

Water Convention



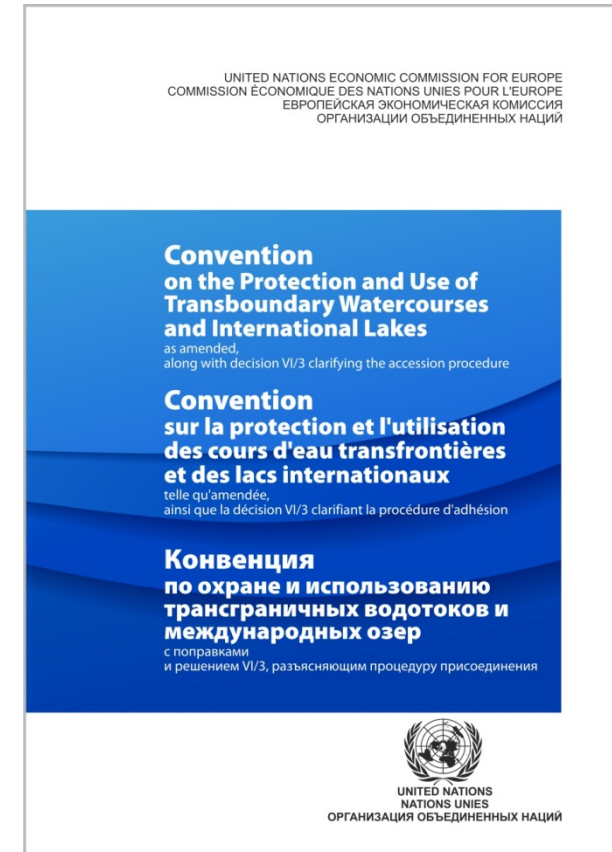
UNECE

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



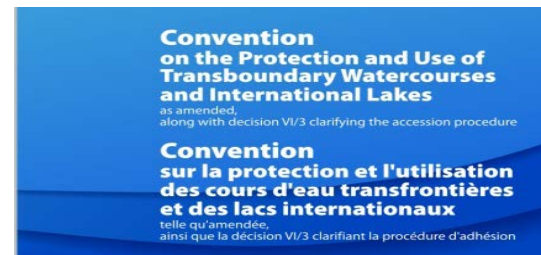
A living instrument

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

The Convention is based on three main pillars:

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

Support to transboundary water cooperation thanks to:



A sound legal framework




An active institutional framework

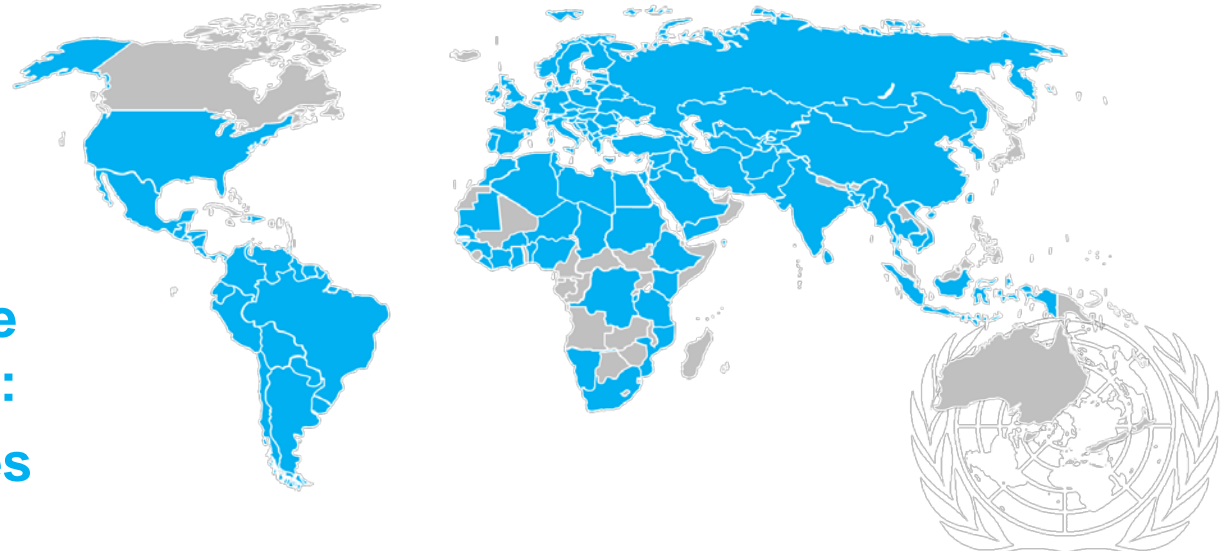


Activities and projects on the ground

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
 - ✓ Learn from other regions of the world
 - ✓ Broaden political support for transboundary cooperation
 - ✓ Jointly develop solutions to common challenges
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In practice, participation in the Convention's activities is already global: more than 110 countries participate in its activities

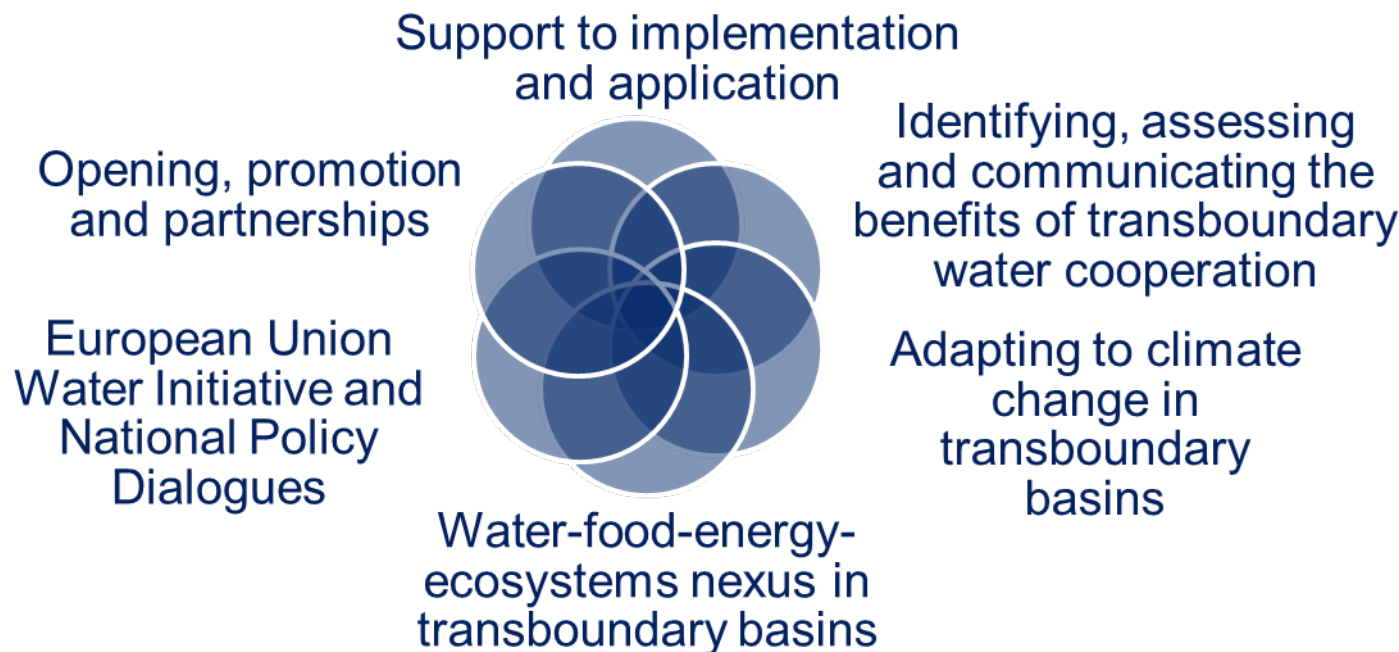


Participation in events under the Water Convention

Strenghts of the Water Convention:

1. Long-term dimension of activities

Programme of work for 2016-2018



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



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

