to the Water Convention
- Awareness raised in sub-region about the Convention and its tools during Baghdad International Water Conference (May 2023)
- Facilitating identification of priorities for the implementation of the Convention in Iraq by supporting the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Convention in Iraq (May 2023)





## 2. Achievements and activities – Latin America and Caribbean region

- **Panama**: **Parliament** approved the law of accession in 2023; expects deposit of the accession instruments soon
- Increased awareness & understanding of the Convention by officials, basins' beneficiaries, academics, and capacity to implement it in: **Dominican Republic** (National workshop Oct. 2022), **Panama** (National workshop Dec. 2022), **Paraguay** (Briefing on 2 global UN water conventions Mar. 2023), **El Salvador** (Briefing on Convention Mar. 2023).
- Increased knowledge on the Convention and its activities through co-organization / contribution to:
  - XXIII Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA), Oct. 2022
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Symposium on Transboundary Waters in LAC, Dec. 2022
  - Course on frameworks for transboundary waters management, May 2023.
- Several countries further inquired about the value added of becoming Party to and implementing the Convention.



## 2. Achievements and activities – Asia and the Pacific region

Awareness raised and capacity built on Convention and its activities through contribution to various subregional, basin and national workshops, webinars, courses on water diplomacy and transboundary cooperation

- Seminar for senior officials from **Mekong River Commission** and **ASEAN countries** on water study tour of Switzerland (September 2022)
- Seminar for senior officials in National Water Academy, Central Water Commission, Ministry of Jal Shakti of **India** (February 2023)
- Presentation at **4<sup>th</sup> Mekong River Commission Summit** in Lao PDR (April 2023)

Capacity built on Convention and international water law via technical assistance to countries involved in national water processes

- National water law revisions, **Vietnam** (ongoing 2022-2023)

Awareness raised on Convention and secretariat helped to coordinate water cooperation theme session at 1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder meeting in Jakarta February 2023 for **10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum** hosted by **Indonesia**





## 2. Achievements and activities – Event for Ambassadors in Geneva

- **Event for Ambassadors in Geneva** as follow up to the 2023 UN Water Conference, 17 May 2023 (co-organized by Slovenia, Estonia and UNECE, with contribution of Nigeria, Iraq and the UN-Water Chair)
- The meeting concluded with a **call to accelerate progress in cooperation in transboundary basins and called upon ambassadors, diplomats and Permanent Missions to play a pivotal role in advancing accession processes to the UN Water Convention.**





### 3. Challenges and lessons learned

- Still a **need to further raise awareness and clarify** remaining **misunderstandings** on the Convention in several sub-regions
- Need to further reach out to **Permanent Missions (Ministries of Foreign Affairs) and Parliamentarians**, key actors for accession processes
- Exchange of experiences between Parties and countries studying in accession, and between countries advanced in and countries initiating accession process (**twinning**) = accelerating factor
- Need to **focus** both on support to accession and preparing for **future implementation** of the Convention
- Regional organizations and RBOS = key partners to accelerate progress and support implementation
- 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 or seek support from partners, e.g., Nigeria**
  - 2) **stakeholder workshops can be more efficient when planning implementation after accession to ensure broad-based engagement for concrete plans e.g. Togo**

## 4. Planned future activities until MOP10

*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:

**High-Level Political Forum** (New York, 10-19 July 2023)

**World Water Week** (Stockholm, 20-24 August 2023)

**World Water Forum** (Second stakeholder meeting, 12-13 October 2023 in Bali and the Forum in Bali, 18 - 24 May 2024).

- Organization of 1 **training sessions of practitioners (Geneva, 3–4 July 2023)**
- Organization of and contribution to trainings on global water conventions and international water law



## 4. Planned future activities until MOP10

*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)
- Organization of **national workshops** to study benefits accession / discuss implementation plan:  
**Burkina Faso, Botswana, Guinea Bissau, Chad, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Paraguay, Uruguay, Vietnam**
- Organization of up to 2 regional, sub regional and basin events on the Convention (in Africa, Asia or Latin America)
- Exchange of experiences through twinning between countries in accession and recent Parties with older Parties to the Convention

# 5. Partners





# Thank you!



WEB

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