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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

**Working Group on Integrated Water
Resources Management**

Nineteenth meeting*

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Nineteenth meeting*

Geneva, 6-8 May 2024

Item 2 and 5(b) of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

**Global processes and recent developments related to transboundary water cooperation:
Process for developing the draft future programme of work under the
Water Convention for 2025-2027**

**Report on the implementation of activities under the Water
Convention in 2023****Prepared by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document reports on the implementation of the programme of work for 2022–2024 for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.1) for 2023, including activities undertaken by the subsidiary bodies of the Meeting of the Parties and by the secretariat. Information on financial contributions to the Convention's trust funds and the use of these and other extrabudgetary resources is included in a separate document (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/5).

The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring Assessment are invited to:

- (a) Take note of the present report;
- (b) Encourage donors, where appropriate and possible, to accept such reports in the future instead of asking for a separate report on their contribution.

* Fifth joint meeting of the two Working Groups.



I. Highlights from 2023 of the work programme for 2022–2024: major outcomes

1. In 2023, implementation of the work programme for 2022–2024 for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) (ECE/M P.WAT/63/Add.1) continued, with the aim of supporting implementation of the Water Convention and its principles and the overall objective of ensuring that transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries to promote sustainable development, peace and security (see table for key highlights by programme area). A detailed description of all activities is presented in section III.
2. The year 2023 brought huge momentum to the Convention’s global opening. During the United Nations conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (New-York, 22–24 March 2023) (United Nations 2023 Water Conference), Nigeria acceded to the Convention (22 March 2023), alongside Iraq (24 March 2023) – the first country of the Middle East and North Africa region to do so. Namibia became the first Southern African country to join the Convention (8 June 2023) and Panama became the first Latin American Party to the Convention (6 July 2023). The Gambia became the fifty-second Party to the Convention on 17 July 2023. The accession of these five (5) countries is expected to further strengthen dialogue in their respective regions on transboundary waters. Additionally, over 20 countries made progress towards accession.
3. The United Nations 2023 Water Conference was a historic global event that served to discuss the importance of considering and engaging in transboundary and intersectoral cooperation to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 by 2030. “Water for cooperation” was one of the five interactive dialogue topics, with a concept paper being co-prepared thereon by the ECE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (A/CONF.240/2023/7). The secretariat supported the preparatory process and interactive dialogue 4, submitted and mobilized commitments to the Water Action Agenda and co-organized numerous side events, significantly increasing the visibility of transboundary water cooperation and the Convention.
4. The Convention and partners highlighted transboundary cooperation at global events such as the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, 10–19 July 2023), where Sustainable Development Goal 6 was under review, and World Water Week (Stockholm, 20–24 August 2023).
5. Partners played a crucial role in activities supporting the Convention’s globalization and increasing capacity for its implementation, in all programme of work areas. Furthermore, the lead Parties (Finland, France, Germany, Ghana and Hungary (programme area 1.1), Germany and Hungary (programme area 1.3), Finland and Senegal (programme area 2), Estonia and Slovenia (programme area 3.1), Finland (programme area 3.2), Finland and Hungary (programme area 3.3), the Netherlands and Switzerland (programme areas 4–5)) were essential in providing effective guidance on and mobilizing political and other support for implementation of activities.
6. In 2023, the Convention continued to serve as a tool for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, specifically regarding transboundary water cooperation. It also served as a key platform to advance dialogue, build capacity and share experience on transboundary cooperation challenges, especially during three global workshops organized respectively on: conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater (Geneva (hybrid), 16–17 October 2023); the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements or other arrangements (Budapest, 7–8 November 2023); and funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development (Geneva, 5–6 December 2023). Furthermore, two new guidance documents were published: the *Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and*

Groundwaters¹ and the Summary Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context.²

7. The Convention also supported the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement. For example, water and transboundary cooperation were given significantly more attention at the twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties (CoP-28) to UNFCCC (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November–12 December 2023), where climate-informed transboundary water management and cooperation were included in the decisions on the global goal on adaptation and the global stocktake.

8. The third reporting cycle on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, coordinated by ECE and UNESCO, began in 2023 and 129 responses were received.

¹ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/70.

² United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/61.

Selected specific outcomes and outputs by programme area

<i>Outcome of programme of work for 2022–2024</i>	<i>Programme area</i>	<i>Key specific outcomes in 2023</i>	<i>Key specific outputs in 2023</i>
1: Countries understand Convention, accede thereto, develop agreements and establish joint bodies	1: Increasing awareness of and accession to Convention and application of its principles, drawing on benefits of cooperation	<p>Accession by 5 countries: Gambia, Iraq, Namibia, Nigeria and Panama</p> <p>Progress on accession in 9 countries</p> <p>Awareness of and political support for Convention and transboundary water cooperation increased</p> <p>Two inaugural Twinning Initiatives developed between established and incoming/new Parties to Convention</p>	<p>Legal/technical advice provided to over 14 countries</p> <p>4 national workshops on accession</p> <p>2 national workshops on implementation</p> <p>3 regional workshops organized on Convention/transboundary cooperation/implementation plan</p> <p>1 train-the-trainer workshop on Convention</p> <p>Presentation of Convention at numerous global, regional/basin events; online courses organized by partners</p> <p>Support provided to developing new or supporting implementation of existing agreements in 5 basins/subbasins</p> <p>Support provided to 2 regional cooperation processes</p> <p>Global workshop on development of transboundary water cooperation agreements or other arrangements organized (100 participants)</p>
2: Water resources in transboundary basins monitored and assessed, and information shared among riparian countries	2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins	<p>78 case studies collected for new publication on good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data-sharing</p> <p>2 regional workshops organized to promote use of guidance material</p>	<p>Publication Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters printed in Arabic, English, French and Russian</p>
3: IWRM implemented at all levels in changing climate	3: Promoting integrated and intersectoral approach to water resources management at all levels	<p>Working Group on IWRM decision to develop guidance note on source-to- sea management in June 2023</p> <p>Partners confirmed value of nexus methodology and tools to tackle cross-sectoral issues in transboundary contexts</p> <p>Awareness raised on water-energy cooperation for climate mitigation</p> <p>Awareness raised on global practices in allocation and complementary practices in transboundary basins</p>	<p>Development of guidance note on source-to-sea management initiated</p> <p>Promotion of nexus tools and publications, notably <i>Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and experiences from its application: Synthesis</i></p> <p>Eighth Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus meeting organized</p> <p>Global workshop on conjunctive water management organized (around 200 participants); need for further action in this area under Convention highlighted</p>

<i>Outcome of programme of work for 2022–2024</i>	<i>Programme area</i>	<i>Key specific outcomes in 2023</i>	<i>Key specific outputs in 2023</i>
			<p>Summary Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context published</p> <p>Co-organized CoP-28 presidency event “Watering the clean energy transition”</p> <p>NPDs served as platforms for intersectoral cooperation and supported water reform drivers in 9 countries.</p> <p>Transboundary water cooperation advanced by NPDs in 4 basins</p>
4: Transboundary basins better equipped to adapt to climate change	4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins	Countries and basins better equipped with knowledge and skills to mainstream water and transboundary cooperation benefits into global and national climate- and disaster-related documents and projects	<p>Seventh meeting of Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation organized (about 100 participants), linking transboundary water cooperation, disasters, climate and ecosystems</p> <p>Importance of water and benefits of transboundary cooperation promoted at UNFCCC CoP-28 through side events and in decisions on global goal on adaptation and global stocktake</p>
5: Transboundary water cooperation and basin development are sustainably financed	5: Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development	<p>Strengthened partnership with key IFIs</p> <p>Comprehensive overview of sources of funding and financing to support transboundary water cooperation and management activities available</p>	<p>Second global workshop on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development organized with around 150 participants, 4 partner IFIs and private sector representatives</p> <p>Publication and dissemination of brief <i>How to Accelerate the Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development? Opportunities and Challenges</i> available in English, French, Spanish and Russian</p> <p>Thematic sessions on financing organized with technical and financial partners at regional and national workshops</p>
6: Transboundary water cooperation monitored and partners mobilized to support it	6: Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under Convention	<p>Awareness raised on progress and challenges in transboundary water cooperation, under Convention and at global level</p> <p>Acceleration needs for progress on transboundary water cooperation to achieve SDG target 6.5 identified and promoted</p>	<p>103 United Nations Member States participated in Global Webinars on SDG indicator 6.5.2</p> <p>129 country responses received in third reporting exercise</p> <p>7 additional countries never previously participating in indicator 6.5.2 reporting submitted reports in 2023</p>

<i>Outcome of programme of work for 2022–2024</i>	<i>Programme area</i>	<i>Key specific outcomes in 2023</i>	<i>Key specific outputs in 2023</i>
		Coordination in preparation of reports promoted	
	7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management	Progress/achievements under Convention communicated via social media, press releases and newsletter	Three newsletters disseminated to around 2,500 contacts. Twitter audience: 9,189 followers (94% increase since 2021)
		Political support to transboundary water cooperation catalysed during United Nations 2023 Water Conference, including through Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition	LinkedIn account: 1,870 followers (185% increase since 2021) Facebook account: 1,500 followers (106% increase since 2021) Transboundary water cooperation mentioned in plenary statements by over 70 countries and Convention mentioned by around 20 countries in official statements

Abbreviations: IFI, international financial institution; IWRM, integrated water resources management; NPD, National Policy Dialogue; SDG, Sustainable Development Goal.

II. Challenges, trends and lessons learned for future work specific to some programme areas

A. Global opening of the Convention

9. In 2023, the Water Convention community grew, with five new Parties (the Gambia, Iraq, Namibia, Nigeria and Panama). The milestone accessions of Panama, Iraq and Namibia demonstrate the value of “regional champions” – the first Parties in each of their respective regions demonstrating their commitment – and the Convention’s added value, with other countries in their regions following in initiating accession.

10. Progress in raising the Convention’s profile and supporting accession processes continued, through provision of legal advice and answering countries’ specific questions, including the organization of 4 national workshops in Africa and Latin America, enabling progress towards accession and future implementation of the Convention in several countries and basins. Support by the secretariat to accession processes was crucial, including in regions with slow progress, such as Asia.

11. Increased partnerships and synergies with other actors, including through existing partnerships with regional and global financial institutions, new partnerships with regional organizations and greater coordination with partners’ activities, including with United Nations regional commissions and country offices, were essential for raising awareness on the Convention.

12. With the Convention’s globalization, there is a growing need to support its implementation in new Parties, which have many requests both for national and transboundary measures. While supporting implementation in new Parties have begun through developing implementation plans and organizing dialogues on how to mobilize the required financial resources, much greater efforts, mainly by technical and financial partners, will be needed.

13. The success of the training workshop “From practitioner to practitioner: How to use the two global Water Conventions to promote cooperation on the ground” (Geneva, 3–4 July

2023) shows the added value of peer-to-peer learning in strengthening water experts' knowledge and skills required to promote the Conventions and support their implementation.

14. Decision IX/3 of the Meeting of the Parties on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2) led to some limited progress towards a fairer sharing of the burden of financing the implementation of the programme of work, but more effort is needed, since the Convention's current funding is unsustainable, especially with the Convention's globalization.

B. Implementation Committee

15. The Implementation Committee enhanced its role in supporting the Convention's globalization. Furthermore, it took the important decision to pilot provision of its legal and technical support in a transboundary basin or aquifer, as a way to clarify the procedural and legal implications of its potential involvement in such assistance in the future,³ and began providing support regarding the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin.

C. Monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins

16. Support to monitoring, assessment and information-sharing remains an important area of work for established and new Parties. The process of developing the publication *Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing* engaged a large number of Parties, non-Parties and partners, demonstrating challenges in developing monitoring and information- and data-sharing in transboundary basins. It also revealed the need for experience exchange and capacity development on groundwater monitoring, conjunctive water management, new methods in water quality monitoring and pollution prevention, use of new technologies for monitoring and water-related ecosystems.

D. Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

17. The Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus is increasingly recognized as a platform for discussing issues related to transboundary nexus, especially water-energy. At the Task Force's eighth meeting (Geneva, 7–8 December 2023), the key role of transboundary water cooperation for climate mitigation emerged as a theme of interest, and the importance of ecosystems and biodiversity in the nexus was also underlined. The need to continue discussions between meetings in future was highlighted – a need that is difficult to address.

E. National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative

18. The end of European Union funding for NPDs in Central Asia in February 2023 led to a refocusing of the work in the region on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, especially under the upcoming International Climate Initiative-funded project (to be implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), ECE, the Scientific Information Centre of the Inter-State Coordination Water Commission of Central Asia (SIC-ICWC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)). Consequently, less support to legislative development, water quality issues and transboundary cooperation will be provided.

19. In the context of the triple environmental crisis and ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East threatening the effective use and management of natural resources, the added value of NPDs was recognized, especially for improving intersectoral water policy and

³ ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2022/4, para. 19.

management, leading to tangible results. The European Union accession process in three countries also serves as an additional stimulus for cross-sectoral discussions.

F. Adapting to climate change

20. Activities on climate change in 2023 showcased the importance of strong linkages between transboundary water cooperation and climate change adaptation for addressing droughts and wetlands conservation in transboundary basins. CoP-28 illustrated that step-by-step efforts, such as communication with climate negotiators, capacity-building and intersectoral coordination mechanisms between water and climate stakeholders, and the water community's contribution to national, regional and global climate events and documents under UNFCCC, help to mainstream water and cooperation into climate decisions, such as those on the global goal on adaptation and the global stocktake.

G. Funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development

21. The Convention provides a key platform for countries, river basin organizations (RBOs) and financial and technical partners to discuss how to further mobilize national and international funding to advance transboundary water cooperation. While private sector representatives are becoming increasingly interested in this issue, there is a need to increase mutual understanding and build more bridges between countries, RBOs and the private finance community.

H. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

22. With the reporting process well established in numerous countries by the time of the third reporting exercise, national reports on indicator 6.5.2 have improved to a certain extent. Several States made a greater effort to coordinate their inputs with their neighbours, and, through basin organizations, to ensure that basin-wide data are available and consistent. Several countries reported for the first time. The role of regional organisations and UN country teams was important in promoting and supporting the third exercise. Contacts at highest level have also helped to unblock challenging situations.

23. The third reporting exercise demonstrated that the need for capacity-building activities remains, given staff turnover of indicator 6.5.2 focal points, changes in reporting responsibility and political changes.

24. Validation of national reports remains a significant challenge for the custodian agencies UNECE and UNESCO and requires more concerted capacity building efforts, and an on-line reporting system to save staff time currently dedicated to reviewing and validating reports. Positively, countries show a strong commitment in submitting high quality data.

I. Contribution to global processes

25. The secretariat contributed to numerous global events to promote transboundary water cooperation and the Convention, which while demanding significant efforts, increased knowledge and visibility of the Convention and new accessions.

III. Areas of work and activities

A. Work of the Bureau

26. The Bureau, led by its Chair, Mr. Harry Liiv (Estonia), held its thirty-fourth meeting (Geneva (hybrid), 22 June 2023) and several telephone conferences. The Bureau reviewed

the programme of work's implementation, discussed the Convention's future, including a more sustainable and predictable funding mechanism for the Convention, and played a key role in the Convention's globalization.

27. Bureau members supported the Convention's promotion and implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2), contributed to national, regional and global events to promote the Convention, including through twinning activities, took steps towards implementing specific Strategy actions, including establishing partnerships, and raised additional funds for Convention activities.

B. Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

1.1 Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession

28. Upon request, the secretariat provided technical and legal advice and guidance to various national accession processes, in close collaboration with regional and local partners, ensuring progress towards accession in various countries.

29. Nigeria acceded to the Convention on 22 March 2023 and the Gambia acceded on 17 July 2023. The Sierra Leonean Cabinet approved a law on accession to the Convention in April 2023, which is pending parliamentary approval. Understanding of and capacity to accede to and implement the Convention in the Niger was increased through a national workshop on the benefits of accession (Niamey, 2–3 March 2023). Several other countries, such as Benin, Burkina Faso, the Congo and Mauritania, progressed significantly towards accession or launched national initiatives to discuss accession benefits.

30. The Regional workshop on the Water Convention for the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) member States (Ouagadougou, 3–5 May 2023) was co-organized by the secretariat and the WAEMU Commission, in collaboration with Global Water Partnership West Africa to raise awareness on the Convention among the eight WAEMU member States. The workshop concluded with the Call of Ouagadougou, inviting all member States to accelerate accession process to the two global Conventions. The secretariat also contributed to other regional events organized by partners, including the Ninth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Niamey (hybrid), 28 February–2 March 2023).

31. Namibia acceded to the Convention on 8 June 2023. In Botswana, a Stakeholder Engagement Kick Off meeting on accession and a national workshop were organized (Gaborone, respectively, 22 May and 25–26 October 2023) to discuss accession benefits. Subsequently, a road map for accession was defined. Zimbabwe formally expressed interest in accession. Several other countries, including Somalia and South Sudan, also expressed interest in accession and launched national initiatives to discuss the benefits thereof.

32. Iraq acceded to the Convention on 24 March 2023 and the secretariat actively contributed to the Third Bagdad International Water Conference (6–7 May 2023).

33. Panama acceded to the Convention on 6 July 2023. Interest in the Latin America and Caribbean region in the Convention continued, prompted by a combination of activities at regional and national levels. The secretariat contributed to a workshop on international water agreements in Paraguay (Asunción, 2 March 2023) co-organized by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment and Sustainable Development and with support from Itaipu Binacional, and co-organized a workshop on national priorities and benefits of accession in Uruguay (Montevideo, 31 October 2023) with the Ministry of Environment. El Salvador further discussed accession through a national meeting "Regional Network and Observatory for Water Sustainability, ROSA", organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (San Salvador, 6–7 September 2023). Significant progress was made in Costa Rica, where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a consultation on the Convention (San José, 5 October 2023) and planned for a workshop on accession in 2024. Furthermore,

the secretariat contributed to regional capacity-building on hydrodiplomacy in the Latin America and the Caribbean region through courses organized by the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA) in Guatemala (Antigua, 15–19 May 2023) and the Dominican Republic (La Romana, 26–29 September 2023) in collaboration with the Mixed Binational Dominican-Haitian Commission.

34. In Asia, progress towards accession remains gradual; however, increased efforts were undertaken, including through preparations for the Tenth World Water Forum (Bali, Indonesia, 18–24 May 2024). In South-East Asia, the secretariat contributed to several sessions at the Fourth Mekong River Commission Summit on transboundary water cooperation (Vientiane, 2–5 April 2023), presenting the Water Convention and Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 reporting in the Mekong River basin. To support the subregional process for the World Water Forum 2024, the secretariat partnered with Global Water Partnership - South-East Asia and others in organizing a “South-East Asia Water Security - IWRM Regional Conference” (Bali, Indonesia, 10–11 October 2023) focused on transboundary water cooperation challenges. For South Asia, the secretariat supported an international water law training course and online webinars on transboundary water cooperation, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - Asia and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

35. Upon request by new Parties, the secretariat also supported implementation of the Convention by supporting development of, reviewing and providing technical advice for national implementations plans; and organizing specific sessions on how to mobilize financial resources for said plans. A national workshop was organized in Lomé (5–6 June 2023) to validate the Togolese national plan for the Convention’s implementation, and the secretariat, together with partners, organized the Iraqi Interministerial Committee on the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Baghdad, 8 May 2023).

36. The secretariat organized the training workshop “From practitioner to practitioner: How to use the two global Water Conventions to promote cooperation on the ground” (Geneva, 3–4 July 2023), contributing to the enlargement of the community of practitioners with a good understanding of the Conventions and the ability to promote accession thereto and implementation thereof.

37. The Water Convention facilitated the development of two initial Twinning Initiatives in 2023: Finland and Namibia; and Ghana, Hungary and Zambia. These initiatives aim to enable the transfer of practical experience and lessons learned between experienced and incoming/new Parties.

1.2 Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

38. In 2023, the Global workshop on the development of transboundary water agreements and other arrangements was organized in support of the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies, in partnership with Global Environment Facility International Waters-Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW:LEARN), Geneva Water Hub/University of Geneva, Global Water Partnership, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO); IUCN, Northumbria University (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and the World Bank. It attracted over 100 targeted participants from countries and international organizations, with the aim of assisting experts in applying the *Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation*.⁴ The workshop was innovative and practical, including simulation of the negotiation of a new transboundary agreement.

39. ECE continued to provide support to several initiatives related to the negotiation of agreements and the establishment of new basin organizations. In Eastern Europe, the Water Convention secretariat and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) provided support to the Dniester Commission and the relevant stakeholders in preparation of the project document for the second phase of the Dniester GEF project.

⁴ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/68.

40. In Central Asia, in 2023, the secretariat supported the Chu Talas Commission in endorsing a joint statement on the Chu Talas Strategic Action Programme by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, signed on 22 December 2023, and in facilitating funding for its implementation, including from GEF.

41. In West Africa, the secretariat continued to provide support, in partnership with the Geneva Water Hub and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), to the regional dialogue on the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin shared by the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. In particular, the secretariat organized a session of the regional working group on agreements to initiate the negotiation process for a cooperation agreement on the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin back-to-back with the Global workshop on the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements or other arrangements (Budapest, 9–10 November 2023). In Southern Africa, the secretariat continued providing support to negotiations on developing an agreement and joint body on the Luapula River, shared by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia.

42. In Central America, the Practical Guide provided inputs to the process of developing regional guidelines for transboundary water management led by the Central Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD). Those guidelines were validated by ministers of environment of Central America in July 2023.

43. Programme area partners included the African Development Bank (AfDB), the French Development Agency (AFD), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), CCAD/the Central American Integration System (SICA), CODIA, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Geneva Water Hub, GEF, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), GWP and its regional offices, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS), the Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG), OSCE, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. Work on the Water Convention global opening was largely supported by the European Union-funded project "Promoting accession to the Water Convention". Other donors, including Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal and Switzerland, contributed to opening activities.

1.3 Implementation Committee

44. In 2023, the Implementation Committee assisted Montenegro and Albania in implementing its legal and technical advice⁵ provided under advisory procedure WAT/IC/AP/1. Two Committee members visited several small hydropower plants, participating in the second Joint Technical Working Group meeting (Shkodër, Albania, 25 April 2023), organized by Albania and Montenegro in response to the Committee's legal and technical advice. With the Committee's support, the countries progressed with development of the draft protocol on information exchange.

45. In February 2023, the Committee initiated an information gathering process (WAT/IC/INFO/2) in response to a letter received from Portuguese and Spanish organizations cooperating on the "Reconnecting Iberian Rivers" project.

46. As of November 2023, the Committee provides, on a pilot basis and through the involvement of one of its members, legal and technical support to negotiations on developing a cooperation agreement on the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin.

C. Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins

47. Programme area work focused on preparing a new publication *Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing*. The Expert Meeting on Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing (Geneva (hybrid), 18–19 April 2023)

⁵ See ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2021/1, annex.

reviewed the structure and text of the draft and provided ideas for additional case studies to be incorporated therein. The eighteenth Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment meeting (Geneva, 17–18 October 2023) provided feedback on the revised draft, prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with lead Parties, particularly on the key messages. It agreed on the timeline for finalizing the publication by the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024).

48. Guidance materials on monitoring and assessment developed under the Convention were presented at regional workshops on: (i) monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins in Central Asia (Astana, 1–2 February 2023), organized by the secretariat, the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) and the Green Central Asia Initiative implemented by GIZ; and (ii) strengthening legal and institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation and data and information exchange (Beirut, 30–31 May 2023), organized in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and UNESCO. The workshops enabled the exchange of experience and identification of lessons learned and good practices for inclusion in the new publication on good practices.

49. The publication *Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* was published in Arabic, English, French and Russian.

50. Programme area partners included GIZ, GWP, Environment Agency Austria (UBA), IGRAC, INBO, IWAC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ESCWA, UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The Netherlands provided expert support for development of programme area publications.

D. Programme area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water resources management at all levels

3.1 Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

51. Following the Global workshop on source-to-sea management (Geneva (hybrid), 14–16 December 2022), the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management decided, in June 2023, to develop a guidance note on the topic, under the leadership of Estonia and Slovenia.⁶ The development of the guidance note has started; the first drafting and expert review group meeting is planned for early 2024. The United Nations Ocean Conference (Nice, France, June 2025) could be an opportunity to launch the guidance note.

52. The Global workshop on conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater: National to transboundary level (Geneva (hybrid), 16–17 October 2023) attracted over 200 participants and provided a space for exchange and practical learning about the application of conjunctive water management. It was organized under the leadership of Estonia and Slovenia and in cooperation with UNESCO, ESCWA, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), IGRAC, the International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), the Regional Centre for Groundwater Management in Latin America and the Caribbean (CeReGAS), the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), UBA, GEF IW: LEARN and other organizations.

53. The workshop's conclusions highlight the need to: (i) increase understanding and awareness of conjunctive water management benefits, especially for climate change adaptation; (ii) move from spontaneous to planned conjunctive water management; (iii) create enablers for conjunctive water management; and (iv) create frameworks for transboundary conjunctive management. Possible next steps and follow-up action were identified in five areas: policy recommendations/guidance; best practices collection and dissemination; conjunctive water management projects; capacity-building and sharing of experience at the global and regional levels; and support to negotiation of agreements/arrangements and resource allocation.

⁶ ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2023/2, para. 62 (b).

3.2 Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach

54. Thematic work on nexus focused on climate adaptation and mitigation, at the global and basin levels, in cooperation with the ECE Sustainable Energy Division. As part of the United Nations Water Study, the secretariat co-organized the UN-Water event “Technical workshop on water and climate change mitigation interdependencies” with GIZ, UNESCO and others (Bonn, Germany, 13 June 2023) and the CoP-28 presidency event “Watering the clean energy transition” with UNFCCC, WMO and others (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 5 December 2023). The panel session “Climate adaptation in the Drina River basin with an energy-water nexus approach and renewable energy development”, part of Sarajevo Energy and Climate Week (26 September 2023), provided a continuation of nexus activities in the basin, and space for reflection on prospects for joint climate action.

55. The secretariat further promoted nexus publications produced under the Convention, such as the *Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and experiences from its application: Synthesis*,⁷ the related leaflet *Transboundary Nexus Assessment Methodology (TBNA)*,⁸ and the publications *Solutions and Investments in the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus: A Synthesis of Experiences in Transboundary Basins*⁹ and *Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment*.¹⁰

56. The eighth meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus, chaired by Finland, marked 10 years of nexus work under the Convention. The meeting provided a space for discussing: the financing of cross-sectoral solutions through multi-benefit and multi-source investments; the role of transboundary water cooperation for the energy transition; the mainstreaming of nexus in global climate and environmental processes of cooperation; and water allocation in transboundary contexts.

57. Cooperation with the ECE Sustainable Energy Division continued, focusing on the ECE region. The secretariat contributed to the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy discussion on water scarcity at their tenth session (Geneva, 11–12 September 2023) and co-organized a session entitled “Water-energy nexus and energy system resiliency” at the Third Almaty Energy Forum (6–8 November 2023). Water featured prominently at the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment (Almaty (hybrid), Kazakhstan, 7 November 2023).

58. The secretariat contributed to several meetings in preparation for the five-year nexus project “Regional mechanisms for the low carbon, climate resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia”, starting in 2024, with funds from the International Climate Initiative and implemented by OECD, ECE, SIC-ICWC, EBRD and FAO.

59. Partners included: GIZ, GWP-Mediterranean, the ECCE Sustainable Energy Division, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), OECD, FAO, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, WMO and UNFCCC.

3.3 Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context

60. In 2023, the *Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context*¹¹ was promoted in national and regional workshops (national event in Botswana and South-East Asia Water Security - IWRM Regional Conference) and through Twinning Initiatives as a priority thematic topic and in various online seminars.

61. The *Summary Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context (Summary Handbook)*¹² – drafted and presented at the IWRM Working Group in June 2023 and

⁷ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/55.

⁸ ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/18.

⁹ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/66.

¹⁰ ECE/ENERGY/127.

¹¹ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/64.

¹² United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/71.

published in December 2023 – contains key information from the *Handbook* adopted by the ninth meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in 2021, covering the global practice of transboundary water allocation. The *Summary Handbook* includes new examples of practical application of transboundary water allocation, including from Central Asia and Southern Africa. It seeks to be a shorter, targeted practical resource for policymakers and decision-makers, drawing on the *Handbook* to provide a snapshot of the key elements, frameworks and modalities when considering the application of transboundary water allocation, while recognizing that every allocation context is unique.

62. Partners included: SYKE, Oregon State University (United States of America), IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (Netherlands), IWAC and OECD.

3.4 Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative

63. In 2023, ECE continued implementing NPDs in 9 countries of Eastern Europe (Republic of Moldova, Ukraine), the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan). Annual multi-stakeholder meetings were organized in target countries and policy packages were implemented to support various aspects of water sector reform and management. NPD meetings facilitated cross-sectoral discussions on various issues, for example, national legislation, cross-sectoral assessment of water reform, water and health, water and agriculture, economic instruments and investments in the water sector, transboundary cooperation - in line with United Nations and European Union standards. Policy packages include development of secondary legislation under the European Union Water Framework Directive¹³ (supporting a new water law in Georgia) and on economic instruments (Kyrgyzstan), enforcement of river basin management plans (Ukraine), update of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health (Republic of Moldova), transboundary cooperation (Eastern Partnership countries), revision of wastewater standards (Uzbekistan), overview of sector investments (Armenia), development and advocacy for investment concepts (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan).

64. Thematic workshops on nature-based solutions were organized in Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

65. NPDs also facilitated discussion on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2. reporting results and their use for further transboundary cooperation development. A workshop for the Eastern Partnership countries was organized in October 2023, concluding that Armenia and Georgia should continue to build up joint monitoring activities in the Khrami-Debed River basin, and that Azerbaijan and Georgia should continue cooperation in the Alazani River basin.

66. The secretariat also supported the signature of a trilateral declaration on cooperation in the Prut River basin by the Ministers of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine in October 2023.

67. Until February 2023, NPDs activities continued in 9 countries and, as of March 2023, due to the discontinuation of European Union funding for Central Asia, the focus was only on 5 countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, with work being carried out through the EU4Environment in Eastern Partner Countries: Water Resources and Environmental Data programme (January 2022–June 2024). In the Eastern Partnership countries, ECE worked closely with other implementing partners: OECD, UBA, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the International Office for Water of France (OiEau).

68. ECE shared NPD experience in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia at an online high-level meeting of the Water Task Force for Iraq (24 October 2023) and contributed to a concept note on NPDs' potential benefits and challenges for Iraq.

¹³ See <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/60/oj>.

E. Programme area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

4.1 Supporting development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures

69. In 2023, Convention work enabled increased capacity through the exchange of experience and knowledge-sharing, contributing to global policy processes on climate and disasters and projects on the ground.

70. The seventh meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation (Geneva (hybrid), 26–27 May 2023) reviewed best practices in drought management and adaptation of wetlands to climate change in transboundary basins, as well as opportunities and examples in mainstreaming water and transboundary cooperation into global processes on water, environment, climate and biodiversity, such as under UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Representatives of all those conventions spoke at the event.

71. Work in this area contributed to mainstream water and transboundary cooperation in global processes, such as in the decisions on the global goal on adaptation and on the outcome of the first global stocktake of UNFCCC CoP-28, which recognize the crucial role of water-related ecosystems for adaptation and the benefits of transboundary cooperation for addressing climate change impacts.

72. The secretariat co-organized several CoP-28 events, namely the Presidency events “Watering the clean energy transition” and “Water for peace and security: From risk to resilience” (10 December), the “Thematic Day on Peace, Security and Health” at the Water Pavilion (6 December) and several side events, including “Restoring and conserving wetlands as a tool to reduce water scarcity in transboundary basins” (10 December 2023) and “Improving climate resilience through transboundary cooperation” (10 December 2023) (co-organized respectively with Azerbaijan, Slovenia and the Ramsar Convention and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ and AMCOW).

73. The secretariat contributed to: UNFCCC Adaptation Committee meetings; workshops organized within the Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation; and activities under the Water and Climate Coalition and within the UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate Change.

4.2 Supporting transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation

74. In 2023, activities included capacity-building on financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins through the organization of the above-mentioned UNFCCC CoP-28 side events.

75. Partners included: the Adaptation Fund, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation, CBD, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB), GEF, Green Climate Fund, INBO, the International Water Management Institute, OSCE, SIWI, the Ramsar Convention, UNDP, UNCCD, UNFCCC, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Bank, WMO, Zoï Environment Network and several joint bodies.

F. Programme area 5: Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

76. The brief *How to accelerate the funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development*,¹⁴ aimed at highlighting the main issues to be considered by policymakers and decision-makers from the water management and financing

¹⁴ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/72.

communities to accelerate the channelling of financial resources to transboundary water cooperation and basin development, was published in English, French, Spanish and Russian and disseminated.

77. The secretariat organized dedicated sessions on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development during the Regional workshop on the Water Convention for WAEMU (Ouagadougou, 3–5 May 2023) and at a national workshop validating the Togolese Water Convention implementation plan (Lomé, 5–6 June 2023). Specific technical and financial partners shared insights into their priorities and possible support to countries, contributing to creating a forum in which to further understand how needs can further be matched with financial opportunities.

78. The secretariat organized the Global workshop on funding and financing transboundary water and basin development (Geneva (hybrid), 5–6 December 2023), under the leadership of Switzerland and the Netherlands, in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), GEF, GEF IW: LEARN, IDB, OECD, Senegal, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the World Bank. It attracted over 150 participants. For the first time, a dialogue was initiated with private finance sector representatives (e.g. Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (SEB), Prince Albert II de Monaco Foundation) and organizations working with the private sector (CDP, UNEP-Finance Initiative) on how transboundary water cooperation issue could be further considered and integrated into their work and financing approach. Innovative funding approaches such as the Blue Peace Financing Initiative were discussed. Market places enabled countries, RBOs and financial partners to exchange on existing financial mechanisms and access thereto. An outcome document was produced in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

79. Partners included: AfDB, AFD, GIZ, ADB, EIB, GEF, GEF IW:LEARN, IDB, OECD, UNCDF and the World Bank.

G. Programme area 6: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

6.1 Supporting reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

80. The third reporting exercise on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention (for Parties) was organized in 2023, in collaboration with UNESCO. In March 2023, the co-custodian agencies invited 159 countries to participate in the exercise and prepared a document entitled “Opportunities to coordinate with neighbouring countries when completing the SDG indicator 6.5.2 national report”,¹⁵ to encourage countries to coordinate their replies at the basin level.

81. Several events to support countries in preparing their national reports and in coordinating replies at the basin level were organized:

- Two “Global webinars on SDG indicator 6.5.2 – Transboundary water cooperation: Supporting countries in preparing national reports for the 3rd reporting exercise, with a focus on coordination” (17–18 April 2023), delivered in English, French, Russian and Spanish (over 300 participants from 103 countries).
- One regional workshop for Arab countries entitled “Legal and institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation and data exchange” (Beirut (hybrid), 30–31 May 2023), organized by ESCWA, ECE and UNESCO (46 participants representing 14 countries).
- Two webinars entitled “Third monitoring exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2 - How to prepare and benefit from national reporting on transboundary water cooperation” (27 April and 4 May 2023) organized by ECE, UNESCO-IHP, UNESCO-Montevideo and CODIA.

¹⁵ See https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Coordination_document_SDG_Indicator_652_EN.pdf.

- One online workshop entitled “Supporting countries in preparing national reports for the 3rd reporting exercise of SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation in Asia Pacific” (8 June 2023), organized by ECE, UNESCO-IHP and UNESCO-Djakarta.

82. Sessions dedicated to indicator 6.5.2 reporting were held as part of regional meetings organized in cooperation with WAEMU (3–5 May and 28–29 September 2023), Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management Initiative - Latin America (September 2023), during the Second Stakeholder Consultation Meeting of the World Water Forum 2024 (Bali, Indonesia, 12–13 October 2023) and as part of NPD meetings. In addition to several online meetings with countries, 60–70 meetings between country representatives and co-custodian agencies were organized during intergovernmental meetings under the Convention to discuss national report content.

83. As a result of these and other efforts, 129 countries provided responses in the third reporting exercise, including 7 countries responding for the first time. ECE and UNESCO, as co-custodian agencies, worked for most of the second half of the year on reviewing the 129 received responses through frequent correspondence and consultations with countries to enable the validation of SDG indicator 6.5.2 national values.

6.2 Promoting the use of the reports for enhancing transboundary water cooperation

84. As the only Sustainable Development Goal indicator focused on transboundary issues, indicator 6.5.2 continues to offer an important opportunity to foster cooperation between countries. The third monitoring exercise showed that countries use the reporting exercise to discuss and improve transboundary water issues and knowledge bases, e.g., on aquifers at the national level, or to initiate such discussions to establish long-term cooperative arrangements with their neighbours.

85. Data on indicator 6.5.2 have informed 2030 Agenda-related policy processes, such as: the United Nations 2023 Water Conference; the 2023 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; World Water Week 2023; UNFCCC CoP-28; and activities under the Convention. The co-custodians also contributed indicator 6.5.2 information to the “Blueprint for Acceleration: Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023”.¹⁶

86. Dedicated meetings to promote coordination in the process of preparation of national reports and encourage follow-up action on the basis of report information took place in countries sharing the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin (Geneva, 18 October 2023) and with Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine (Geneva, 19 October 2023).

87. Programme area partners included CODIA, ECA, ESCWA, ECLAC, GWP, GWP-South-East Asia, UNEP-DHI, UNESCO, UN-Water and all Integrated Monitoring Initiative-Sustainable Development Goal 6 agencies and United Nations country teams.

H. Programme area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

7.1 Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements

88. The secretariat was strongly engaged in the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, including in its preparatory process, to raise political attention regarding the importance of transboundary water cooperation and the Convention. The secretariat co-led the drafting of the interactive dialogue 4 concept paper on “Water for Cooperation”, co-organized several side events with high-level attendance, and spoke at many Conference events.

89. The United Nations 2023 Water Conference increased the visibility of transboundary water cooperation, with over 70 countries referring thereto in plenary statements and highlighting the Convention’s importance (nearly 20 references). Nigeria and Iraq became Parties to the Convention by submitting their instruments of accession during the Conference.

¹⁶ See www.unwater.org/publications/sdg-6-synthesis-report-2023.

An ambitious commitment “Accelerating transboundary water cooperation through increased accession to and strengthened implementation of the Water Convention” was submitted to the Water Action Agenda by the secretariat, in cooperation with lead Parties and partners. Additionally, several other countries and organizations submitted commitments to the Water Action Agenda on the Convention.

90. The secretariat also contributed to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, where Sustainable Development Goal 6 was under review, including by organizing a regional preparatory session on 29 March as part of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.

91. The secretariat continued to play an active role in the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition, launched ahead of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, through meetings and provision of input to its activities.

92. The secretariat continued to co-lead the UN-Water Expert Groups on Water and Climate Change and on Transboundary Waters, contributing to UN-Water inter-agency cooperation efforts. Additionally, with the topic of World Water Day 2024 being “Leveraging water for peace” ECE was asked to co-lead the preparatory task force, with UNESCO, under UN-Water. Moreover, the secretariat organized several sessions at World Water Week (Stockholm, 21 August 2023), including a hybrid session on “Promoting Innovation in Transboundary Cooperation through Water Convention Tools” with Finland, Hungary, Switzerland, IWAC, GIZ and GWP, and contributed to the preparatory process for the Tenth World Water Forum.

93. In line with decision IX/5 on partnerships for the global implementation of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2), cooperation continued with numerous global and regional partners, such as regional economic communities and commissions and international financial institutions. There was a particular focus on reinforcing cooperation with the latter, namely GEF and World Bank. A stronger partnership was developed with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) through its participation in the eighteenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the ECE contribution to the IPU Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting “Water security and insecurity: Rebuilding peaceful coexistence with science” (Quy Nhon, Viet Nam, 11–13 September 2023). Cooperation with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams proved to be important in assisting countries in their accession processes and accompanying new Parties in the Convention’s implementation.

7.2 Activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

94. Preparations began for the International workshop on increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailing facilities (Bratislava (hybrid), 23–24 April 2024). The secretariat supported the development of a concept note for a pilot project focused on enhancing capacity in emergency preparedness and prevention of accidental pollution by tailings storage facilities within the next Dniester GEF project.

7.3 Communication and knowledge management

95. In 2023, the secretariat disseminated information on Convention activities, particularly through the Water Convention/Protocol on Water and Health newsletter and the publication of numerous news releases and articles on the ECE website. All publications developed under the Convention in 2023 were promoted and disseminated through relevant events.

96. Regular updates on Convention activities were shared on social media, Twitter (@UNECE_Water), Facebook (@UNECEWater) and LinkedIn,¹⁷ raising interest from an increasing number of followers.

¹⁷ Available at www.linkedin.com/company/water-convention-protocol-on-water-health.