GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON
FUNDING AND FINANCING
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION
AND BASIN DEVELOPMENT

SETTING THE SCENE

Ms. Sonja Koeppel & Ms. Diane Guerrier
Water Convention Secretariat
5 December 2023, Geneva, Room III
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 2nd 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
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.
The Water Convention

Main objective

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

Key Principles

- Principle of prevention of transboundary impact
- Principle of equitable and reasonable utilization
- Principle of cooperation
Globalization guided by the **Strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at global level**

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)

*Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations*
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.

---

**OUTCOME 1**

Countries understand the Convention, accede to it, develop agreements and establish joint bodies.

**OUTCOME 2**

Transboundary water resources in transboundary basins are monitored and assessed, and information is shared among riparian countries.

**OUTCOME 3**

Integrated water resources management is implemented at all levels in a changing climate.

**OUTCOME 4**

Transboundary water cooperation is sustainably financed.

**OUTCOME 5**

Transboundary water cooperation is monitored and partners are mobilized to support it.

---

**Programme Area 1**

Awareness & accession

Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation.

**Programme Area 2**

Monitoring & assessment

Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins.

**Programme Area 3**

Integrated & intersectoral approach

Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels.

**Programme Area 4**

Climate change adaptation

Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.

---

**Programme Area 5**

Financing

Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation.

**Programme Area 6**

Reporting

Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention.

**Programme Area 7**

Partnership & knowledge

Partnerships, communication and knowledge management.
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

Country Status:
- Parties to the Water Convention
- Countries in the process of accession
- National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative
Workstream on facilitating the funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

Overview of the key milestones

- **2018**
  - 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)
- **2020**
  - Strengthening partnership with IFIs and partners
  - WWW 2019 joint session
  - Workshop with iw:learn in Botswana
- **2021**
  - Development of the publication of funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development
- **2023**
  - 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 ..
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

Long version (2021)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE COSTS</th>
<th>PROGRAMME COSTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costs of meetings of the RBO's governing bodies, such as ministerial meetings, technical meetings (including preparation, documentation, etc.).</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Preparation of strategic plans and related documents (on shared visions, basin management plans, etc.) and processes (stakeholder consultations, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of buildings, offices, office equipment, cars and other items required for the physical functioning of the RBO (mainly its secretariat).</td>
<td>Implementation of strategic plans and the specific activities defined in them (including monitoring their implementation).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of communication and information dissemination (to member states as well as basin stakeholders).</td>
<td>Development and implementation of infrastructure projects, especially in the context of basin management and investment plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Management and maintenance of infrastructure projects (if owned and managed by the joint body or any other international entity of the basin states).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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 (session 1)
→ 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)