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Water Convention activities and areas for cooperation

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Important outcomes of Convention's MOP6 in November 2012



- Establishment of the Implementation Committee and election of members
- Decisions on cooperation with GEF and UNESCO adopted
- Model provisions on transboundary groundwaters adopted
- Vision for the future of the Convention adopted
- Decision on opening the Convention adopted
- High-level segment on the Convention's 20th anniversary
- First «global» MOP with participants of 18 non-ECE countries

Activities under the programme of work for 2013-2015



- 1: Support to implementation and accession
- 2: EU Water Initiative and NPDs
- 3: Quantifying the benefits of transboundary cooperation
- 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins
- 5: Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus
- 6: Opening of the Convention
- 7: Promotion of the Convention and establishment of strategic partnerships

Progress in implementing work programme to date



- Discussion on introduction of reporting mechanism started
- Thematic assessment on water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus started: piloting of methodology currently ongoing in Alazani River Basin
- Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation created
- Global workshop on joint bodies in September 2013
- Convention highly involved in International Year of Water Cooperation and in SDG discussions
- Progress in projects on the ground, e.g. Kura, Afghanistan-Tajikistan, Drin etc.



Opening Convention to all United Nations Member States

- Amendment opening Convention entered into force in February 2013, so all United Nations Member States can likely join Convention as of early 2014
- Meeting of Parties approved all future requests for accession
- Several non-UNECE countries (Tunisia, Iraq, Costa Rica etc.) announced their intention to accede to the Convention
- Opening a priority and beneficial for UNECE and non-UNECE countries
 - Promote exchange/share experience
 - Raise awareness and build capacity
 - Work together

Activities for 2013-2015 related to opening



- Participation of non-UNECE countries in regular activities (more than 40 so far)
- Build capacity on Convention and promote exchange of experience, e.g. through regional workshops such as Latin American workshop
- Support accession process in interested non-UNECE countries
- Promotion of the Convention in global events and processes
- Organization of two workshops on joint bodies
- Basins from outside UNECE region are involved in nexus assessment and climate change activities
- Synergies with 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses
- Cooperation with other partners to support implementation of Convention(s): GEF, UNESCO, IUCN, INBO etc.

Areas for cooperation between the Convention and the Protocol



- EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues
 - *see separate presentation*
- Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins
 - consideration of health aspects in pilot projects and in global platform
- Thematic Assessment of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus
- Joint promotion of the instruments, e.g. in SDG discussions, World Water Forum etc.