



Swiss Confederation



National Workshop

National workshop related to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: Nigeria's accession process

27, 28, 29 July 2022

Draft

I. Context

Nigeria shares at least one transboundary water body with each of its neighbouring states. Current water challenges in Nigeria are due to the rapidly increasing demand as a result of population growth, increased urbanization, increase in irrigation farming and industrialization. These challenges have been exacerbated by persistent drought and have resulted in greater dependence on groundwater resources. Effective transboundary cooperation can help address these challenges. In this regard, Nigeria has signed several transboundary agreements over its shared water resources. Notably, Nigeria is party to the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Niger Basin Authority.

The secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) has a long-standing cooperation with these two river basin commissions. Adopted on 17 March 1992 in Helsinki, Finland, the Water Convention aims to strengthen cooperation in the field of transboundary waters and to promote protection and sustainable use of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. Initially limited to the Pan-European region, the 1992 Water Convention has been opened up for accession by all United Nations Member States, since 1 March 2016. Five African countries have already acceded to it and many others are in various stages of the process of accession.

The 1992 Water Convention, the Secretariat of which is hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-

Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention) provide unique global legal frameworks and essential intergovernmental platforms to support cooperative development and prevent conflicts related to shared waters. The United Nations Secretary-General encourages countries to accede to and implement both conventions.

With a view to possible accession of Nigeria to the Water Convention, since October 2021, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources has held several preparatory meetings at the regional level to sensitize the relevant stakeholders in Nigeria on the Water Convention. A national workshop is now being convened to raise broader awareness of the Convention and commit to a road map for accession and eventual implementation. The national aims to contribute to the comprehensive understanding by the Nigerian competent authorities of the Water Convention, its provisions and obligations, its work on the ground as well as the benefits and possible challenges for Nigeria to accede to it, in order to facilitate the preparations for accession and eventual implementation.

II. Purpose

The general objective of the workshop is to inform stakeholders about the Water Convention, to share about the processes initiated by Government of Nigeria to become party to the Water Convention and to discuss the next steps in the accession process.

Specifically, the workshop will allow to:

- Inform stakeholders about the Water Convention;
- Identify the benefits, possible advantages and strategic objectives of a possible accession to the Convention for Nigeria;
- Inform about the accession process, benefits and implementation by new African Parties;
- Discuss the practical implementation of the Water Convention to meet the challenges of water resource management in Nigeria, based on the experience of existing Parties;
- Present the initiatives started by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources as part of Nigeria's accession process to the Water Convention;
- Arrange a Question and Answer session on frequently asked questions from stakeholders about the Water Convention;
- Discuss the next steps and road map in the accession process and the contribution of this process to Nigeria's transboundary and national water management.

AGENDA

Day 1 – 27th July, 2022, Transcorp Hilton

Arrival/Registration (1.30pm-2.00pm)
SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE CONVENTIONS
<p>Opening session (2.00 pm – 2.45 pm)</p> <p>Welcome Address: <i>Mrs. Didi Walson-Jack, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources [10 min]</i></p> <p>Goodwill messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention (5 mins) • Mr. Harry Liiv, Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention (5 mins) • Ms. Samuela Isopi, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African State (5 mins) • Mr. Matthias Schmale, UN Resident Coordinator in Nigeria (5 mins) <p>Opening Address by <i>Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FAEng., Honourable Minister of Water Resources (10 mins)</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FAEng., Honourable Minister of Water Resources</i> <i>Facilitator: Master of Ceremony</i></p>
Group Photo and coffee break (2.45pm – 3.15pm)
<p>Overview of the 1992 Water Convention and 1997 Watercourses Convention (3.15pm-4.30 pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why acceding to the Water Convention? Issues at stake and benefits</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Harry Liiv, Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention • <i>The institutional framework supporting the 1992 Water Convention, its Programme of Work and implementation on the ground (15 mins)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary to the Water Convention • <i>Why 2 UN global Water Conventions? Key provisions, similarities, differences & complementarities of both global legal frameworks for consideration by Nigeria (15 mins)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Komlan Sangbana, Legal Officer, Water Convention Secretariat <p><i>Questions from the floor and discussion (30 Mins)</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FAEng., Honourable Minister of Water Resources</i> <i>Facilitator: Master of Ceremony</i></p>
SESSION 2: WRAP UP
<p>Close of Day 1 (4.30-4.45 pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conclusions from Day 1 and Outline of Agenda for Day 2 (5mins)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mrs. Alice O. Ojowu, Director (WRP&TSS)
Light reception (4.45 – 5.30 pm)

Day 2 – 28th July 2022, Fraser Suites Abuja

Arrival/Registration (8.30am-9.00am)
SESSION 3: NIGERIA'S WATER CONTEXT: NATIONAL & TRANSBOUNDARY
<p>Nigeria's national and regional transboundary water management contexts and example of the Water Convention's role and relevance for Nigeria's transboundary agreements (9.00 am-10:15 am)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes of the Nigeria's accession to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (15 mins) [Nigeria Focal Persons] National and regional water policies in Nigeria (15 mins) [Nigeria Focal Persons] Nigeria's accession to the water convention: opportunities and prospects for the implementation at the national and regional level (15 mins) [Dr. Abba Gana] <p>Questions from the floor and discussion (30 Mins)</p> <p>Chair: Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FAEng., Honourable Minister of Water Resources Facilitator: Master of Ceremony</p>

Tea/Coffee break (10.15 – 10.45am)
SESSION 4: CONVENTION PERSPECTIVES (COUNTRY & REGIONAL) & PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>The UN global water conventions: Presentations on value add and lessons learned (10.45-11.30am)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The experience of other countries: context of accession to both UN global water conventions, the value add for Chad and Ghana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Mahamat Alifa Moussa, Secretary-General, Ministry of Urban & Rural Hydraulics, Republic of Chad Dr. Bernadette A. Adjei, Director, Legal and Monitoring Department, Water Resources Commission, Ghana Relationship between the Water Convention and Transboundary Basin Governance Arrangements: The Lake Chad Basin Framework Agreement (15 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Hycinth Banseka, Technical Director, Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) <p>Chair: Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FAEng., Honourable Minister of Water Resources Facilitator: Master of Ceremony</p>
<p>The UN global water conventions: Panel discussion on perspectives and practical application in Q&A format (11.30 – 12.30pm)</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Abderahim Bireme Hamid, Executive Secretary, Niger Basin Authority (NBA) Amb. Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) Mr. Janvier Bazoum, Head, Regional Water Observatory, ECOWAS Water Resources Management Centre Mr. Mahamat Alifa Moussa, Secretary-General, Ministry of Urban & Rural Hydraulics, Republic of Chad Dr. Bernadette A. Adjei, Director, Legal and Monitoring Department, Water Resources Commission, Ghana

Moderator: Dr. Rashid Mbaziira, Executive Secretary, AMCOW
Lunch (12.30-2pm)
SESSION 5: BENEFITS & CHALLENGES FOR NIGERIA IN ACCEDING TO THE WATER CONVENTION
<p>Key issues to address and milestones to cover in Nigeria's accession process (2.00-3.00 pm)</p> <p>Group Work (60 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break out groups to build on key points highlighted in Session 3 and discuss in more detail the benefits and challenges for Nigeria in joining the Water Convention, the main points that must be incorporated into the accession and implementation of the Convention for Nigeria <p><i>Facilitator: [identify person, Regional Water Specialist], with the support of Dr. Chukwuebuka Edum, International Law Expert]</i></p> <p>Developing Nigeria's integrated road map to accession (3.00-03:45 pm)</p> <p>Plenary to discuss the different milestones and develop integrated road map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each group briefly presents back from Session 4 with their key points for the road map with main milestones and laws/events/procedures to keep in mind for planning (2 mins each) Questions from the floor after each group presents (5 mins each) <p>Chair: Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, Honourable Minister for Water Resources, Federal Ministry of Water or Permanent Secretary, Nigeria</p> <p>Tea/Coffee break (3.45 – 4.15pm)</p> <p>Session 6: Key challenges in transboundary cooperation: pollution and financing (4:15-5.15 pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving water quality and prevention of pollution in transboundary basins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mr. Harry Liiv, Special envoy for transboundary waters, Estonia</i> Financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ms. Veronica Girardi, Water Convention secretariat</i> <p>Questions from the floor and discussion (30 Mins)</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Mr. Emmanuel Awe, Director for Water Quality Control and Sanitation</i></p>
SESSION 7: WRAP UP
<p>Close of Day 1 (5.15-5.30 pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Conclusions from Day 2 and Outline of Agenda for Day 3 (5mins)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mrs. Alice O. Ojowu, Director (WRP&TSS)</i>
Dinner reception (6-8pm)

Day 3 – 29th July, 2022

Arrival/Registration (8:30am-9:00am)
Session 8: <i>Panel discussion on financing transboundary water cooperation: (09:00-10.15 am)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>World Bank: Mr. Emmanuel Chinedu Umolu, Water Resources Specialist, The World Bank</i>• <i>African Development Bank: Mr. Ijeoma Emenanjo, Chief, Water Resources Management, African Development Bank</i>• <i>Financing perspective of a river basin organization: Mr. Hycinth Banseka, Technical Director, Lake Chad Basin Commission</i> <p><i>Facilitator: Dr. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention</i></p>
SESSION 9: AGREEING ON THE ROAD MAP TO ACCESSION and IMPLEMENTATION, NEXT STEPS & RESPONSIBILITIES
Discussion on road map and roles and responsibilities plus immediate next steps to take (10.15 -11:15pm) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Basic common steps in the accession process summarized from previous experiences, as outlined in the Convention FAQs publication and the experience of Ghana (10mins)</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Ms. Bernadette Adjei, Bureau Member of the Water Convention</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Legal requirements for Nigeria in the road map for accession (10mins)</i>○ <i>Representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice, Nigeria</i>• <i>Links with global water processes such as the COP27 and the UN Water Conference 2023 (10 mins)</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Ms. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary to the Water Convention</i> <p>Questions from the floor and discussion (30 Mins)</p> <p><i>Chair: Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FAEng/</i> <i>Facilitator: Mr. Awe Emmanuel, Director for Water Quality Control and Sanitation</i></p>
Tea/Coffee break (11.15 – 11.45am)
<p>Sharing of the integrated Accession Roadmap and discussing the steps, milestones and responsibilities (15 Mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, Honourable Minister for Water Resources, Federal Ministry of Water or Permanent Secretary, Nigeria</i>• <i>Water Convention Secretariat</i> <p>Questions from the floor and discussion (30 Mins)</p> <p><i>Chair: Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FAEng</i> <i>Facilitator: Mr. Awe Emmanuel, Director for Water Quality Control and Sanitation</i></p>

Remarks and Closing (11:45pm-12.30pm)

- Ms. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention (5 mins)
- Mr. Harry Liiv, Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention (5 mins)
- Mrs. Didi Walson-Jack, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources (5 mins)

End of Day 3 / Workshop (12.30pm)**Lunch (1-2pm)**