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World Water Day 2024

World Water Day on 22 March 2024, themed "Water for Peace," saw UN Secretary-General António Guterres urge global cooperation to manage shared water resources sustainably. He emphasized the importance of acceding to the UN Water Convention. UNECE, as the secretariat of the Water Convention, together with UNESCO co-chaired the Task Force to prepare World Water Day 2024, and co-organized the official celebrations in Paris. Representatives of the secretariat spoke in 6 events. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of "water peacemakers" worldwide, countless events - from football games to water walks - made a loud splash for water for peace.

Learn more:

- **World Bank & UNECE:** Agreements hold water: Reasons to scale up transboundary cooperation—now!
- **IISD:** World Water Day 2024: Unleashing the Power of Water for Peace

[Learn more](#)

News from the Protocol on Water and Health



Uzbekistan's accession to the Protocol on Water and Health opens new opportunities for stronger action on water, sanitation, hygiene and health
Uzbekistan has joined to the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health in January 2024, thereby becoming its 29th Party and the first country in Central Asia to join this treaty.

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Uzbekistan commits to improving water and health governance and safe management of industrial and tailings facilities

A new project to be implemented by UNECE with the support of Switzerland was launched in Tashkent.

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News from the Water Convention



Save the date: The Tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention will take place from 23 to 25 October 2024 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. More details will be shared in due course.



Water Convention and partners support efforts to mobilize public and private capital for cross-border water management

The Global workshop on Funding and Financing Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development (5-6 December 2023, Geneva) explored how to further mobilize public and private capital for cross-border water cooperation and management. The workshop was co-organized by the Water Convention secretariat, under the lead of Switzerland and the Netherlands, and with Senegal, GEF, GEF IW:LEARN, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UNCDF, and OECD,

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The Water Convention accelerates in the LAC region, with Costa Rica on the road to accession.

On 14 March 2024, the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship organised a workshop to discuss with stakeholders the country's accession process to the Water Convention.

In addition, ECLAC's Regional Water Dialogues in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024 took place in Costa Rica and included a session on "Transboundary Waters: Management, Cooperation and Peace" co-organised by the Water Convention (UNECE), OAS and IADB.

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Sierra Leone accelerates progress on Water Convention accession

Sierra Leone has confirmed its intention to accelerate the accession process to the Water Convention. The National Workshop detailed the obligations under the Convention, the benefits that Sierra Leone can derive from its accession and possible challenges, as well as the next steps in the process.

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Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan commit to improving transboundary water cooperation for the benefit of 3 million people in the Chu and Talas river basins

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed a joint statement on the approval of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Chu and Talas river basins aimed at effective transboundary cooperation to ensure health, security and economic well-being for the 3 million inhabitants in the basin.

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Dialogue on Georgia's Progress and Challenges in meeting EU Water standards

On 17-18 January, the 10th National Policy Dialogue on Water was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, followed by technical workshops on water financing and environmental reporting. Organized with the support of the European Union, this multi-sectoral platform is helping to reform water policy to meet national goals and international commitments.



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intensify, UN Water Convention pushes forward cooperation in shared basins

Seeking to foster strategic exchanges of best practices in addressing droughts in transboundary basins, the Water Convention recently brought together water, agriculture, climate and environment communities as well as drought experts for a [Global Workshop on Droughts in Transboundary Basins](#) (26-27 February 2024, Geneva). The workshop was followed by the [fourteenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate](#).

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Seventeenth meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Water Convention

The Committee met on 7-8 March 2024 in Campione d'Italia, Italy, notably to discuss and provide further advice to Montenegro and Albania in the framework of an ongoing advisory procedure. This procedure was initiated by the Committee in late 2019 in response to the concerns of Montenegro about the possible transboundary impacts of the planned construction of additional small hydropower plants on the Cijevna/Cem River in Albania.



Reporting on the SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention

Out of 153 countries with transboundary waters, 129 countries provided responses in 2023 during the third monitoring exercise on the SDG indicator 6.5.2.

Seven countries participated in the reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 for the first time. All Parties to the Water Convention submitted reports in this round. The SDG indicator 6.5.2 value is now available for 117 countries (2020-2023). Data are now being analyzed by the co-custodian agencies (UNECE and UNESCO) to prepare the third progress report on the SDG indicator 6.5.2. The report will focus on transboundary water cooperation and climate change.



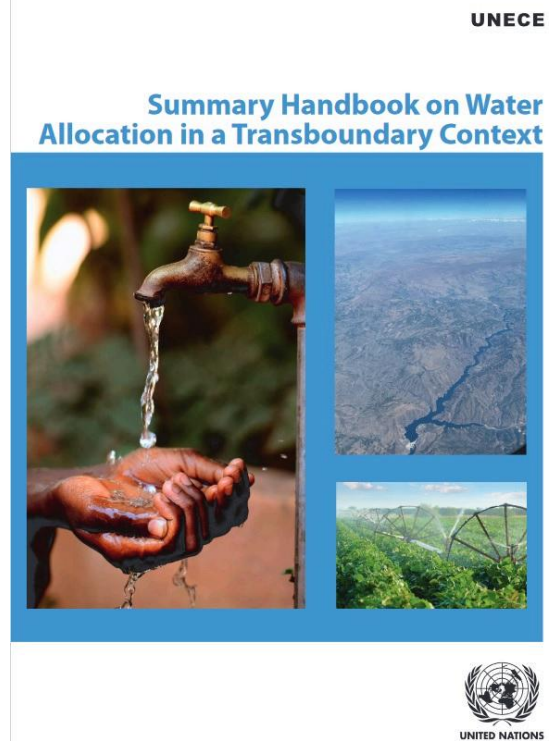
Save the date - Upcoming events

- **4-5 April 2024** (Njamena, Chad): Workshop to validate the implementation plan for the Water Convention in Chad
- **15-16 April 2024** (Livingstone, Zambia): Workshop on Transboundary Water Allocation, WEF Nexus and Development of Agreements and other Arrangements: Supporting exchanges of lessons learned, good practices & practical tools'
- **16-17 April 2024** (Geneva, Switzerland): Fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health under the Protocol on Water and Health
- **18 April 2024** (Geneva, Switzerland): Protocol Bureau meeting

- **6-8 May 2024** (Geneva, Switzerland): [Fifth joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment](#) under the Water Convention
- **8-9 May 2024** (Geneva, Switzerland): [36th meeting of the Bureau to the Water Convention](#)
- **23-25 October 2024 (Ljubljana, Slovenia): [Tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention](#)**

Now available: Summary Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context

This Summary Handbook contains the key information from the Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context adopted by the 9th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in 2021, covering the global practice of transboundary water allocation. It seeks to be a shorter and targeted practical resource for policy and decision-makers providing a snapshot of the key elements, frameworks and modalities to consider in the application of transboundary water allocation, while recognizing that every allocation context is unique.



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