

## Match-making event

### *Accelerating transboundary cooperation and the implementation of the Water Convention in new Parties through increased support and partnership*

22 October 2024, Ljubljana, Slovenia

(Back-to-back with the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention)

- **Rationale**

Since the global opening of the Water Convention in 2016, 11<sup>1</sup> countries from outside the Pan-European region have joined, mostly from Africa, and more than 20 are in the process of accession. The process of globalization of the Water Convention has increased new Parties' awareness and political commitment to transboundary water cooperation. The process of accession has allowed Parties to identify and recognize, at high political level, specific needs and priorities for development of cooperation and management of shared basins, national water governance, and investments. Moreover, some new Parties have developed national implementation plans for the Water Convention<sup>2</sup>.

These needs and priorities identified by Parties, especially by new Parties, provide clear opportunities for countries to secure domestic financial resources for transboundary water cooperation and for technical and financial partners to support them in a complementary way to further advance transboundary water cooperation and management.

The Water Convention, through its triennial programme of work and related actions, supports Parties to further advance transboundary water cooperation and management including by facilitating the funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development. New Parties to the Convention can also benefit from experiences, technical advice and support from more experienced Parties and exchanges through its platform.

Given its high-level political nature<sup>3</sup>, the [10<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention \(MOP 10\)](#) taking place in October 2024 in Slovenia, provides a useful framework and platform for new Parties to present identified needs and priorities, and for technical and financial partners to announce concrete support to advance transboundary water cooperation and management in these countries.

- **Main objective:**

→ Support new Parties and those close to accession in implementing the Water Convention and accelerating transboundary water cooperation by identifying partners and resources before and during the event to further support implementation plans and related projects. The event will also pave the way for longer-term mobilisation of resources and partners.

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of writing.

<sup>2</sup> Water Convention implementation plans already finalized in Chad, Senegal, Ghana, Togo and currently being developed in Guinea-Bissau

<sup>3</sup> The Meeting of the Parties is the only high-level UN intergovernmental high-level meeting dedicated exclusively to discuss transboundary water cooperation issues



**How?** By facilitating matchmaking between new Parties to the Water Convention and interested partners for (transboundary) water cooperation activities/projects, and by facilitating possible twinning between experienced Parties and new Parties.

The event will enable new Parties to present high priority needs included in implementation plans and related projects to experienced Parties and technical and financial partners with a view to possibly secure financial and technical support for their implementation.

The preparation of the event will include technical assistance from the Water Convention to support the 11 new Parties (Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, the Gambia, Iraq, Nigeria, Namibia, Panama, Senegal and Togo) in the identification, development and refinement of project proposals aimed at implementing the Water Convention to be presented during the event. Relevant technical and financial partners will be informed about the project proposals and involved in the preparation process.

- **Specific objectives of the event:**

- Match needs and priority areas for transboundary water cooperation and management with existing support and resources opportunities to accelerate transboundary water cooperation;
- Showcase national implementation plans for the Water Convention and concrete project proposals prepared by the 11 new Parties countries;
- Sparkle reactions from and discussions with partners and experienced Parties, ideally resulting in expressions of interest from technical and financial partners (matching needs with support and resources);
- Discuss how different experienced Parties and partners can support implementation of the Water Convention in new Parties through different approaches i.e. twinning, funding/financing projects, technical exchanges;
- Facilitate South-South Cooperation, i.e. support and cooperation between different new Parties to the Water Convention;
- Provide opportunities for discussions and exchanges between technical and financial partners and recipient countries including on concrete project proposals and ideas.

- **Target audience<sup>4</sup>:**

- All new Parties to the Water Convention and some countries close to accession (e.g. Zambia, Costa Rica.); as well as River Basin Organizations (RBOs) to which these countries are members ;
- Established Parties to the Convention, which could be represented by their development cooperation agencies, technical ministries and/or ministries responsible for development cooperation assistance such as DG INTPA, AFD, GIZ/BMZ, AICS, SDC, SIDA, AECID, NORAD, ENABEL, DANIDA; Slovenia, Netherlands, Finland and/or others, depending on interest;
- International Financial Institutions: including World Bank, EIB, ADB, IADB, AfDB, GEF, Adaptation fund, GCF; and technical partners such as UNCDF, OECD, UNDP, UNEP, IUCN, GWP and other relevant GEF executing agencies, GEF iw:learn;
- Representatives from the private finance sector or organizations working with the private sector (e.g. CDP, UNEP-fi) interested in better understanding and supporting transboundary water cooperation and management.

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<sup>4</sup> Max. 80-100 participants

