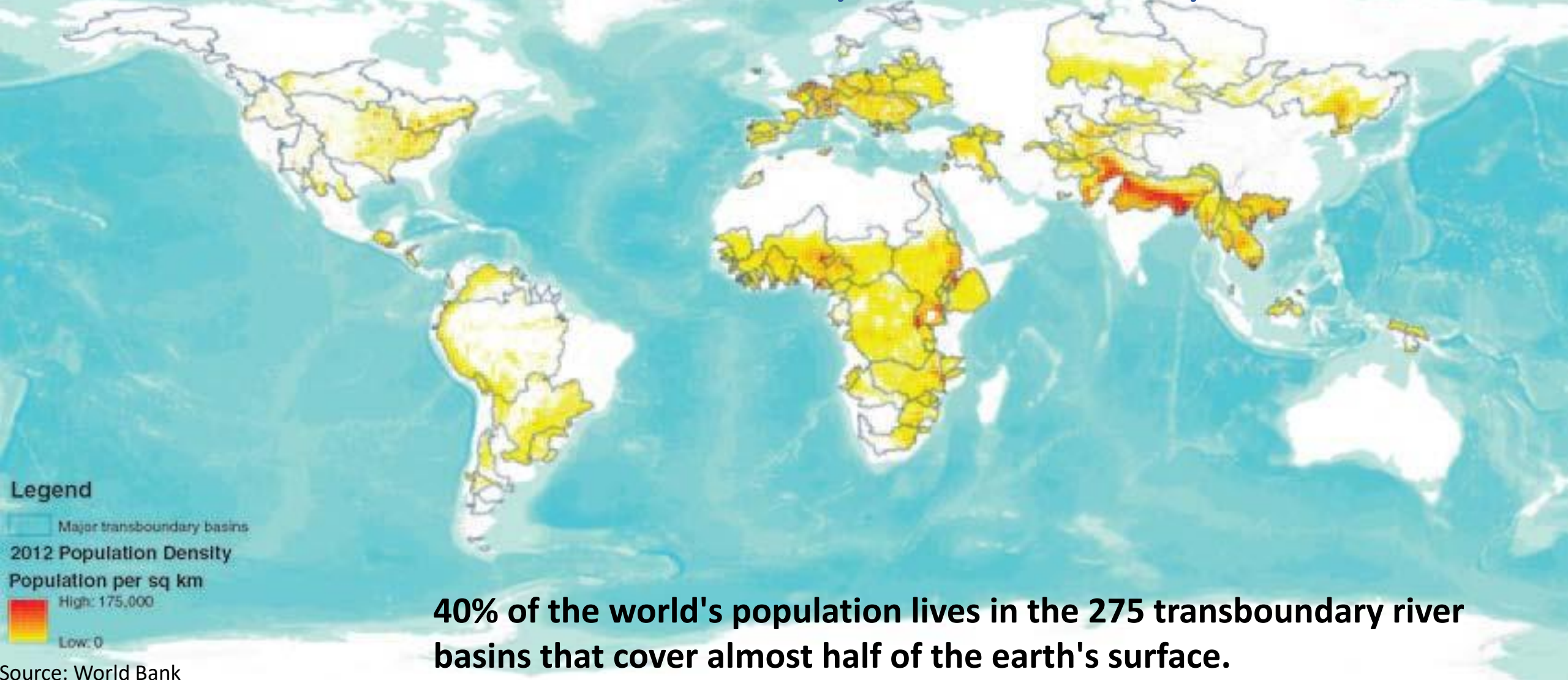


The institutional framework supporting the 1992 Water Convention, its Programme of Work and implementation on the ground

Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention



Freshwater resources are essentially transboundary in nature



40% of the world's population lives in the 275 transboundary river basins that cover almost half of the earth's surface.

Source: World Bank



Transboundary rivers represent 60% of the world's freshwater flows.

Globally, transboundary water cooperation is lagging behind (Results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2)

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

UNESCO and UNECE custodian agencies

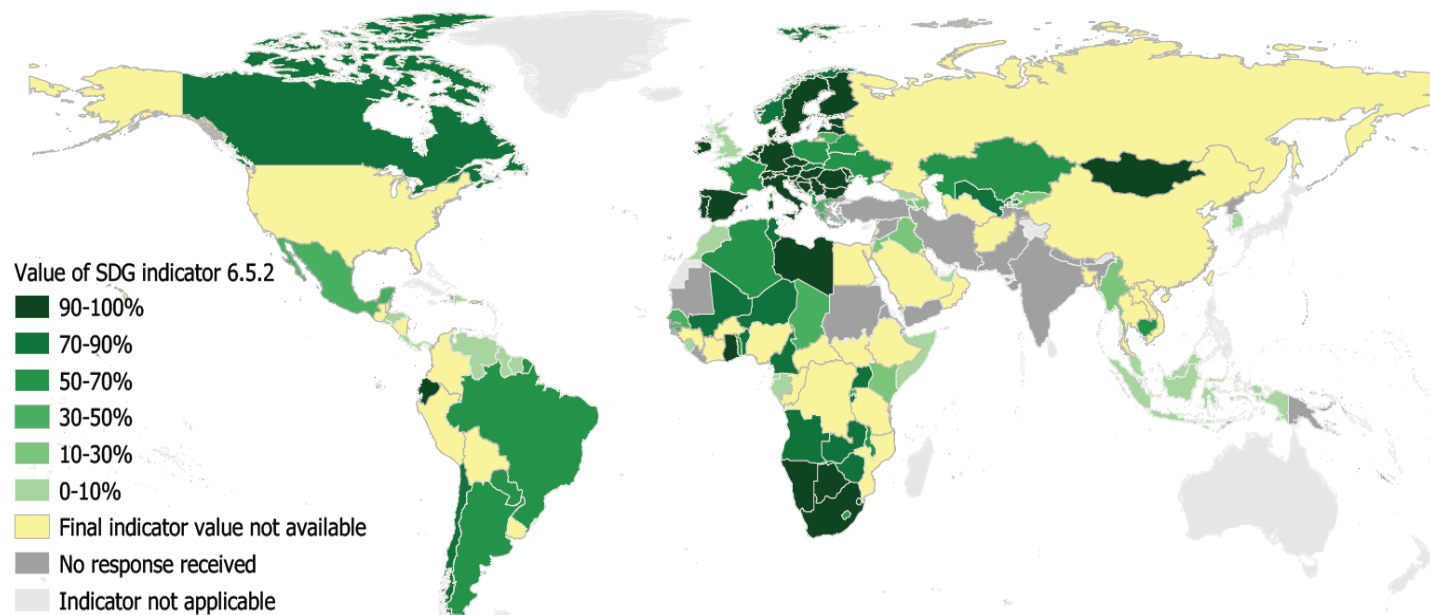
High level of engagement

- In 2020: **129** out of 153 countries sharing tb waters submitted reports

Not on track

- Only **24 countries** report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**
- At least **128 basins reported lack agreements**
- Insufficient knowledge on **groundwater** systems

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received during the 2nd exercise



Progress must be accelerated to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030

Key areas to accelerate progress on transboundary water cooperation

Address Data Gaps



There has been **strong country engagement** in the monitoring exercise, but data remains a challenge, particularly for transboundary aquifers and countries with no **SDG indicator value**



Upscale capacity development

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements

Strengthen legal frameworks



The water conventions and the draft articles on transboundary aquifers offer a solid basis upon which to **revise or negotiate** new arrangements

Leveraging and mobilizing expertise

There is a need to **upscale and coordinate** the activities of international organizations to **provide targeted support** to countries



Main **challenges** in cooperating on transboundary waters – Tanzania report **submitted in 2020**

	Tanzania
Differences between national administrative and legal frameworks	yes
Lack of relevant data and information	yes
Difficulties in data and information exchange	yes
Sectoral fragmentation at the national level	no
Language barrier	yes
Resource constraints	yes
Environmental pressures	yes
Sovereignty concerns	yes

Building political will

addressing **structural barriers** and finding **innovative financing mechanisms** is needed to address current financing shortfalls



SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

“The global opening of the Water Convention, the accession of the first countries from outside the UNECE region and the momentum in support of the Convention are promising developments. Along with the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, the world has the ability to strengthen the rule of law in transboundary cooperation worldwide. **I call on Member States to join both Conventions and to strive for their full implementation.**”



The Water Convention



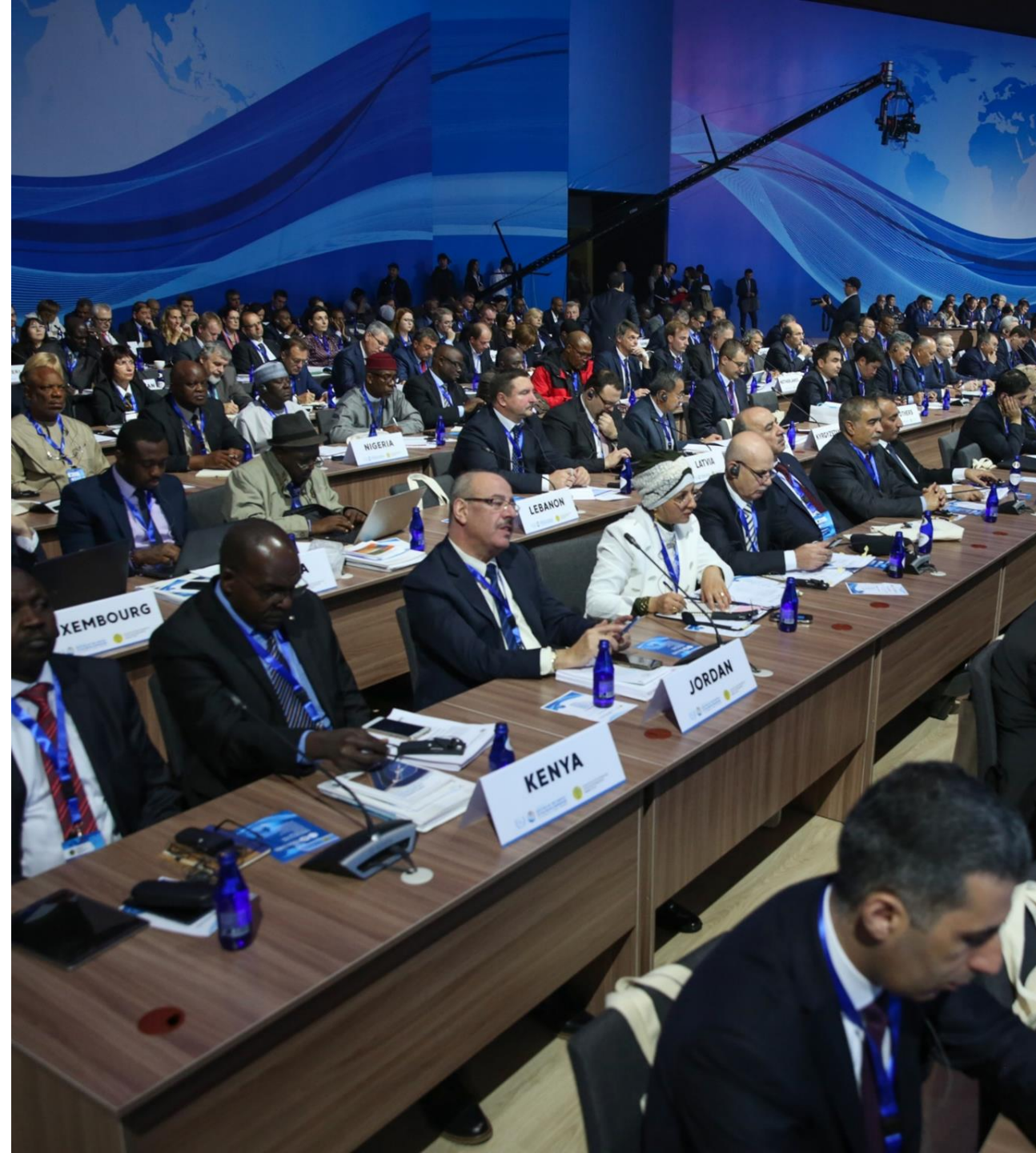
A legal and institutional framework for **transboundary water cooperation** contributing to **sustainable development**, international **peace and security**.



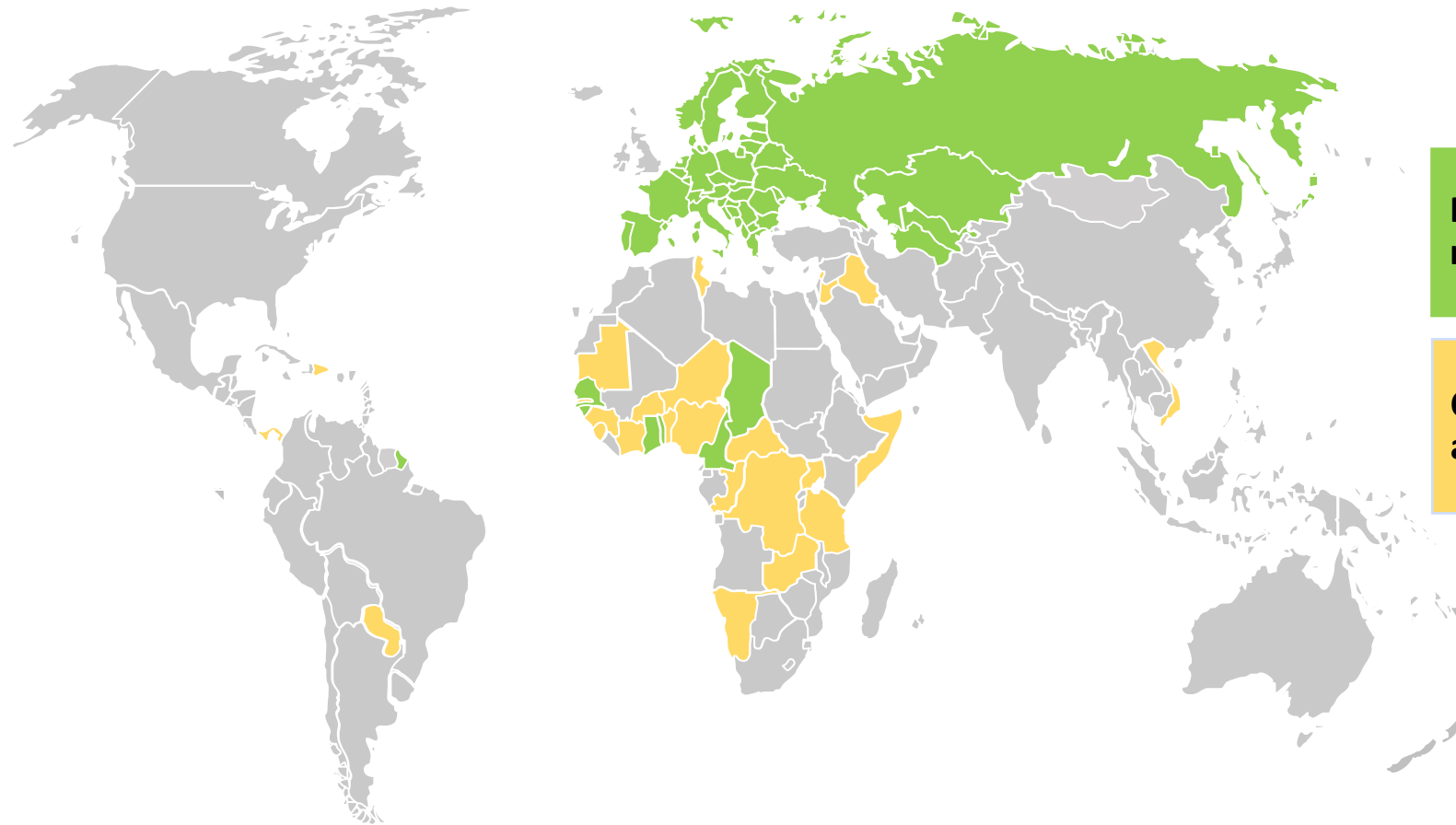
A **unique platform** to discuss progress of **transboundary water cooperation** worldwide under the umbrella of the **United Nations**



Opened to all interested countries, with **more than 130 countries** exchanging experiences and knowledge to prompt progress in cooperation



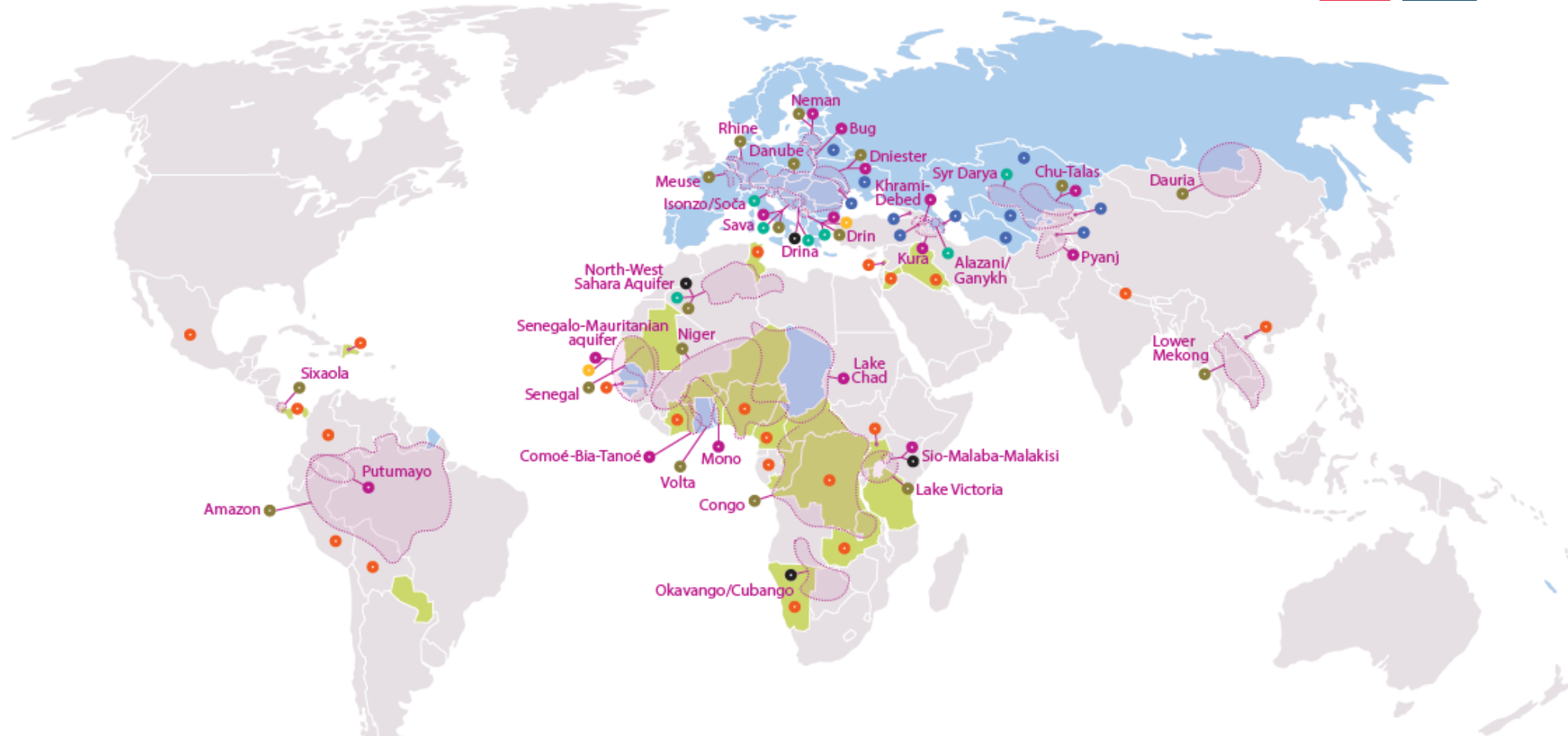
Global interest in the 1992 Water Convention




**Parties to the Convention (47):
newest Party –Cameroon (2022)**




**Countries in the process of
accession (>20)**

Activities under the Water Convention 2015-2022









 Transboundary basins or aquifers with activities under the Convention

Areas of work

-  Support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies
-  Identify, assess and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
-  Assess and promote the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

Country Status

-  Adapt to climate change in transboundary basins
-  Increase knowledge of and accession to the Water Convention
-  Monitor, assess and share information in transboundary basins
-  National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative
-  Parties to the Water Convention
-  Countries in the process of accession

The Water Convention institutional mechanism



Meeting of the Parties

Implementation
Committee



Bureau

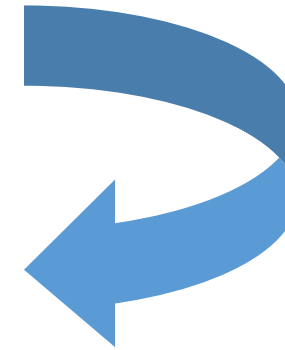


Working Group on IWRM
Working Group on M&A



Water Convention Secretariat

UNECE



- Task Force on Water and Climate
- Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- Expert Groups
- JEG on Water and Industrial Accidents



WATER
CONVENTION

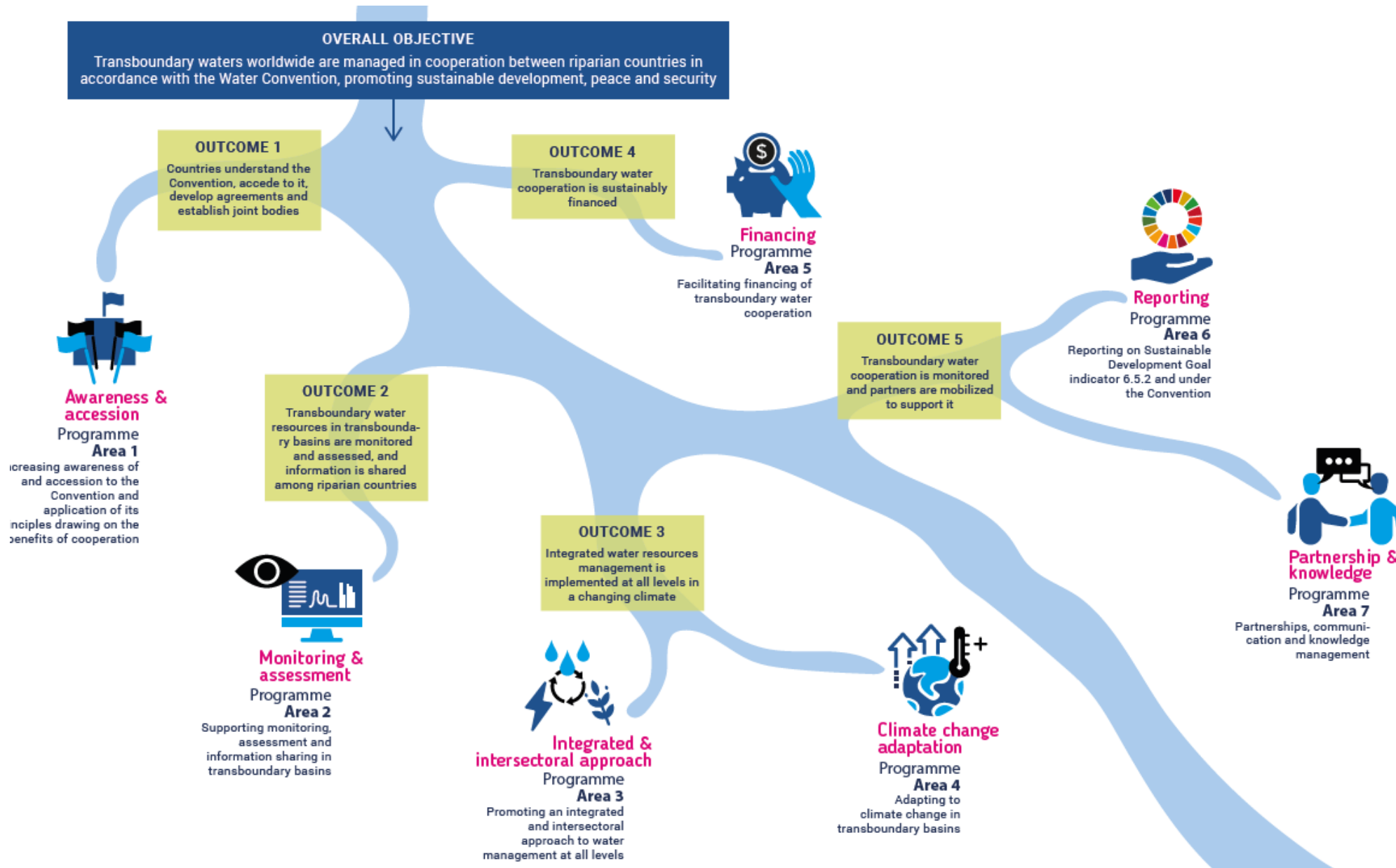
MOP9 outcomes

29 Sept-1 Oct. 2021

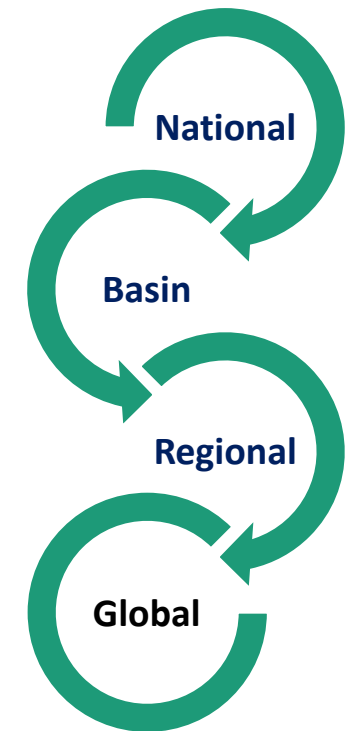
- More than **800** participants, over 110 countries
- Strong interest to **join** the Convention:
 - **Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Togo** were welcomed as new Parties.
 - Several countries demonstrated significant progress in accession.
 - Deputy Minister of Water of Tanzania expressed interest in PoW
- **Water and Peace**: 30+ Ministers participated in the high-level segment
- The Water Convention's **Programme of Work for 2022-2024** was adopted



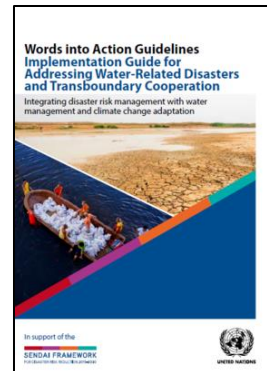
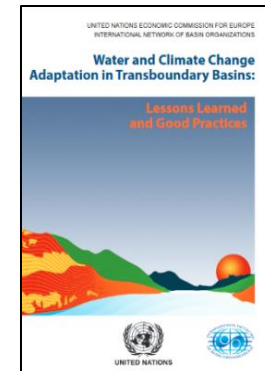
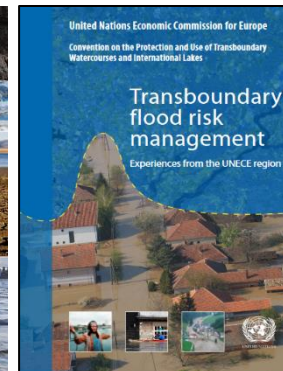
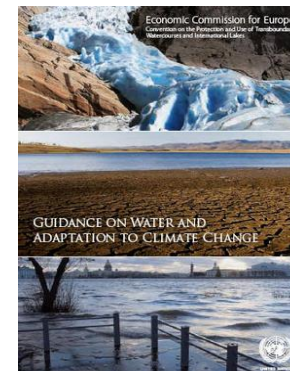
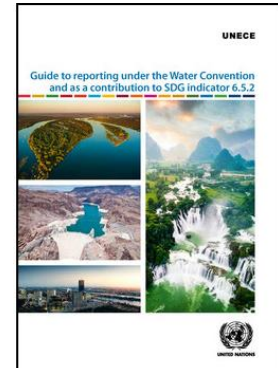
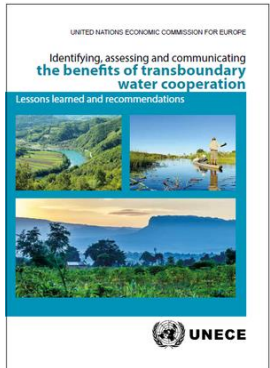
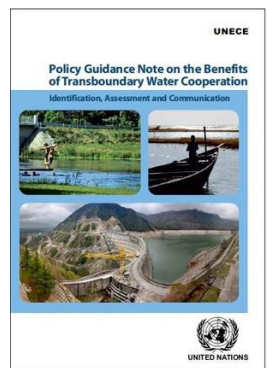
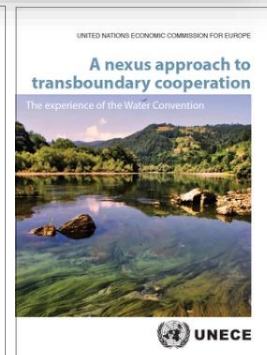
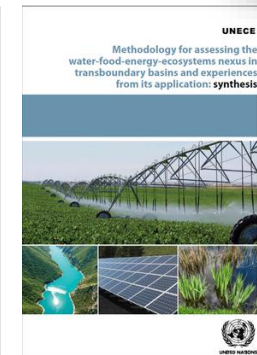
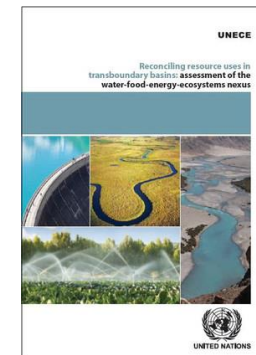
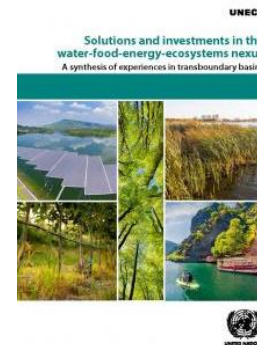
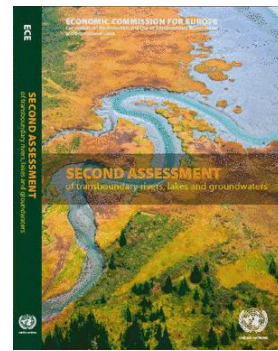
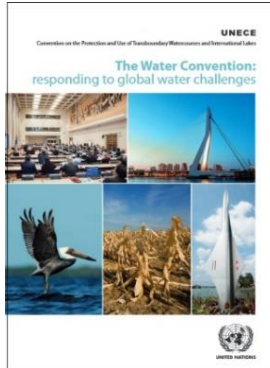
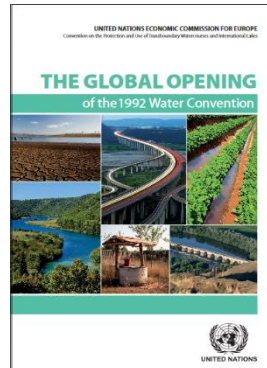
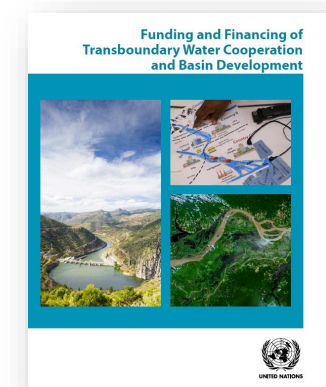
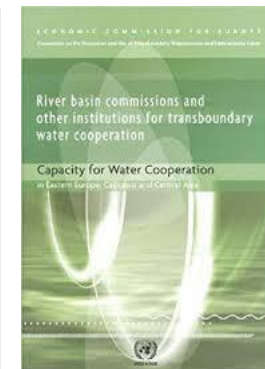
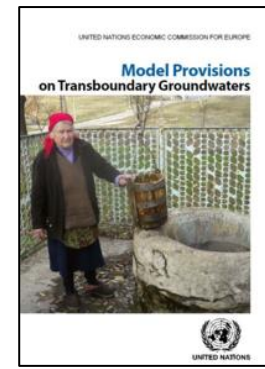
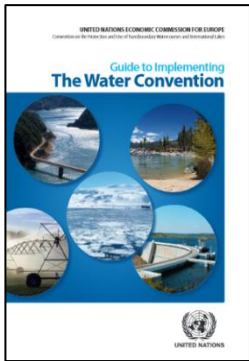
Programme of work for 2022-2024



Delivering at different levels:



Numerous tools and guidance documents have been developed under the Water Convention



Benefits of Accession to the Water Convention



Benefit 1: Convention supports improved management of shared waters

- 19 out of 24 countries meeting the SDG target 6.5.2 so far are Parties
- Assistance provided on request and depending on the availability of resources to support cooperation processes in basins and regions (Dniester, Chu-Talas, Drin, Dam Safetyin Central Asia, Sio-Malaba-Malakisi, ECCAS Regional Convention, ECOWAS Directive)





Benefit 2: Convention enables support from community of Parties - Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB) / Gambia Basin

- **SMAB**

- ✓ Request by Senegal as new Party to Water Convention and following 2017 SDG indicator 6.5.2 exercise
- ✓ Regional Working Group established from countries (Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal) & RBOs - OMVS, OMVG. Country consultation meetings and regional meetings.
- ✓ Produced a project document and an action plan for establishing a sustainable mechanism for concerted management of SMAB (USD 9 Millions / Funds mobilized from World Bank, Italian Cooperation, GEF, UNECE)
- ✓ 2021, at MOP9: Ministerial Declaration on the SMAB: commitment to establishing a legal and institutional framework

- **Gambia River**

- ✓ Financing for transboundary cooperation raised: Blue Peace financing: Master Plan for the Gambia basin, with UNCDF and Switzerland

Benefit 3: Convention enables advice and sharing of experiences: Example on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context



2017: Organization of global workshop on water allocation

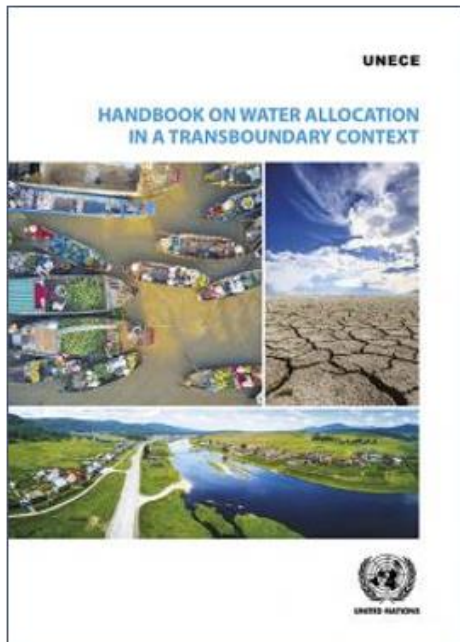
2019-2021: Development of a Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context adopted at MOP9:

- Explains the phases, benefits and challenges of water allocation, supports governments in establishing water allocation arrangements.

- Contains 46 case studies highlighting key features of allocation and demonstrating their practical application in different transboundary water contexts around the world.

- Available at: <https://bit.ly/3rM3s4I>

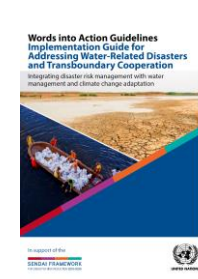
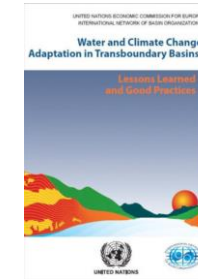
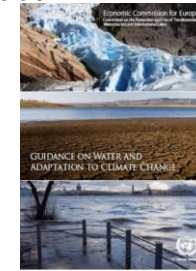
2022-2024: Organization of subregional and capacity-building events



Benefit 4: Convention helps to address new challenges such as climate change

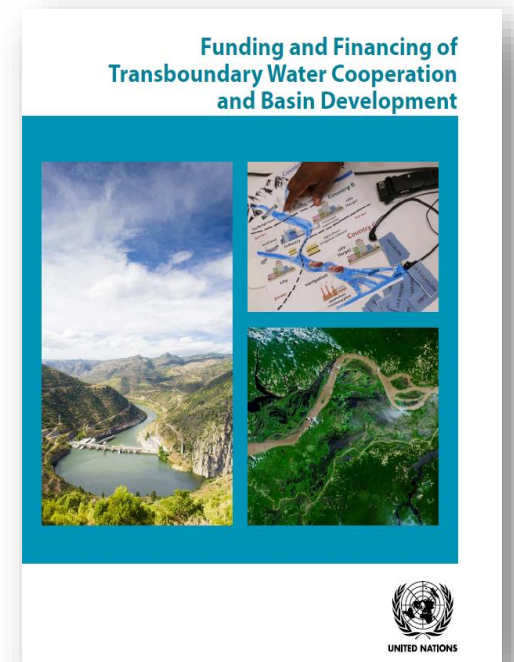
Convention supports countries in **developing transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority adaptation measures** through:

- ✓ Task Force on Water and Climate since 2006
- ✓ Guidance and publications on water and climate
- ✓ Global Network of basins working on climate change adaptation (18 basins) with INBO
- ✓ Promoting water and climate in global processes
- ✓ Regular global workshops
- ✓ Pilot projects, e.g. transboundary adaptation strategies in Dniester, Neman etc.
- ✓ Support to financing climate change adaptation



Benefit 5: Convention facilitates financing of transboundary water cooperation

- ✓ **Raises awareness** on the importance of **enhancing the financial sustainability** of transboundary water management
- ✓ **Facilitates knowledge sharing** and peer-learning on **funding options: next global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation: 4-6 December 2023**
- ✓ **Supports** countries/joint bodies in **securing financing** for transboundary water cooperation from different sources: see publication
- ✓ Promotes the development of **joint investment plans** and **financing strategies** in shared basins



Benefit 6: Convention supports water quality improvement

Parties to the Water Convention:

- Adopt water-quality objectives and criteria for transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers;
- Take measures to ensure conservation and restoration of ecosystems by addressing point and diffuse pollution, improving river connectivity and preventing accidental water pollution.

Activities:

- Joint Expert group on water and industrial accidents prepares guidance documents, carries out field exercises etc.
- Ecosystem restoration in some field projects such as the Dniester

Examples of impacts:

Significant water quality improvements in the Rhine, Danube, lake Geneva, Elbe, lake Peipsi, and many others

Why is the Water Convention relevant for Africa & Tanzania?

- ✓ Sound legal framework coupled with action to support implementation
- ✓ Catalyst for cooperation, balanced approach for upstream and downstream countries
- ✓ Continuously evolves and addresses emerging issues with conflict potential
- ✓ Supports countries in achieving the SDGs
- ✓ More and more African countries accede to the Convention
- ✓ Cooperation with partners such as ECA, AMCOW, NBI, ZAMCOM, LVBC
- ✓ You are invited to use the various guidance documents, participate in pilot projects and take part in upcoming meetings:

12-13 December 2022: *Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus*

14 - 16 December 2022 : *Global Workshop on Source-to-sea approach*

19-21 June 2023: *Working Group on IWRM*

MORE INFORMATION



WEB unece.org/env/water



EMAIL water.convention@un.org, Sonja.Koeppel@un.org;
remy.kinna@un.org



RESOURCES www.unece.org/env/water/



www.unwatercoursesconvention.org/



WATER
CONVENTION



Concrete benefits for Senegal after joining the Convention

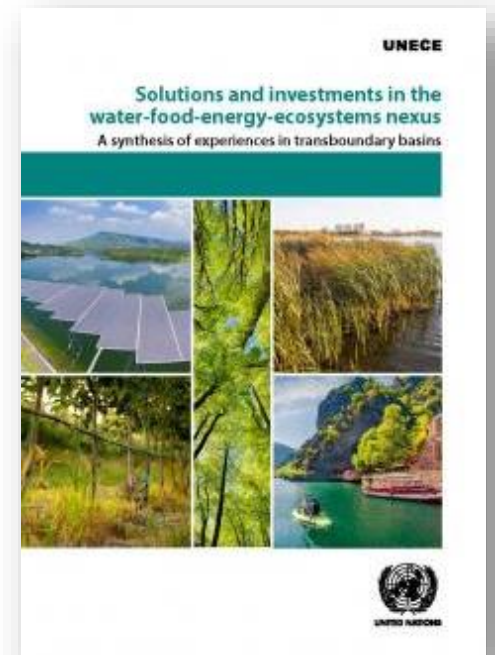
- National governance improved: Ministry of Water- Foreign Affairs
- Financing for transboundary cooperation raised: Blue Peace financing: Master Plan for the Gambia basin, with UNCDF and Switzerland
- Regional working group, ministerial declaration and project developed for the Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer
- International visibility increased: Senegal co-chair of the Convention working group on monitoring and assessment and Bureau member
- Financial and technical support for 9th World Water Forum
- National implementation Plan developed

How the Water Convention supports the reduction of trade-offs and cross-sectoral conflicts?

- ✓ Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- ✓ A series of assessments of basins for intersectoral links, trade-offs and benefits. Includes a review of the resource base, resource uses, governance...

Objective: Foster transboundary cooperation by

- 1) identifying intersectoral synergies;
 - 2) determining policy measures and actions that could alleviate tensions;
 - 3) assisting countries to optimize their use of resources
- ✓ A methodology developed & successfully applied in the **basins of Alazani/Ganykh, Sava, Syr Darya, Isonzo/Soča, North-Western Sahara aquifer system**

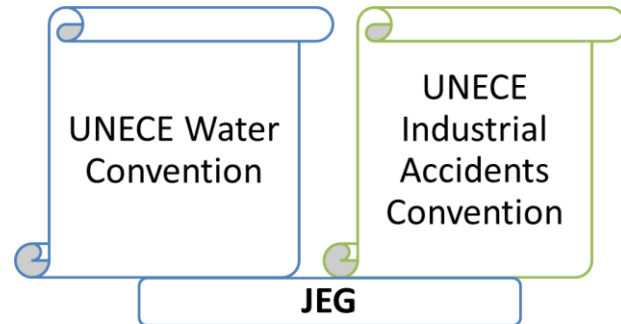


Achievements of the Water Convention



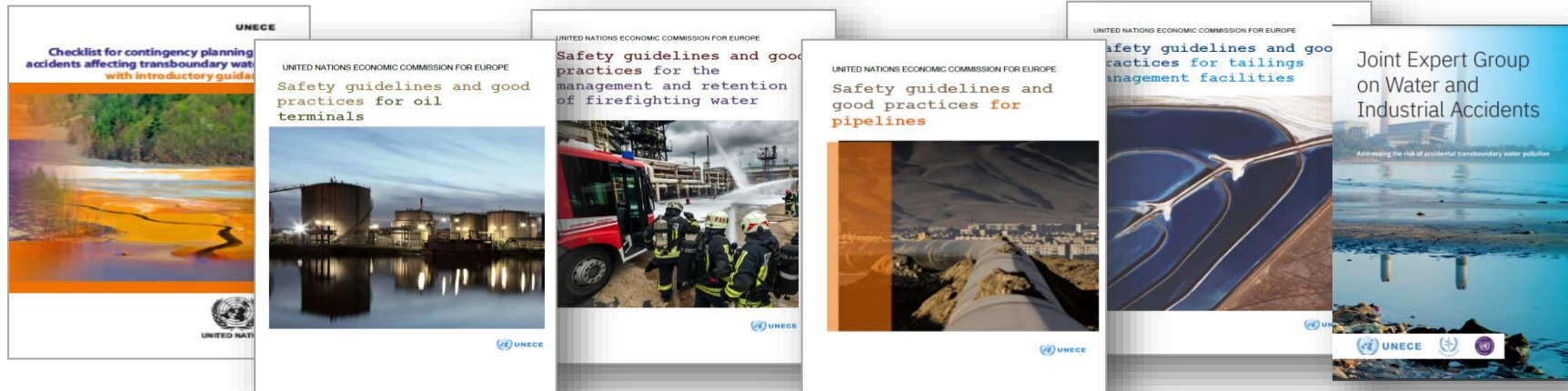
- Promoted regional transboundary cooperation, with almost all basins in the pan-European region covered by agreements, and global since 2016
- Fostered continuous improvement of cooperation from specific water uses to integrated management and sustainable development
- Fostered peace and stability in conflict prone areas
- Promoted both policy dialogue and action on the ground on emerging issues: climate change and water, water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus
- Work at both technical and political level
- Legal and institutional framework flexible and evolving to address Party and Non-Party needs

How does the Convention prevent accidental water pollution- Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents



Joint Expert Group (JEG)

- Established in 1998
- Focus on prevention of accidental water pollution and its consequences
- Linking integrated water resources management to industrial safety
- Prepares guidance documents, carries out field exercises etc.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 - 2030

What is the Protocol on Water and Health?



Pan-European legally binding agreement aimed at protecting human health and well-being through sustainable water management and by reducing water-related diseases

Obligation to set targets to ensure access to drinking water and sanitation for everyone (special focus on access for all)

27 countries are Parties to the Protocol, 50 participate in activities

UNECE and WHO/Europe provide joint secretariat services

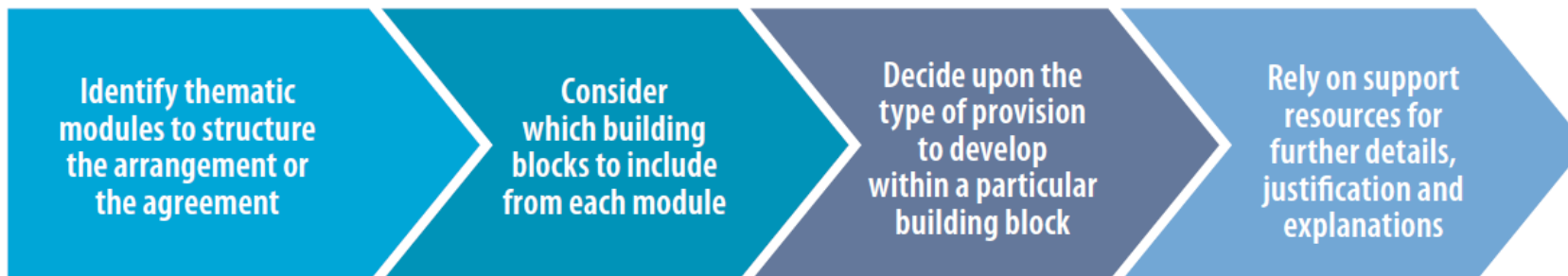
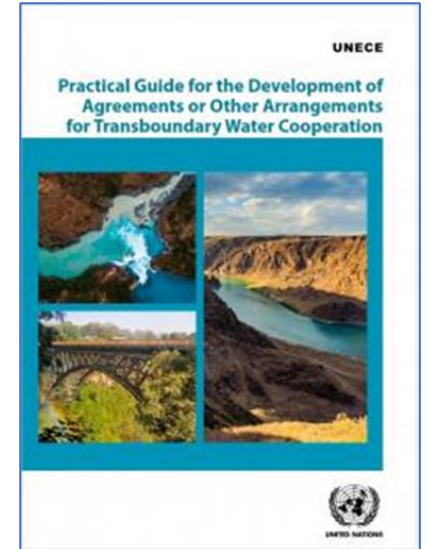
Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements and Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation

Supports countries in the design and drafting of new agreements or updating existing ones to ensure the agreements are effective, adaptable and sustainable.

Focus on content and drafting options rather than process.

Target audience: State representatives, legal and technical experts, decision-makers involved in negotiation, staff of river basin organizations, regional organizations, and other stakeholders.

Available at: <https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/361821>



Scope and provisions of the Protocol

Adequate supplies of **wholesome drinking-water**

Provision of **adequate sanitation** that protects health and the environment

Protection of water resources, including the reduction of harmful discharges

Safe use of water for **recreational purposes**

Safe use of **wastewater and sewage sludge in agriculture**

Effective surveillance systems for monitoring and for responding to incidents and outbreaks

Areas of work under the Protocol and 2030 Agenda



Achievements on climate change adaptation/ flood management

- Important legal framework for cooperation on transboundary aspects of climate change
- Global platform for exchanging experience: Task Force on Water and Climate since 2006, annual workshops since 2010
- Knowledge management hub: Guidance and collection of good practices and lessons learned on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, Model provisions on transb. Flood management
- Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on climate change (Dniester, Neman, Niger, Congo, Mekong, etc.)

➤ Selected Achievements:

- Transboundary vulnerability assessments for the Dniester and Chu Talas
- Development of transboundary climate change adaptation strategies in Dniester and Neman which prioritize adaptation measures from basin perspective
- Revival of transboundary cooperation at political level in the Neman basin through cooperation on climate change, contribution to RBMP
- Implementation of adaptation measures in 3 areas in the Dniester: monitoring and information exchange, ecosystem restoration, awareness-raising. Reservoir modelling by AGWA

