

Statement delivered by The Gambia: the 18th meeting of the Working Group on IWRM under the Water Convention (Geneva, 19-21 June 2023)

Item 6. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation under sub-item b. Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession

The chairs of the working group – Ms. Heide Jekel Germany and Mr. Peter Kovacs (Hungary)

The Chair of the Water Convention - Estonia

The Secretary of the Water Convention

Distinguished delegates

The Gambia wishes to thank the UNECE for the organization of the 18th meeting of the Working Group under the Water Convention and by extension, commends the Working Group on its updates on the accession to the Convention in different regions including Africa.

The Gambia following the unanimous ratification of the two Water Conventions on the 16th March 2023, by its National Assembly, the text of the two Instruments of ratification were then placed on the national template and submitted for signature by the Head of state, which were ultimately signed on the 13th April, 2023.

Subsequently some relevant amendments were to be incorporated into the text to complete the signing process, and it was finally signed 23rd May 2023.

On the last stage of the submission, The Gambia informs that, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Mission in New York are working on to get a slot for a Treaty Ceremony in July 2023, during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

In conclusion, The Gambia once again expresses its gratitude to the UNECE and its partners for all the support towards our accession to the Water Convention.

The Gambia therefore calls on the Water Convention Secretariat to support the development of the Implementation Strategy for the two Water Conventions as part of the next steps for our country.

Finally, The Gambia encourages other countries to accelerate accession to the two UN Water Conventions.

I thank you