Water Convention

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History of the Water Convention

- 1992: Adoption of the Water Convention
- 1996: Entry into force of the Convention
- 2003: Adoption of the amendment allowing all UN Member States to accede to the Convention
- 2012: Blanket approval by the Meeting of the Parties for all future requests for accession
- 2013: Entry into force of the amendment
- 1st March 2016: Operationalization of the Amendment: all UN Member States can accede to the Convention

Several countries have started national accession processes

- Originally negotiated as a regional agreement for the pan-European region but what is «Europe»?
 - Not only the European Union, but including all countries from the Ex-Soviet Union
 - Not a peaceful continent
 - Not a homogeneous continent from the development point of view
 - Not a continent exempt from water problems



Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes as amended, along with decision V/J3 clarifying the accession proced

Convention sur la protection et l'utilisation des cours d'eau transfrontières et des lacs internationaux telle qu'amendée, ansi que la décision VI/3 clarifiant la procédure d'adhésion

Конвенция по охране и использованию трансграничных водотоков и международных озер спопраками и решение VI/3, разъясняющим процедуру присоединения







A living instrument

Objective: to protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by

The Convention is based on three main pillars:

• Principle of prevention

facilitating cooperation

- Principle of reasonable and equitable utilization
- Principle of cooperation
- Sustainability of resources is the overarching objective

Support to transboundary water cooperation thanks to:

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes as amended, along with decision VI/3 clarifying the accession procedure

Convention sur la protection et l'utilisation des cours d'eau transfrontières et des lacs internationaux telle qu'amende, ainsi que la décision V/3 clarifiant la procédure d'adhésion

A sound legal framework





An active institutional framework





Why was the Convention opened for global membership?

- ✓Build on the success achieved => practice had demonstrated usefulness
- ✓Apply the principles and provisions worldwide
- ✓ Share the experiences of the Convention
- $\checkmark \text{Learn}$ from other regions of the world
- ✓ Broaden political support for transboundary cooperation
- ✓ Jointly develop solutions to common challenges

In practice, participation in the Convention's activities is already global: more than 110 countries participate in its activities







Strenghts of the Water Convention: 1. Long-term dimension of activities



Programme of work for 2016-2018

ecosystems nexus in

Support to implementation and application Identifying, assessing and communicating the Opening, promotion benefits of transboundary and partnerships water cooperation Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

NECE

European Union Water Initiative and **National Policy** Dialogues Water-food-energy-



Strengths: 2. Evolution to support implementation based on monitoring of impacts

- Assessing impacts through regular assessments => a basin in the region involved in the 3rd assessment?
 - Supporting Parties and non-Parties through the Implementation Committee





• Making countries accountable through reporting

• ...?

=> Parties (and non-Parties) are providing themselves with more and more tools to increase the Convention's impact



UNECE

Strenghts: 3. The power of international law and of a UN framework



The Convention provides the only legal and intergovernmental framework in the UN system on transboundary water cooperation

Proven effectiveness Recognition / acceptance / authority Strengthens support to transboundary water cooperation







Upcoming plans: 2017 and beyond

Words into Action guide on water and disasters draft document to be presented in December 2017 with a number of partners

Water Scarcity workshop 11-12 December 2017 links to health issues and climate change – forming an agenda, open for contributions

Training on preparing bankable projects for climate adaptation focus on Eastern Europe and Asia; based on successful workshop in Western Africa (June 2017) - concept stage





Thank you for your attention!

More information

including guidelines, publications and information on activities under the Convention can be found at:

http://unece.org/env/water water.convention@unece.org





