

**5<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Water Convention, 6-8 May 2024**

**Agenda item 5(b)**  
**Process for developing the draft future  
programme of work under the Water  
Convention for 2025-2027**

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# Process to develop the survey and outcomes:

## Survey Development Process:

- Purpose: Online survey to gather input for shaping the 2025-2027 Water Convention program.
- Timeline: Disseminated on 13 November 2023. answers collected by 22 December 2023.
- Survey available in French, English, Spanish, and Russian.
- Structured based on the current 2022-2024 programme of work and its seven areas.
- Proposed activities sourced from intergovernmental discussions, lead Parties and partner proposals, and needs identified through Water Convention and SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting.

## Survey Components:

- Respondents were asked to prioritize proposed activities within programme areas.
- Opportunity to suggest additional activities crucial for their country/organization.
- Respondents encouraged to answer open-ended questions.

## Results:

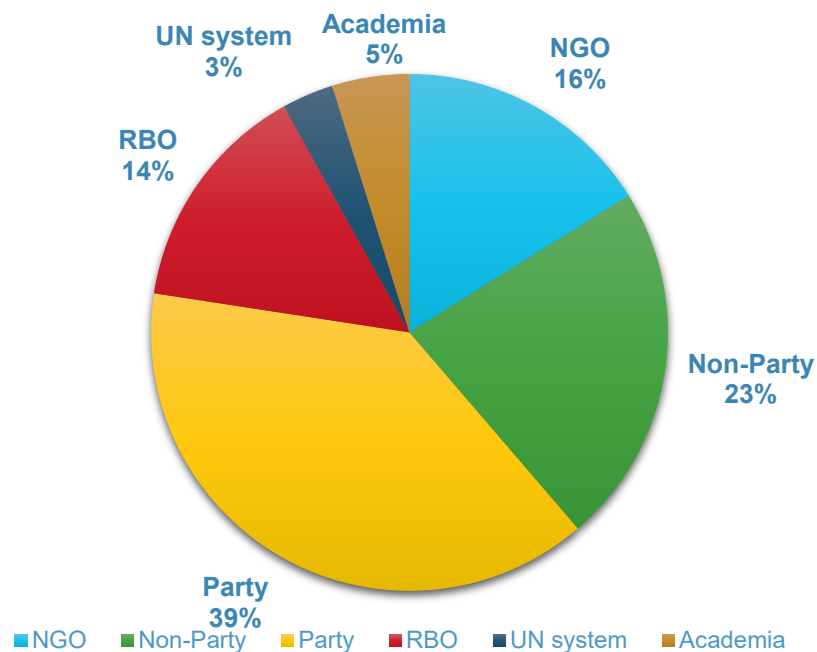
- Received 63 complete responses.



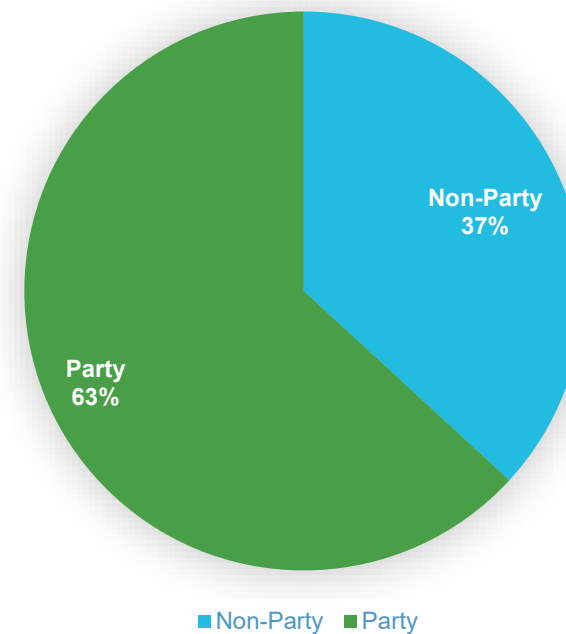
**Survey on priorities of work for the  
2025-2027 programme of work of the Water  
Convention**

# Overview of responses

## Response Types



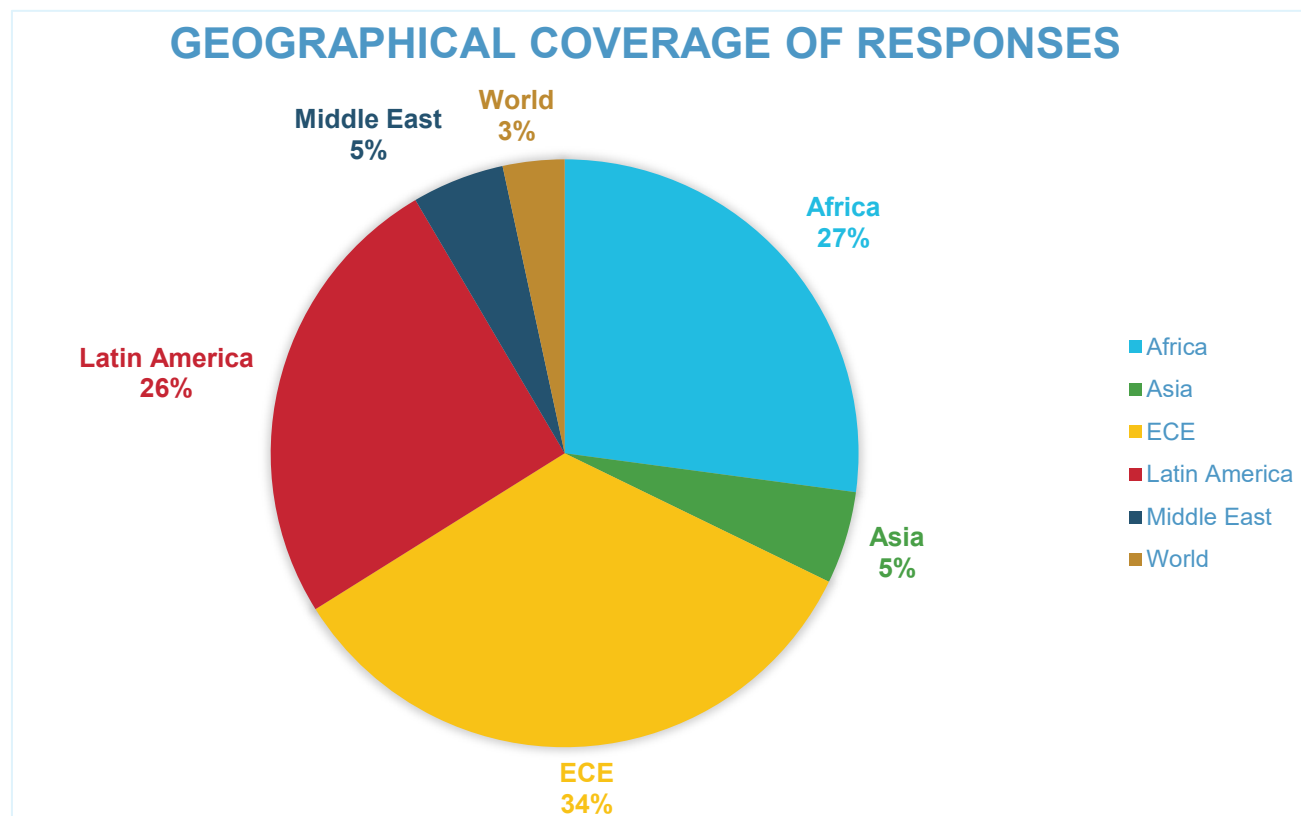
## Responses of Parties vs. Non-Parties



Most of the respondents were from countries (62%).

24 out of 52 Parties to the Water Convention responded to the survey (46% of the Parties).

# Overview of responses



In terms of geographical range of responses, 34% were from the UNECE region, followed by Africa (27%) as well as Latin America (26%).

# Strategic foresight: Emerging issues in the next 5-10 years:

## 1. Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources and Adaptation to Climate Change:

- Growing water scarcity due to climate change, population growth, and unsustainable practices.
- Need for innovative solutions in transboundary cooperation and adaptation.
- Emphasis on resilience in the face of climate variability and extreme events.

## 2. Funding and Financing:

- Challenges in securing sufficient funding, including private sector involvement.
- Need for improved cooperation and response mechanisms during financial crises.

## 3. Pollution Issues:

- Strategies required to prevent and reduce pollution from various sources.

## 4. Legal Frameworks and Governance:

- Challenges in cooperation, outdated agreements, and funding constraints.
- Enhancing cooperation, legal frameworks, and joint management bodies.
- Focus on harmonization of riparian laws and strengthening political frameworks.

## 5. Regional Cooperation and Peace:

- Water as a catalyst for peace and stability.

## 6. Data and Knowledge Management:

- Importance of data exchange and shared information systems.
- Monitoring and managing transboundary water resources effectively.

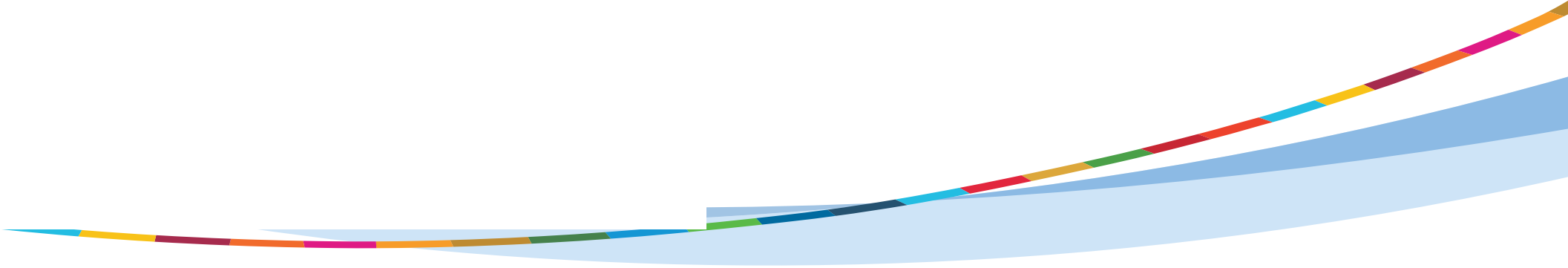
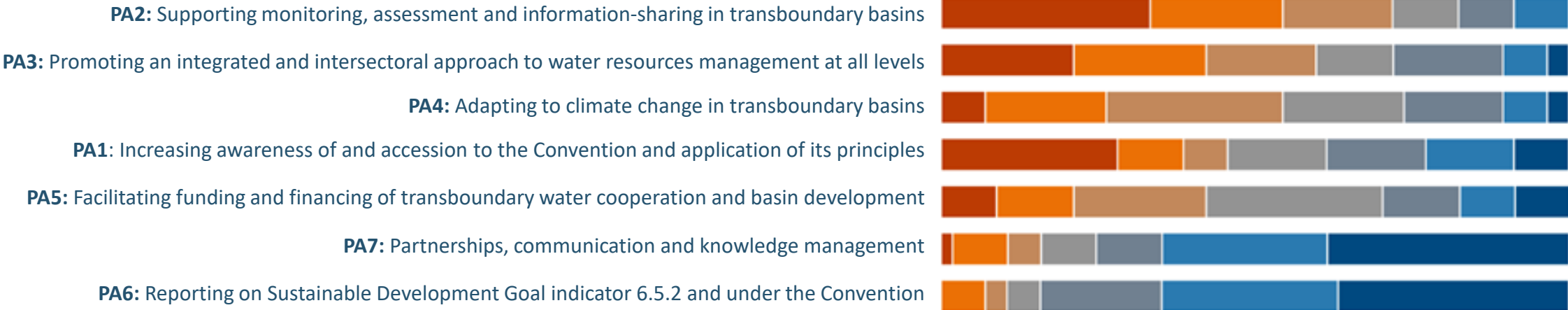


# QUESTION 2 – Relevance of current programme areas

8. Please rank the current programme areas according to their relevance to the work for your country/ organization. (1= most relevant, 7 = least relevant)

Rank Options

First choice ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Last choice



## QUESTION 3 – Priority of proposed new programme areas

9. How would you rank the below topics, in order of priority as new stand-alone programme areas or sub-programme areas? (1= most relevant, 4 = least relevant)

### Rank Options

First choice ■ ■ ■ Last choice

**Conjunctive management** of transboundary surface and groundwaters



Water and **pollution prevention and reduction**



Water and **ecosystems/ biodiversity**



**Source-to-sea:** linking governance and management of transboundary freshwaters and the coastal and marine environment

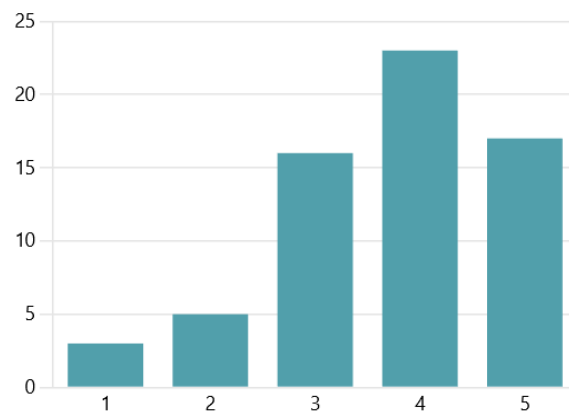


## QUESTIONS 3-82: Rating of proposed activities

- Rating of programme areas from **1 not relevant** to **5 highly important**.
- All sub-areas scored **between 3.7 (useful)** and **4.5 (important)**.

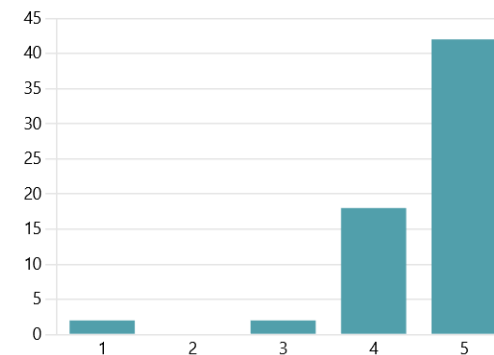
18. Updating the *Guide to Implementing the Convention* considering the global experience and to demonstrate ways for synergetic implementation of the two UN Water Conventions

**3.72**  
Average Rating



64. Further increasing cooperation with financial institutions such as ADB, AFDB, AF, EIB, GCF, GEF, IDB, UNCDF and the World Bank to raise awareness on the importance of funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development Question

**4.53**  
Average Rating





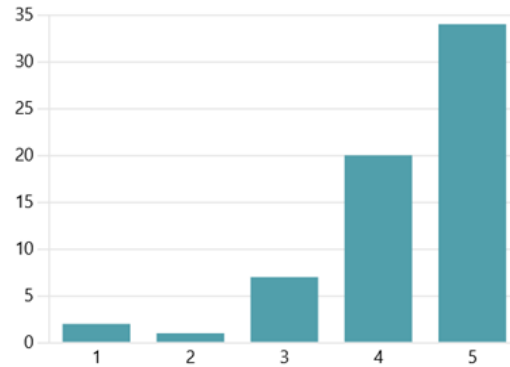
# Programme area 1 -

## Sub-area 1.1 Increasing awareness and supporting national processes towards accession

10. Promotion of the Water Convention and its activities through the organization of presentations, sessions/webinars and/or side events at global and regional meetings such as the World Water Forum, the World Water Week, the Africa Water Week and the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, etc.

4.30

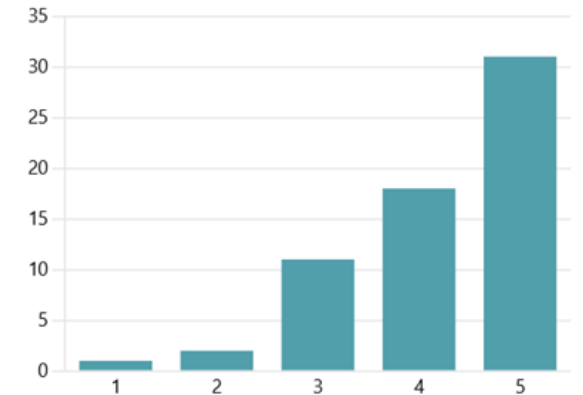
Average Rating



11. Organization of international water law/water diplomacy trainings, webinars or contribution to such trainings organized by partners

4.21

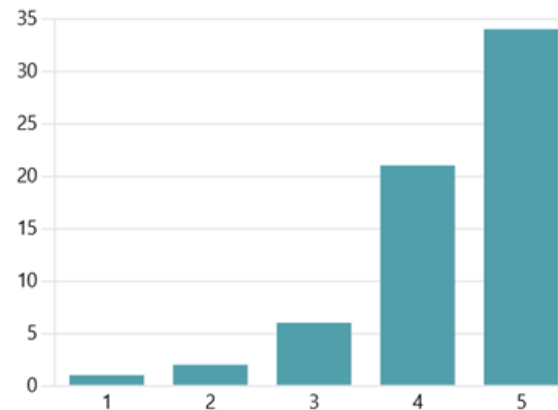
Average Rating



12. Support to countries preparing for accession (provision of legal and technical advice, organization of national workshops, etc.)

4.33

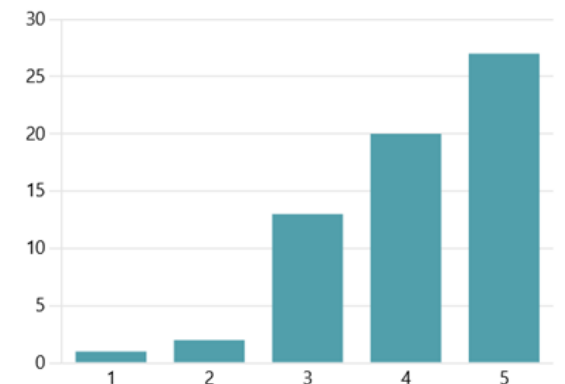
Average Rating



13. Organisation of trainings in countries working on accession and new Parties to the Convention on regulatory systems (permits) for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution and related monitoring and control

4.11

Average Rating



## QUESTION 11 – Additional new activities suggested by respondents

### 1. Centralized Repository and Information Access:

- Establish a centralized online platform for documents and data, ensuring easy access

### 2. UN Coordination and Water Diplomacy:

- Improve UN coordination for water-related goals.
- Enhance water diplomacy and negotiation skills.

### 3. Early Warning Systems and Capacity Building:

- Develop early warning systems for basin development.
- Capacity building for transboundary river organizations.

### 4. Transboundary Aquifer Mapping and Global Expansion:

- Resume and extend UNECE's role in mapping transboundary aquifers globally.

### 5. Floods, Droughts, and Pollution Management:

- Address transboundary floods, droughts, and pollution management.

### 6. Partnerships, youth and indigenous involvement, and gender issues:

- Foster public-private partnerships and community agreements.
- Promote youth and indigenous involvement, address gender issues.
- Emphasize indigenous aspects in transboundary cooperation.

### 7. Technical and Financial Assistance Prioritization:

- Prioritize technical and financial assistance for countries in need.

## QUESTION 16 – Support to Implementation of the activities

### Offers to host and/or co-organize workshops:

- ESCWA; European Commission/DG Environment; Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Senegal; Lake Chad Basin Commission; Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia; Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe; Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Countries of the La Plata Basin; Niger Basin Authority; Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Namibia; Ministry of Water and Forests, Côte d'Ivoire; Universidad Católica del Norte of Chile; Commission Internationale du bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS); Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq.

### Providing financial contributions and resources:

- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany; Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France; ESCWA; Swiss Federal Office for the Environment; Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Senegal; Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML), Austria; Ministry of Interior, Hungary; European Commission, DG Environment; Ministry of the Environment, Finland; Global Water Partnership (GWP).

## Survey consideration and analysis

- Medium response rate; answers by countries (Parties and non-Parties) were given a high weight
- Generally high support to most proposed activities, but choices were necessary, as all activities couldn't be included in programme of work
- Consideration of nature of the Convention, mandate, capacities and added-value guided balance between activities at different levels: global, regional, basin-level
- Limited interest in publications updates but need some
- Need to follow requirements from UNECE/ UN side, eg clear mandates
- Some activities have to be continued from previous MOP decisions e.g. Implementation Committee (area 1.4) and reporting (area 6)
- Work under the Convention should respond to needs but should vary its focus over the years => continuity with change, remain flexible and adaptable
- Strong interlinkage between programme areas, with activities supporting each others.

# Thank you!

(please include your contact information)



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