

Strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at the global level

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11th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
Geneva, 18-19 October 2016

Special session on the Water Convention's 20th anniversary
and its global opening

WATER CONVENTION



Mandate and rationale

- * Decision VII/3 on Establishing a framework for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see document ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2):
 - * “[s]eeking to create a global intergovernmental framework for transboundary water cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations, to foster advancement in this area at the policy, legal and technical levels, and to promote coherence and coordination of interventions by different actors
 - * role of the Convention to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement
 - * role of current and prospective Parties, the secretariat, bilateral and multilateral donors, international organizations, financing institutions, non-governmental organizations, academia and other stakeholders



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Overall structure

Mission and vision

1. Background and objectives
2. The Water Convention: its importance and benefits
3. Global water issues and challenges for transboundary cooperation and the implementation of the Convention
4. Opportunities from the global opening of the Water Convention
- 5. Strategic objectives**



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Mission

Transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries to promote sustainable development, peace and security.



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UNECE

Vision for the next 10 years

- * UN Member States accede to the Water Convention and manage their transboundary waters in accordance with its principles and provisions
- * The Water Convention platform offers a global intergovernmental framework under the auspices of the United Nations to foster advancement on transboundary water cooperation at the policy, legal and technical levels, supporting the sharing of experience and mutual learning
- * International organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, financing institutions, academia and the civil society build win-win partnerships with the Convention
- * Political support for transboundary cooperation at the global level is broadened and financial and human resources are sufficient to support Parties and non-Parties in their effort towards cooperative and integrative transboundary water management.

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3. Global water issues and challenges

- * Growing pressures on water resources
- * Competition between water-using sectors and poor integration and coherence of sectoral policies
- * Climate change impacts
- * Cooperation in many basins is not adequate to tackle problems
- * Low political will towards sustainability and cooperation
- * Need for long term interventions
- * No tracking of progress
- * Lacking financial and human resources
- * Lack of coordination between actors
- * Still low awareness and capacity on the Water Convention
- * Need to promote the two global Conventions together
- * Increasing demands for assistance



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4. Opportunities from the global opening of the Water Convention

Opportunities for Parties and prospective Parties

- * Strengthened water governance at both national and transboundary levels.
- * Benefits from the existing experience under the Convention, and can strengthen capacity to address transboundary water challenges
- * Support countries efforts towards the implementation of SDGs, in particular target 6.5
- * Countries can get support and direct assistance from other countries, international organizations and development partners: easier access to financial resources, by bringing together bilateral and multilateral donors
- * Reduced uncertainty in relations between riparian States and helps prevent potential tensions, disagreements and differences
- * Strengthened political attention and commitment to transboundary water cooperation
- * Opportunity to further develop the Convention's regime by negotiating new instruments (both legally and non-legally binding) to better respond to global transboundary water issues.



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4. Opportunities from the global opening of the Water Convention

Opportunities for international organizations, international financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral development partners, the civil society and NGOs

- * Global platform for the coordination of activities and interventions, promoting synergies, joining forces, avoiding duplications of initiatives and ensuring continuity of efforts
- * Global platform for the exchange of knowledge: tap from existing experience and access available tools, and upscale the impacts of efforts
- * Accountability framework where countries and partners can demonstrate progress
- * Political forum where issues can be raised, political attention can be catalysed and actors can engage in dialogue with other stakeholders
- * Easier access to financial resources also to international organizations and other actors, by bringing together bilateral and multilateral donors
- * A higher sustainability of cooperation projects and reduce investments risks thanks
- * Strengthened countries capacity and improve bankability of projects and the efficiency in their implementation
- * Progressive provisions for public information and promotes public participation, strengthening civil society rights in this respect
- * Open and participatory forum for civil society engagement, to raise political attention to global and specific issues.



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5. Strategic objectives

Goal 1: Increased awareness and political support to the Convention

Goal 2: Increased capacity to implement the Convention

Goal 3: Increased accession to the Convention

Goal 4: Enhanced partnerships and better synergies with other actors

1. Watercourses Convention
2. GEF
3. Regional commissions, regional organizations
4. International organizations such as UNESCO, IUCN, UNEP and others
5. International Financing Institutions, such as the World Bank and regional development banks
6. Private sector
7. NGOs

Goal 5: Supporting SDGs implementation, in particular target 6.5, through the Convention

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Concrete actions for each objective

What: What should be done to achieve the objective?

Who: What is the role of the different actors (Parties, non- Parties secretariat, partners)?

Means: What tools are available or need to be developed?

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