

Outcomes of the Workshop  
**“The Water Convention: key aspects and  
opportunities for the Arab countries”**  
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UNECE



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE**

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

# Achievements

- Request of the Arab Ministerial Water Council (June 2013)
- Organized under the patronage of the Minister of Agriculture of Tunisia, jointly by UNECE, the LAS Center of Water Studies and Arab Water Security and GWP-Med, in collaboration with ESCWA
- Participants from 12 Arab countries + international experts
  - Water Convention: possible source of inspiration for progress in management of shared surface waters and groundwaters in the Arab region and neighbouring States
  - Accession to the Water Convention could reinforce cooperation with riparian countries and lead to the equitable utilization of shared waters



# Challenges and lessons learnt

## Lessons learnt

- Interest to work at the regional level, as common issues and priorities related to transboundary water management
- Importance to provide a forum for open discussions, questions and answers to clarify the scope of the Water Convention and related obligations, but also how it works in practice

## Challenges

- Necessity to include more work on equitable water allocation and on groundwater management in the future work under the Water Convention to better answer to the regional priorities
- Necessity to translate major documents into Arabic (text of the Convention, Guide to implementing the Convention)

# Planned activities until 2015 and possibly beyond

- Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia, as well as Palestine: interest in further studying the Water Convention and its applicability in their particular settings
- Iraq and Tunisia: reconfirmed willingness to join the Water Convention
- Clarification of the obligations under the Convention / benefits from becoming a Party
- Possible subregional workshop for Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya), possibly also basin-level meetings and a second regional-level event
- Request to take into account priority areas for Arab countries in the work under the Convention