

BRIEF INTERVENTION OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE ACCESSION OF THE WATER CONVENTIONS

Sierra Leone's quest to accede to the UN Water Conventions intervention in transboundary water resources management is to enhance the country's capacity to manage its shared water resources effectively with its neighboring countries. Sierra Leone shares several transboundary river basins (Moa, Great and Little Scarcies and Mano River basins,) with Guinea and Liberia, and competition for water resources has led to conflicts and tensions in the past. By acceding to the UN Water Conventions, Sierra Leone would be committing to working with its neighbors to manage shared water resources sustainably, reducing conflicts and improving water management for the benefit of all parties.

In view thereof,

- The Cabinet of Sierra Leone in April 2023 approved for the country to accede to both the 1992 and 1997 Water Conventions
- The Ministry of Water Resources has forwarded the cabinet approval to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice's office to spearhead the process accordingly
- Mano River Union Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Project through the support of UNECE Secretariat undertook a water governance training to increase stakeholders' awareness on the accession process on the 31st May and 1st July 2023
- A comprehensive roadmap has been developed.
- We believe that the accession to the Water conventions will benefit Sierra Leone in *enhancing regional cooperation for sustainable water management, developing institutional and legal frameworks for transboundary water management, building national capacity for transboundary water management, improving national water governance, attracting financing for projects and contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals related to water and sanitation amongst other benefits.*

- Sierra Leone calls upon the United Nations system and other technical and financial partners to support countries in acceding to the Conventions and their implementation.

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