



Training workshop **“From practitioner to practitioner:** **how to use the two global Water Conventions** **to promote cooperation on the ground”**

To be held on 3–4 July 2023
Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Preliminary programme

Monday, 3 July 2023

8.00-9.30 **Registration at Pregny Gate**

9.30-11.10 **Introductory session**

Moderator: Bernadette Araba Adjei, Director, Legal and Monitoring, Water Resources Commission, Ghana, and member of the Water Convention Bureau

Opening remarks

- Jérôme Cassiers, EU Delegation to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- Sonja Koeppel, Secretary to the Water Convention

Introduction to the objectives and agenda: Iulia Trombitcaia, Water Convention secretariat (10 min)

Tour de table: presentation of participants and their main objectives (40 min)

Group work: Questions about the two global Water Conventions (basic information, main principles and obligations) (40 min)

- Introduction to work in small groups
- Group work

11.10-11.40 **Coffee-break**

11.40-13.00

Session 1: What are the main principles, substantive and procedural obligations and how to implement them?

Moderator: Ivan Zavadsky, Member, Implementation Committee under the Water Convention

Global processes, transboundary cooperation and the two global Water Conventions (20 min)

- Presentation by Sonja Koeppel, Secretary to the Water Convention
- Reaction by a participant: Ziad Khayat, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- Q&A

Introduction to international water law, current status and evolution of the two global Water Conventions, introduction to their substantive and procedural norms (30 min)

- Presentation by Dinara Ziganshina, Vice-Chair, Implementation Committee under the Water Convention
- Reaction by a participant: Nezar Al-Saedy, Senior Chief Engineer, Ministry of Water Resources, National Center for Water Resources Management, Iraq
- Q&A

Main obligations (30 min)

- Presentation by Bernadette Araba Adjei, Director, Legal and Monitoring, Water Resources Commission, Ghana
- Reaction by a participant: Yaoska Ruiz Centeno, International Cooperation Officer, Ministry of Environment, Panama
- Q&A

13.00-14.30

Lunch break

14.30-16.00

Session 2: How implementation of the Conventions helps to achieve the SDGs and how does it help address pertinent issues in water management?

Moderator: Francesca Bernardini, Chief, Transboundary Cooperation Section, Environment Division, UNECE

Governance and institutions, namely joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation (20 min)

- Presentation by Phera Ramoeli, Executive Secretary, Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)
- Q&A

Environmental protection and climate change (20 min)

- Presentation by Maria Apostolova, Regional Project Coordinator, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)
- Q&A

Peace, conflict prevention and dispute settlement (20 min)

- Presentation by Mara Tignino, Lead Legal Specialist, Platform for International Water Law, Geneva Water Hub
- Q&A

Joint infrastructure, notification, EIA/consultations (20 min)

- Presentation by Ivan Zavadsky, Member, Implementation Committee under the Water Convention
- Q&A

16.00-16.30

Coffee-break

16.30-18.00

Session 3: How to make the Conventions operational in the growing number of basins? How to promote them and advance accessions?

Moderator: Komlan Sangbana, Water Convention secretariat

Experience sharing (45 min):

- On accession process by a country by Landing Bojang, Chief Hydrologist, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters, The Gambia
- On promotion of accession by an RBO/international organization and benefitting from promoting the Conventions:
 - o Kouassivi Bougonou Djeri-Alassani, Director of the Water Resources Management Center of the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS) (videos “How is accession to and implementation of the Water Convention relevant to ECOWAS regional policy on water resources management?” and “What actions have been taken by ECOWAS to support the promotion of the Water Convention?”)
 - o Nura Sani Dawakin Tofa, Lake Chad Basin Commission
 - o Ziad Khayat, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA
 - o Frank Rutabingwa, Regional Advisor, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Discussion in groups (45 min): How to use the Conventions in my basin? What can be done in my country/organization to advance accession(s)?

- Introduction to work in small groups
- Group work

18:30

Reception

09.30-10.30 Reflections of the previous day

Moderator: Fuad Bateh, expert, State of Palestine

Panel based on group discussions at the end of the first day: Regional challenges and perspectives for stronger uptake of Conventions and advancing accession processes

10.30-10.40 Presentation of replies to the Quiz, Iulia Trombitcaia, Water Convention secretariat

10.40-13.00 Session 4: “Marketplace of solutions” – Practical instruments provided by the Conventions under various topics of transboundary cooperation

Introduction (5 min)

Coffee-break (15 min)

“Marketplace of solutions” on the following topics (2h):

- 1) Development of transboundary water agreements (led by Dinara Ziganshina, Implementation Committee, and Komlan Sangbana, Water Convention Secretariat)
- 2) Adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (led by George Sanga Kavulunze, Regional Coordinator, Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa, and Hanna Plotnykova, Water Convention Secretariat)
- 3) Water allocation (led by Remy Kinna, Water Convention Secretariat)
- 4) Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and Benefits of cooperation (led by Silvia Saravia, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Chantal Demilecamps and Lucia de Strasser)
- 5) Monitoring & Assessment, and Transboundary aquifers (led by Ziad Khayat, ESCWA, and Iulia Trombitcaia, Water Convention Secretariat)

13.00-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-17.00 Session 5: Accelerating progress on transboundary water cooperation in line with the SDGs: from accession to implementation

Moderator: Sonja Koeppel, Secretary to the Water Convention

Discussion as follow-up to the “Marketplace of solutions”: how to better use the practical instruments and tools in non-Parties, what is missing and should be developed to further support implementation (30 min)

Financing of implementation of the Conventions and transboundary water cooperation (15 min)

- Presentation by Dimka Stantchev Skeie, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Q&A

Experience sharing (45 min):

- On implementation plan, Bernadette Araba Adjei, Director, Legal and Monitoring, Water Resources Commission, Ghana
- On twinning, Ndina Nashipili, Deputy Director: Water Basin Management, Directorate Water Resource Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Namibia
- On support to implementation by an RBO/international organization: George Sanga Kavulunze, Regional Coordinator, Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa

Discussion in groups: What specific activities can I undertake to promote transboundary water cooperation and support implementation of Conventions? (1h)

- Introduction to work in small groups
- Group work

17.00-17.30 Concluding session: Next steps

Moderator: Bernadette Araba Adjei, Director, Legal and Monitoring, Water Resources Commission, Ghana, and member of the Water Convention Bureau

Tour de table with key “take aways”

Conclusions:

- Sonja Koeppel, Secretary to the Water Convention

Closing remarks:

- Dimka Stantchev Skeie, SDC

Workshop materials: [here](#)