

**GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON**

**FUNDING AND FINANCING**

**TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION**

**AND BASIN DEVELOPMENT**

# **SETTING THE SCENE**

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Water Convention Secretariat

5 December 2023, Geneva, Room III



WATER  
CONVENTION



**UNEP**

# Progress on transboundary water cooperation worldwide

- Increase in response received and high level of engagement

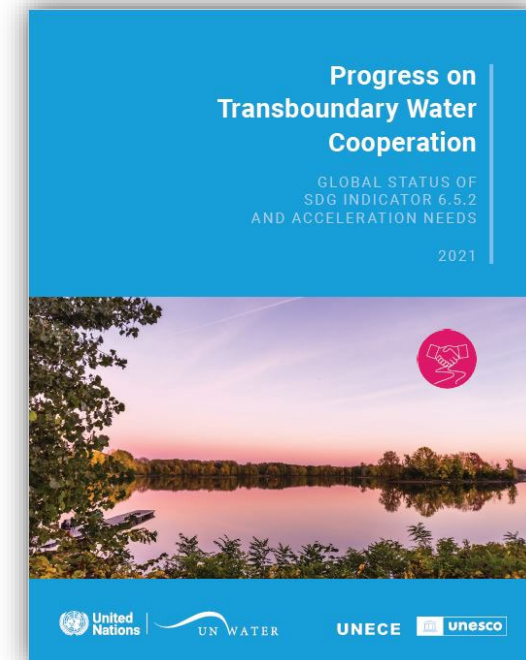
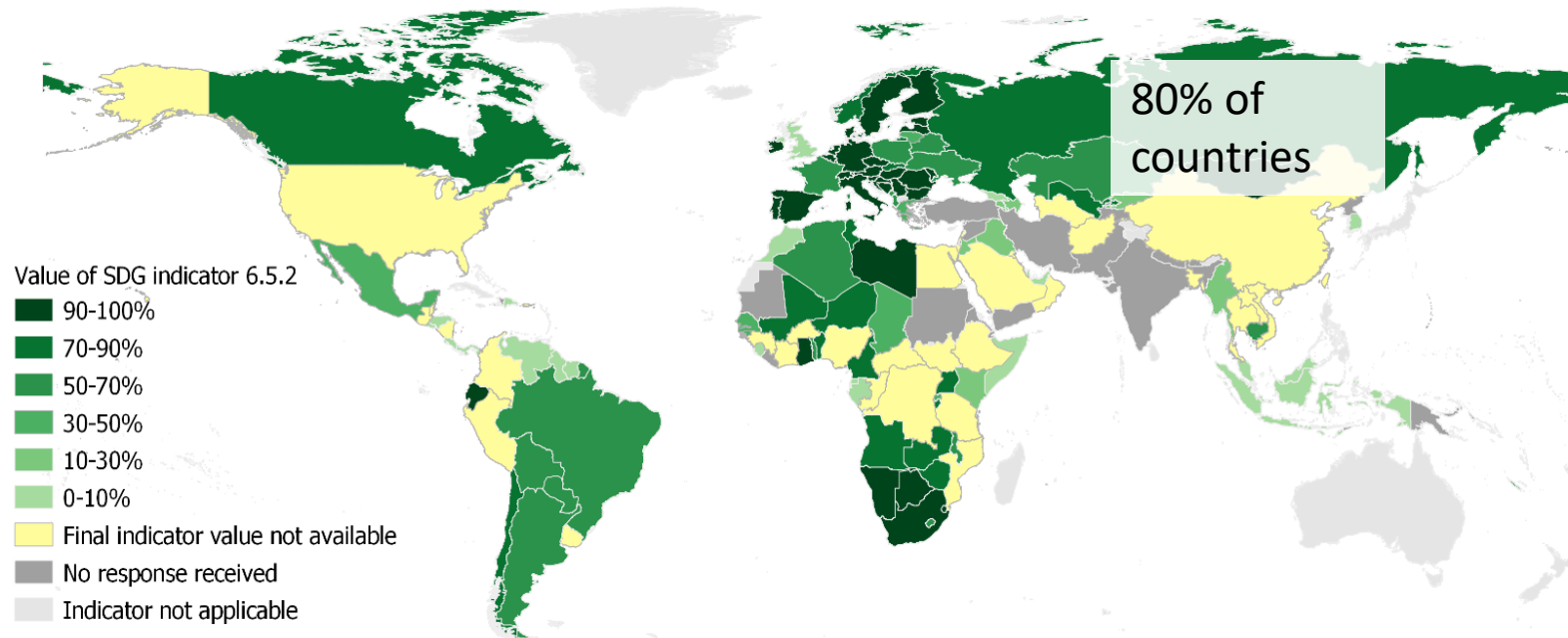
129 out of 153 countries submitted reports in 2020 (108 in 2017)

SDG indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> exercise

- Not on track

Only 24 countries report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**. And 32 have 90 % or more of their transboundary waters covered.

Progress must be **accelerated** to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030



The  WATER CONVENTION in a nutshell:



A legal and institutional framework for **transboundary water cooperation** supporting countries to develop **agreements** and **sustainably manage their shared water resources** in the current climate change context.



A **unique platform** to discuss progress of **transboundary water cooperation** worldwide under the umbrella of the **United Nations**;



Currently **52 Parties** from all regions and opened to all countries, with **more than 130 countries** exchanging experiences and knowledge to prompt progress in cooperation.





WATER  
CONVENTION

# The Water Convention



## Water Convention Key Principles

Principle of prevention of  
transboundary impact

Principle of equitable and  
reasonable utilization

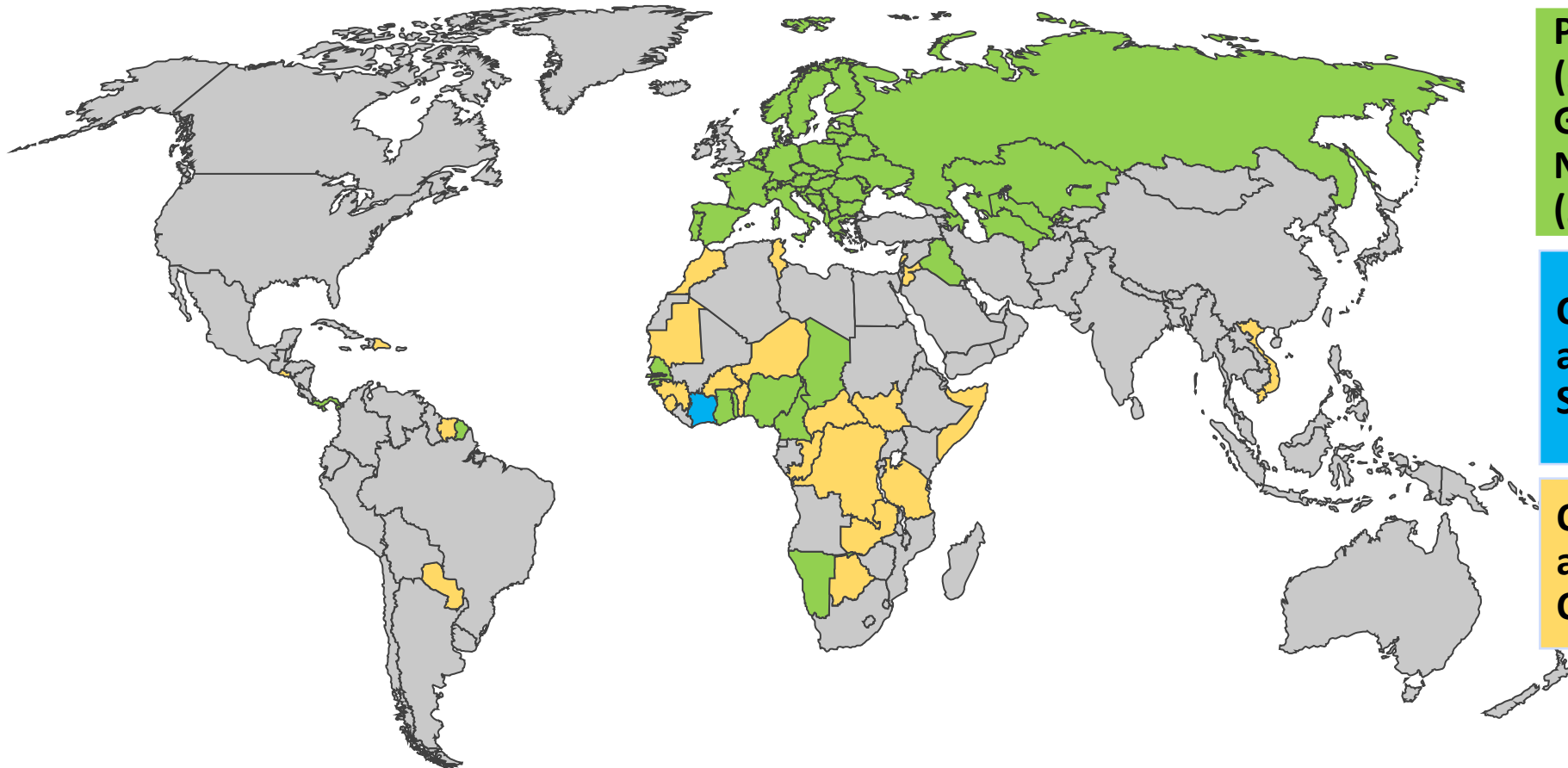
Principle of cooperation

**Main objective**



Foster  
cooperation over  
transboundary  
waters in order to  
**ensure** that they  
are **sustainably  
and equitably  
managed**

# Globalization of the Water Convention



**Parties to the Convention (52) – newest: The Gambia, Panama, Namibia, Nigeria and Iraq (2023)**

**Countries very close to accession: Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone**

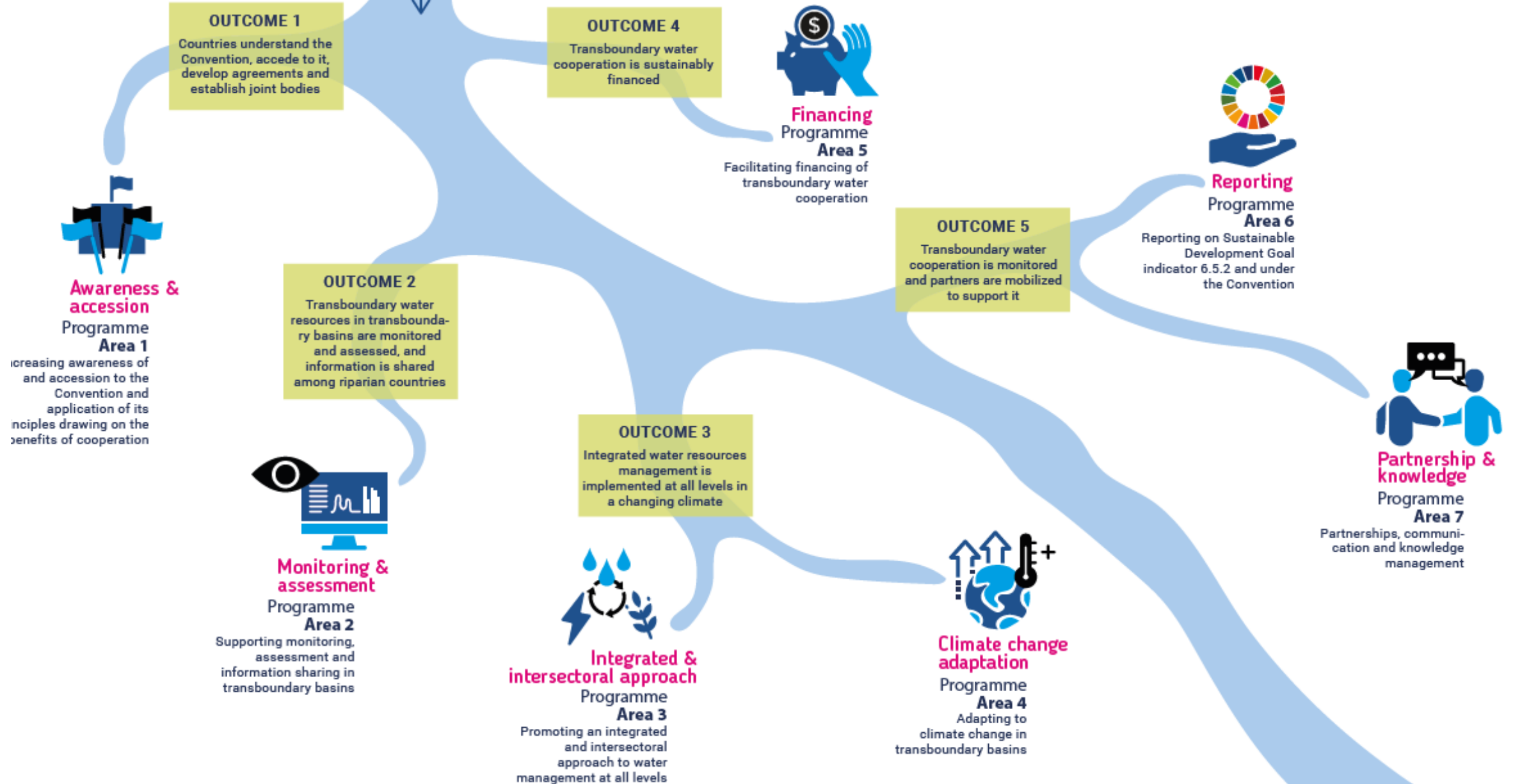
**Countries in the process of accession to the Convention (>20)**

Globalization guided by the **Strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at global level**

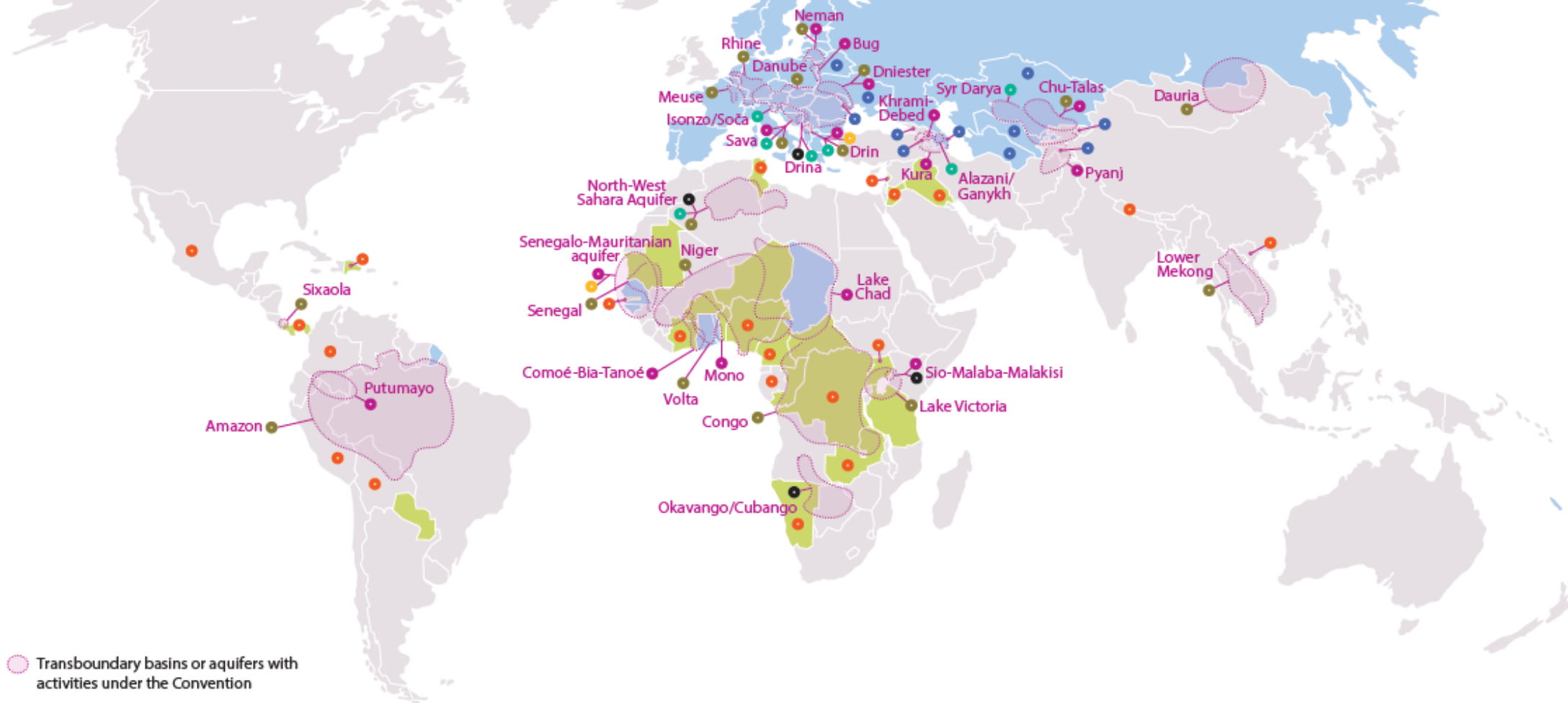
# Water Convention Programme of Work 2022-2024

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries in accordance with the Water Convention, promoting sustainable development, peace and security



# Water Convention activities 2015-2022



## Areas of work

- Support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies
- Identify, assess and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- Assess and promote the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

- Adapt to climate change in transboundary basins
- Increase knowledge of and accession to the Water Convention
- Monitor, assess and share information in transboundary basins
- National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative

## Country Status

- Parties to the Water Convention
- Countries in the process of accession

# Workstream on facilitating the funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

## Overview of the key milestones

2018

- Strengthening **partnership with IFIs** and partners
- WWW 2019 joint session
- Workshop with iw:learn in Botswana

2020

- Development of the **publication** of funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin dvpt

2023



- **High-level workshop** on financing transboundary basins development at MOP 8
- **New programme area** on facilitating the financing of transboundary water cooperation adopted at MOP 8

2019

- First **virtual global workshop** on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development (16-17 December 2020)

2021

- **Summary version of the publication** for the UN-Water conference
- **Second global workshop** on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation



# High-level event on financing TWC and basin development at the Water Convention MOP 8 (October 2018)

- First event organized in Astana (KZK) to initiate the discussion on the issue of financing organized with CH, NL, GEF, World Bank, ADB and EIB;
- 100 participants from all over the world;
- **Regional and thematic roundtables** to discuss current needs to enhance transboundary basin development and existing sources of financing for these needs;
- Outcome: A Co-chair summary recognizing the urgent need to create enabling conditions for investments in shared basins.



Follow up with partners at the 2019 Stockholm World Water Week ..

# First Virtual Global workshop on financing TWC and basin development (December 2020)

→ 200 participants

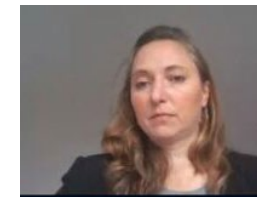
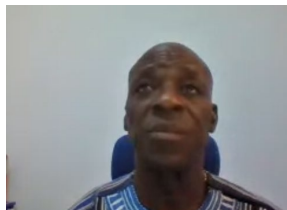
→ **First global workshop** to discuss experiences from a number of basins and countries worldwide in:

- Identifying their funding needs for transboundary water cooperation and basin development;
- Mobilizing funding sources (public, private) for it looking at their characteristics/requirements.

→ **Result of close partnership with :**

## Main Outcomes

- Mobilization of resources for transboundary water cooperation at national level is **challenging** and even more nowadays ;
- There are emerging opportunities for RBOs to **combine traditional funding with innovative funding**
- Still **a lot to be done** to **unlock** and **inspire private sector investment** into shared basins and water related projects-e.g. further **set the legal environment** and **other enabling conditions** for their involvement; **increase companies and investors' understanding** of transboundary issues and **integrate transboundary water information** into risk assessment tools.



→ **Outcomes** of the workshop were used as a basis to develop a **publication** dedicated to the issue of **funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development!**

# Publication on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development

UNECE

## Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development



UNITED NATIONS

Long version (2021)



Summary version (2023)

→ Describes **financial needs** for the establishment and operation of joint bodies and for the elaboration and implementation of basin management and development projects.

→ Provides a **comprehensive overview of the sources of funding and financing available** to support transboundary water cooperation and activities related to the management and development of shared basins.

UNECE










## How to Accelerate the Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development?

Opportunities and Challenges



UNITED NATIONS

# Financial needs related with transboundary water cooperation, management and development can be differentiated between Core Costs and Programme Costs:

CORE COSTS	PROGRAMME COSTS
 <p>Costs of meetings of the RBO's governing bodies, such as ministerial meetings, technical meetings (including preparation, documentation, etc.).</p>	 <p>River basin monitoring (water quantity, water quality, ecological health, fisheries, socioeconomic factors, etc.), the required equipment, information technology (IT) systems, river basin management software, etc.</p>
 <p>Staff costs of the secretariat: both permanent and temporary staff as well as consultants who are not part of specific river basin management and development projects.</p>	 <p>Preparation of strategic plans and related documents (on shared visions, basin management plans, etc.) and processes (stakeholder consultations, etc.).</p>
 <p>Costs of buildings, offices, office equipment, cars and other items required for the physical functioning of the RBO (mainly its secretariat).</p>	 <p>Implementation of strategic plans and the specific activities defined in them (including monitoring their implementation).</p>
 <p>Costs of communication and information dissemination (to member states as well as basin stakeholders).</p>	 <p>Development and implementation of infrastructure projects, especially in the context of basin management and investment plans.</p>
	 <p>Management and maintenance of infrastructure projects (if owned and managed by the joint body or any other international entity of the basin states).</p>



The publication explores **different types of financial sources** to mobilize for these costs:

- **Public funding and financing mechanisms** such as direct members states contributions, regional taxes, sale of data and services, loans, grants, technical assistance;
- **Private funding and financing** such as debt, equity (through ppp), blended and innovative finance



- **20 concrete case studies** taken from **transboundary basins** worldwide in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America
- **Mapping** between existing needs and financial sources analyzed, listing related opportunities and challenges

## Key takeaway messages from the publications



Highlighting the **benefits of transboundary water cooperation and basin development** and building a **strong legal and institutional framework** are the crucial steps for states and joint bodies with shared basins to mobilize financial resources.



Despite some challenges, **domestic budgetary resources** from riparian states is and should be the **primary financial source** to support joint bodies and basin activities.



Other **public financing and funding** resources offer opportunities for **diversifying** financial sources for riparian states and joint bodies.



**Private funding and financing** offer potential **opportunities** to cover transboundary basin infrastructures development costs.

# Programme of the Global Workshop in a nutshell:

## Main objective:

→ Support countries and River basins Organizations (RBOs) in **further mobilizing funding and financing resources for transboundary water cooperation and basin development worldwide** by unpacking challenges, learning from successful financial strategies and allowing live exchanges between water and finance communities.

### Tuesday 5 December 2023

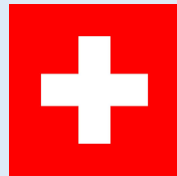
- Discuss **funding needs for cooperation processes** and institutions; and **water management projects** and activities at basin level (**session1**)
- Discuss how can countries and RBOs mobilize **domestic and international public funding and financial resources** for these needs (**sessions 2 & 3**)
- Interactive exchange between countries/RBOs and **international development finance actors** and country and RBO representatives during **marketplaces (AfDB; World Bank; Asian Development Bank; EIB -online; GEF, European Commission)**

### Wednesday 6 December 2023

- Discuss the different **categories of private finance actors** that could play a role in supporting sustainable transboundary water management and cooperation processes (**Session 4**)
- Discuss **challenges** to be addressed to **further mobilize private capital** (Session 4)
- Discuss **emerging private financing and funding instruments** to be mobilized for water resources management projects (**Panel discussion Session 4**)
- Interactive exchange between countries/RBOs and private **finance actors** or stakeholders working with the private finance sector during **marketplaces (SEB/UNCDF, Finance earth; OMVG; OECD -online)**

This evening 6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. (CET)

Reception at *Le Vieux Bois*  
hosted by Switzerland



(for all in-person participants)