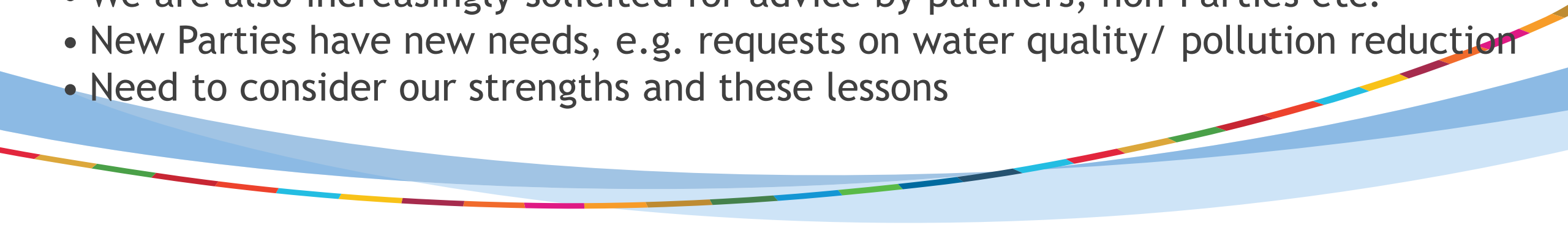


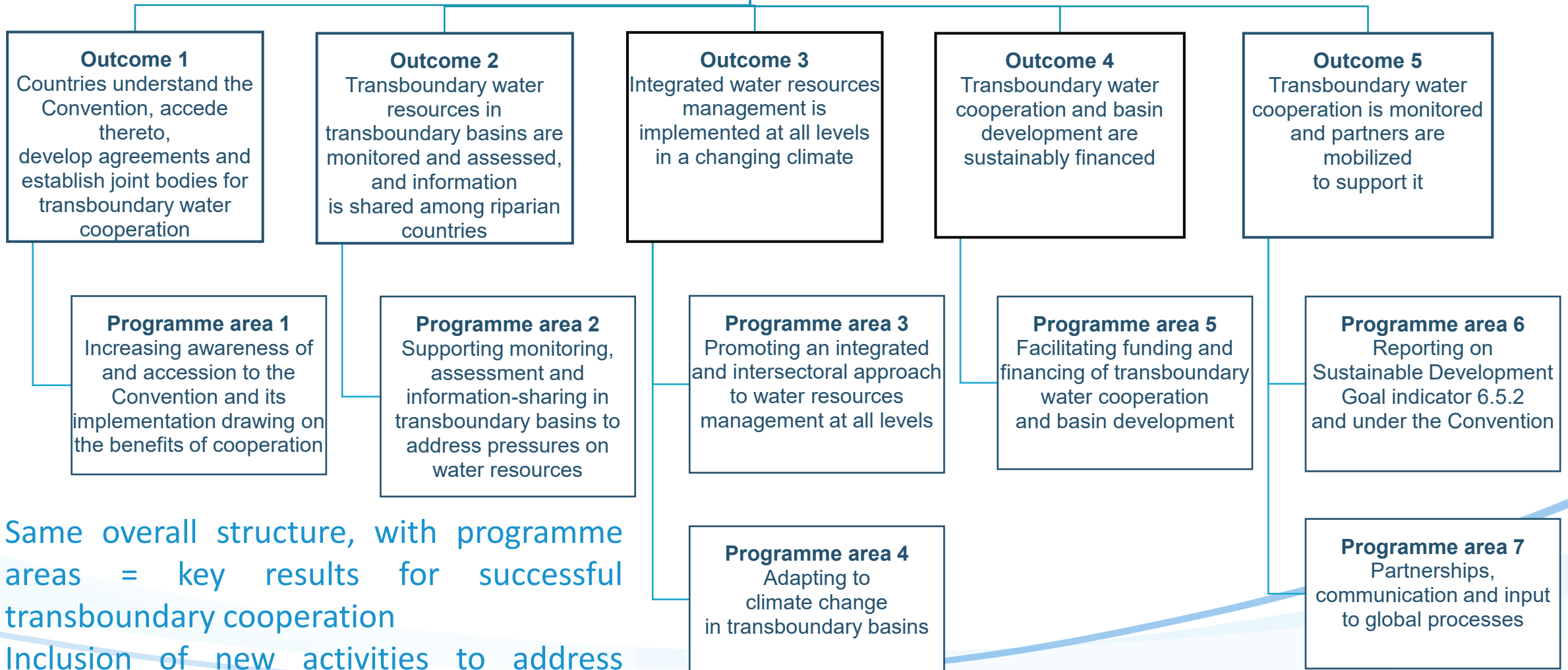
# Draft programme of work of the Water Convention for 2025-2027

# Lessons from the current programme of work for 2022-2024

- In some areas, we did more than foreseen e.g. 15 national workshops on accession
  - We worked more on global processes than foreseen (UN-Water conference, COPs, UNDRR, HLPF,) but this has led to concrete results e.g. accessions, GGA etc.
  - Less regional workshops than foreseen (PAs 1.3, 3.3, 5, 6), some were combined into one global one such as on developing agreements
  - Synergies between programme areas we reinforced
  - It was important to remain flexible when new priorities came up such as source to sea; the broad area 3.1 was useful in this regard
  - We are also increasingly solicited for advice by partners, non-Parties etc.
  - New Parties have new needs, e.g. requests on water quality/ pollution reduction
  - Need to consider our strengths and these lessons
- 

# Overall structure of the draft Programme of work 2025-2027

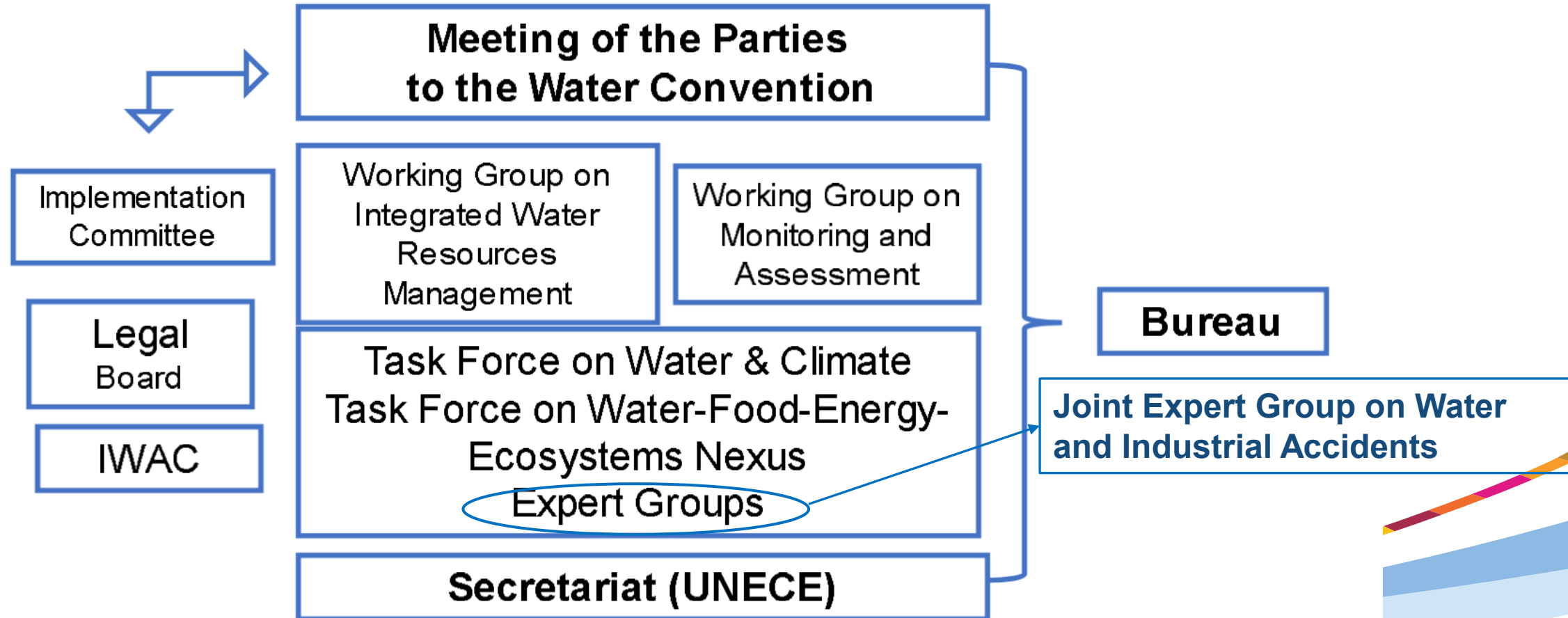
**Overall objective:** Transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries in order to promote sustainable development, peace and security



- Same overall structure, with programme areas = key results for successful transboundary cooperation
- Inclusion of new activities to address evolving needs

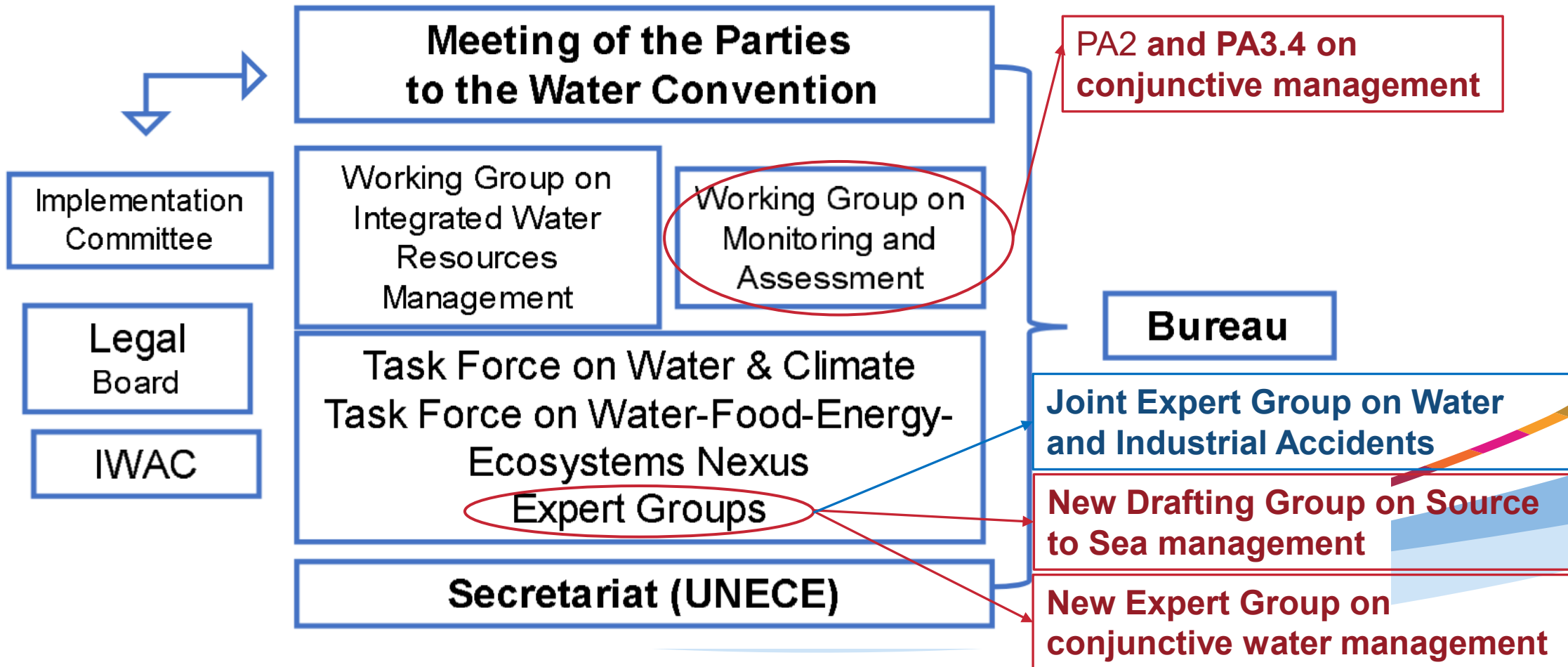
# Institutional structure to implement the 2025-2027 Programme of work WATER CONVENTION

- Same overall structure, with programme areas = key results for successful transboundary cooperation

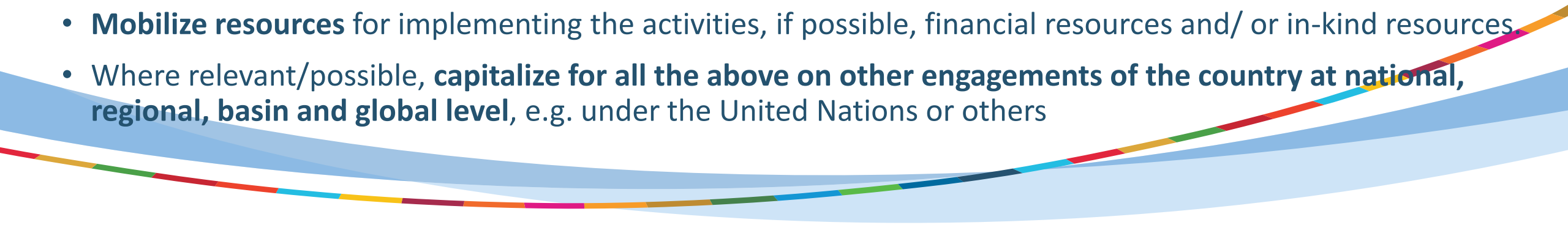


# Institutional structure to implement the 2025-2027 Programme of work WATER CONVENTION

- Same overall structure, with programme areas = key results for successful transboundary cooperation



# Responsibilities of lead Parties- Lead Parties still needed for areas 1.2, 3.1, 3.5 and 4

- **Guide and steer strategically and technically the activities in the programme area**, in discussion with the secretariat, other co-lead Parties, partners etc.
  - Provide **input to/ review different outputs under the programme area**, such as official and unofficial documents, guidance documents, publications,
  - **Support preparations of and participate in person as well as (co-)chair, where needed, in meetings and workshops** under the Convention directly concerning the Sub/Area
  - **Present at the Working Group on IWRM and/ or Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**
  - **Promote the work of the Water Convention** and particularly activities in the relevant programme area
  - Suggest and **involve relevant potential partners in the POW Sub/Area**, such as other international organizations/ MEAs, academia, NGOs, private sector etc.
  - **Mobilize resources** for implementing the activities, if possible, financial resources and/ or in-kind resources.
  - Where relevant/possible, **capitalize for all the above on other engagements of the country at national, regional, basin and global level**, e.g. under the United Nations or others
- 

# Programme area 1

Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and its implementation drawing on the benefits of cooperation



# Programme area 1

## Sub area 1.1: Increasing awareness and supporting national processes towards accession to the Convention

Possible lead Parties: Finland, France, Ghana and Hungary

### Proposed activities:

- **promote the Convention, its activities** and the guidelines developed on relevant occasions, including through the organization of presentations, sessions etc. at global and regional meetings
- **Up to two training sessions for practitioners** on the global 1992 and 1997 water conventions and international water law
- **contribute to international water law trainings** organized by partners. In addition, the Convention will facilitate access to online training sessions videos and materials on transboundary water cooperation by making available existing online materials and tools on the Convention's website
- **support to countries to accede to the Convention**, including the provision of legal and technical advice to understand the Convention's provisions; **national tailor-made workshops** to build capacity on the Convention, and to discuss the benefits of accession
- **up to 5 regional, sub-regional or basin events** on the Convention in Africa, Asia and Latin America to prompt basin or regional dynamics towards accession to the Convention and application of its principles.



## Programme area 1

### Sub area 1.2.: Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention at the national and regional level, including for new Parties

Possible lead Parties: Finland and Ghana

Proposed activities:

- **Support to up to 5 new Parties** to develop national implementation plans of the Convention. Such support will include the organization of national tailor-made workshops to build capacity on the implementation of the Convention
- **Peer-to-peer exchanges through the Twinning Initiative** under the Convention, aiming to link countries close to accession and/or new Parties with established Parties to enable the transfer of practical experience and lessons learned on accession to and implementation of the Convention.
- **Support implementation of the Convention at regional or basin level to prompt basin or regional dynamics** towards application of the Convention principles in cooperation with and by strengthening synergies with activities of other regional and global partners

# Programme area 1

## Sub area 1.3.: Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

Possible lead Parties: Germany and Hungary


Proposed activities:

- The Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements and other Arrangement for Transboundary Water Cooperation will be **further developed into an online toolkit**
- A **global workshop** on developing and implementing legal frameworks
- **Tailored assistance and support to countries and basins** for the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements and strengthening of institutions for:
  - the Drin River basin;
  - the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin; and
  - potentially other basins, if resources are available (e.g. Bug, Chu Talas, Comoé-Bia-Tanoé, Dniester, Euphrates-Tigris, Kura, Luapula, Mejerda, Mano, Mono, Neman, Ogoué-Ntem-Nyanga-Komo, Pedernales and Masacre and Sixaola River basins, as well as the Pre-Tashkent Aquifer).
  - **Support to regional cooperation and to regional economic communities** for development of regional frameworks for water cooperation in Africa and Latin America

# Programme area 1

## Sub area 1.4: Implementation Committee

### Proposed activities:

- Support countries in their efforts to implement and comply with the Convention as per mandate in Decision VI/1.
  - Promote the implementation mechanism and its use through communication efforts and specific events.
  - Contribute to activities related to promotion of accession to the Convention and interpretation of its provisions.
  - Support the secretariat in answering questions from countries interested in accession.
  - **NEW: Support the secretariat by providing legal and technical support to cooperation in specific transboundary basins.**
- 

# Programme area 2

Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins to address pressures on water resources



## Programme area 2

### Sub area 2.1: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing

Possible lead Parties: Finland and Senegal

Proposed activities:

- Organizing a **global workshop on the use of new technologies** (artificial intelligence, remote sensing etc.) and innovation for monitoring and assessment.
- Organizing **up to 2 regional workshops on monitoring, information and data** to promote the use of guidance materials developed in this area. Such workshops will be combined with other regional workshops.
- Preparing an **online toolkit** to increase the uptake of the publication *Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data Sharing*.
- Providing **tailored assistance** and support for developing and operationalizing joint or coordinated monitoring or information and data exchange, in up to two transboundary basins, in particular in the extended **Drin basin** and in the **Cijevna/Cem River Basin**.

## Programme area 2

# Sub area 2.2: Improving water quality, including through pollution prevention and control

Possible lead Parties: Hungary, Senegal.

### Proposed activities:

- Up to **two regional workshops on prevention/reduction of point and diffuse pollution**, including regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms in water management, which will be combined with other regional workshops.
- One **global workshop** on good practices and guidance for preventing water pollution focused **on early warning and climate change impacts**
- Meetings of the **Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**
- **Promotion of the Guidance documents** on point and diffuse pollution, including those developed by the Joint Expert Group
- **Project in one pilot basin** on emergency preparedness and prevention of accidental pollution from tailings storage facilities.

Resource requirements: \$354,000.

Possible partners: GWP, INBO, IGRAC, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP World Water Quality Alliance and WMO.

# Programme area 3

Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water resources management at all levels



## Programme area 3

### Sub area 3.1: Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

Possible lead Parties: Estonia and new Party (tbc)

Proposed activities:

- Organization of one or two thematic sessions at an intergovernmental meeting under the Convention, focusing on, for example, transboundary basin management plan development or mainstreaming gender perspectives.



## Programme area 3

### Sub area 3.2: Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food- energy-ecosystems (WFEE) nexus approach

Possible lead Parties: Finland

Proposed activities:

- **Promotion of the Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus** in transboundary basins
- **2 meetings of the WFEE Task Force**, back-to-back to Global Workshops or other sectoral fora (e.g. energy, agriculture)
- **Capacity building on water-energy cooperation in transboundary basins** (climate resilience of energy systems and specific technologies (e.g., hydropower, hydrogen), the water-dependency of energy policy measures and the role of transboundary cooperation as an enabler of clean energy transition)
- **Support the operationalization of nexus (intersectoral) solutions and investments:** Central Asia nexus (IKI Project with OECD, SIC-ICWC, EBRD, FAO); Drina RB water-energy for climate, other regions - resource permitting.

## Programme area 3

### Sub area 3.3: Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context

Possible lead Party(ies): Hungary, Finland and Namibia

Proposed activities:

- **Organization of up to two regional or basin or bilateral workshops or workshop sessions** on transboundary water allocation & complementary approaches to build capacity and promote the use of the Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context and its accompanying Summary Handbook. These activities aim to be implemented in cooperation with sub-programme areas 1.3 and 3.2, respectively, and other areas as appropriate to the context.
- **Participation where appropriate in workshops or sessions** with countries and organisations involved in national water allocation activities to demonstrate practical synergies and linkages between national and transboundary allocation approaches.

Possible partners: SYKE, IWAC, IWMI, IUCN

## Programme area 3

### Sub area 3.4: Promoting conjunctive management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters

Possible lead Party(ies): Estonia and the Gambia

Proposed activities:

- Following an **analysis of best practices** in the application of conjunctive water management at transboundary and domestic levels, a **policy guidance** will be developed to provide advice on conjunctive management of surface waters and groundwaters **with a focus on transboundary basins**. These activities will be undertaken **under the auspices of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment with help of a dedicated expert group**.
- **Providing input** on the topic of conjunctive water management at regional workshops organized under the Convention and trainings organised by partner organizations.

## Programme area 3

### Sub area 3.5: Source-to-sea: linking governance and management of transboundary freshwaters and the coastal and marine environment

Possible lead Party(ies): Slovenia and another Party

#### Proposed activities:

- Development of a **Practical Guide for the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins** to increase understanding of the need for and benefits of the source-to-sea approach and its significance in integrated water resource management, ecosystem conservation and sustainability.
- **Up to two regional workshops** on the implementation of the source-to-sea approach to build capacity in the practical application of source-to-sea management principles by offering actionable steps, methodologies and best practices.

## Programme area 3

### Sub area 3.6: Promoting conservation and restoration of transboundary freshwater and water-related ecosystems

Possible lead Parties: France, Slovenia and Zambia (to be confirmed).

Proposed activities:

- A **global workshop** on transboundary freshwater and water-related ecosystems focusing on **conservation, restoration and ecological continuity at the transboundary level**.
  - **Linkages with other related multilateral environment agreements**, particularly CBD, the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and of relevant actors, such as IUCN.
  - **Informing activities** under other relevant programme areas, such as on **water quality, pollution and climate change**.
- **Integration of the ecosystem approach**, including conservation and restoration of ecosystems, **into relevant regional and basin projects** under the Convention.

Resource requirements: \$305,700



# Programme area 3

## Sub area 3.7: Supporting National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

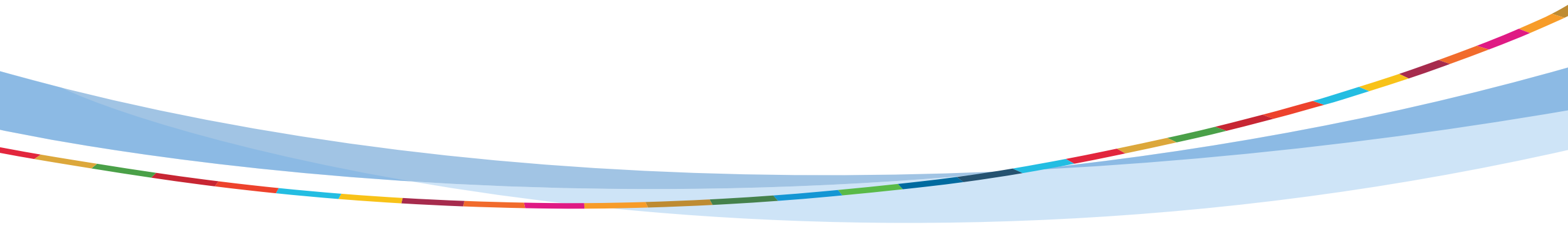
Possible lead Party(ies)/organizations: Secretariat, in cooperation with OECD, European Commission.

Proposed activities:

- Facilitating the **annual National Policy Dialogue meetings** (within IKI and DG NEAR support)
- Supporting **policy packages on legal, regulatory and institutional changes** to drive water sector reforms and applying the nexus approach at the national level
- Supporting **drafting and implementing transboundary water cooperation agreements**, including establishment and support of the **joint bodies**
- Supporting **policy change in the water and health sector**
- **Exchange of experience** between countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

# Programme area 4

Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins



# Programme area 4

## Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

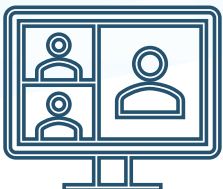
Possible lead Parties: The Netherlands and another Party

Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation

● Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation  
○ Transboundary basins or aquifers

Proposed activities:

- Organization of up to 2 meetings and webinars of the **Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation**, in cooperation INBO
- Two meetings of the Task Force on Water and Climate and one global workshop on transboundary climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Creating a knowledge product on best practices in climate change adaptation in transboundary basins and experience of the Global network of basins





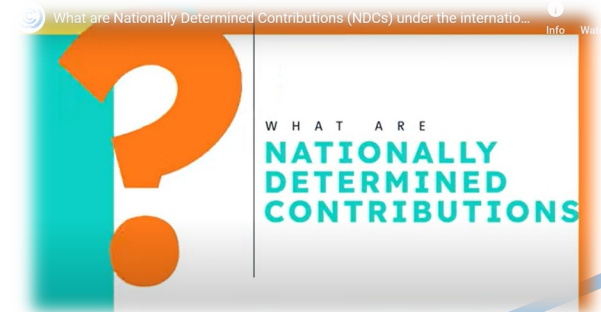
# Programme area 4

## Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

### Proposed activities:

- Up to 3 **projects in such pilot** basins as the Chu-Talas, the Dniester, the Bug, one or two basins in the Middle East and North Africa region and other basins (*tbc*)
- **Cooperation with global policy processes on climate and disasters**, such as under the UNFCCC, UNDRR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- **Mainstreaming of water and transboundary cooperation** into national climate-related documents (NDCs, NAPs), including through developing a policy paper.

*Financing climate change adaptation will be considered in all activities, including through increased cooperation with climate funds*



# Programme area 5

Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development



## Programme area 5

# Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

Possible lead Parties: The Netherlands and Switzerland

Proposed activities:

- **Disseminate and promote the policy brief** *How to accelerate funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development: challenges and opportunities (2023)*, including by partners.
- **Continue and strengthen cooperation with international and regional financial institutions**, such as ADB, AFDB, EBRD, EIB, GEF, IDB, UNCDF and the World Bank.
- **Intensification of cooperation with global climate funds**, such as the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, to include transboundary water cooperation and management into climate funding mechanisms and to enhance capacities of countries and RBOs to access these mechanisms.

## Programme area 5

# Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

- **Cooperation with other relevant organizations**, such as Disclosure Insight Actions (CDP), the CEO Water Mandate, UNEP-fi, IUCN; **with the private finance sector** (e.g. relevant financial institutions, philanthropic foundations). Contribution to the work led by GEF IW:LEARN Phase 5 on engaging with the private sector.
- **Support up to 5 Parties to the Water Convention in identifying funding and financing options to implement the Convention in practice** through the provision of tailored advice when developing their Convention's implementation plan and the organization of roundtables and special sessions with key technical and financial partners to enable existing funding needs and financial opportunities.
- Organisation of the **third global workshop** and contribution to **up to two regional or basin training sessions/workshops** on how to accelerate funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and management and adapt to climate change in a transboundary context, while adopting a water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus approach

# Programme area 6

Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator  
6.5.2 and under the Convention



## Programme area 6:

### Sub area 6.1: Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

In cooperation with UNESCO

Proposed activities:

- **Carrying out 4<sup>th</sup> reporting exercise** in 2026-2027.
- Developing an **online reporting system and an online database**. Possible adjustment of reporting template to the online format. Support to countries for online reporting.
- **Strengthening capacity of countries** through the organization of global, regional and national activities to share experiences

## Programme area 6:

### Sub area 6.2: Promoting the use of the reports for enhancing transboundary water cooperation

#### Proposed activities:

- **Wide dissemination of results of 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting exercise**, encouraging partners and donors to use them.
- **Strengthening capacity of countries** through the organization of global, regional and national activities to share experiences
- Cooperate with partners to assist countries and basins in developing responses accelerate the achievement of target 6.5. **Up to 2 pilots** will support countries or basins in **designing roadmaps** to foster transboundary cooperation on the basis of indicator 6.5.2 reports (in cooperation with sub-programme area 1.3.)

# Programme area 7

Partnerships, communication and input to  
global processes





## Programme area 7

### Sub area 7.1: Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements and contribution to policy processes

#### Proposed activities:

- **Cooperation under UN-Water** (UN system-wide strategy on water and sanitation; co-chairing of the UN-Water Expert Group on transboundary waters; co-chairing Expert Group on water and climate change). **Synergies with other United Nations agencies and bodies**, incl. to deliver SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.
- **Support to preparatory process for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference** and for the **2028 United Nations Conference** on the Final Comprehensive Review of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, including through the **Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition**, and **input to other global processes** to highlight importance of transboundary water cooperation.
- Strengthen **cooperation with other MEAs**.

# Programme area 7

## Sub area 7.2: Communication and knowledge management

### Proposed activities:

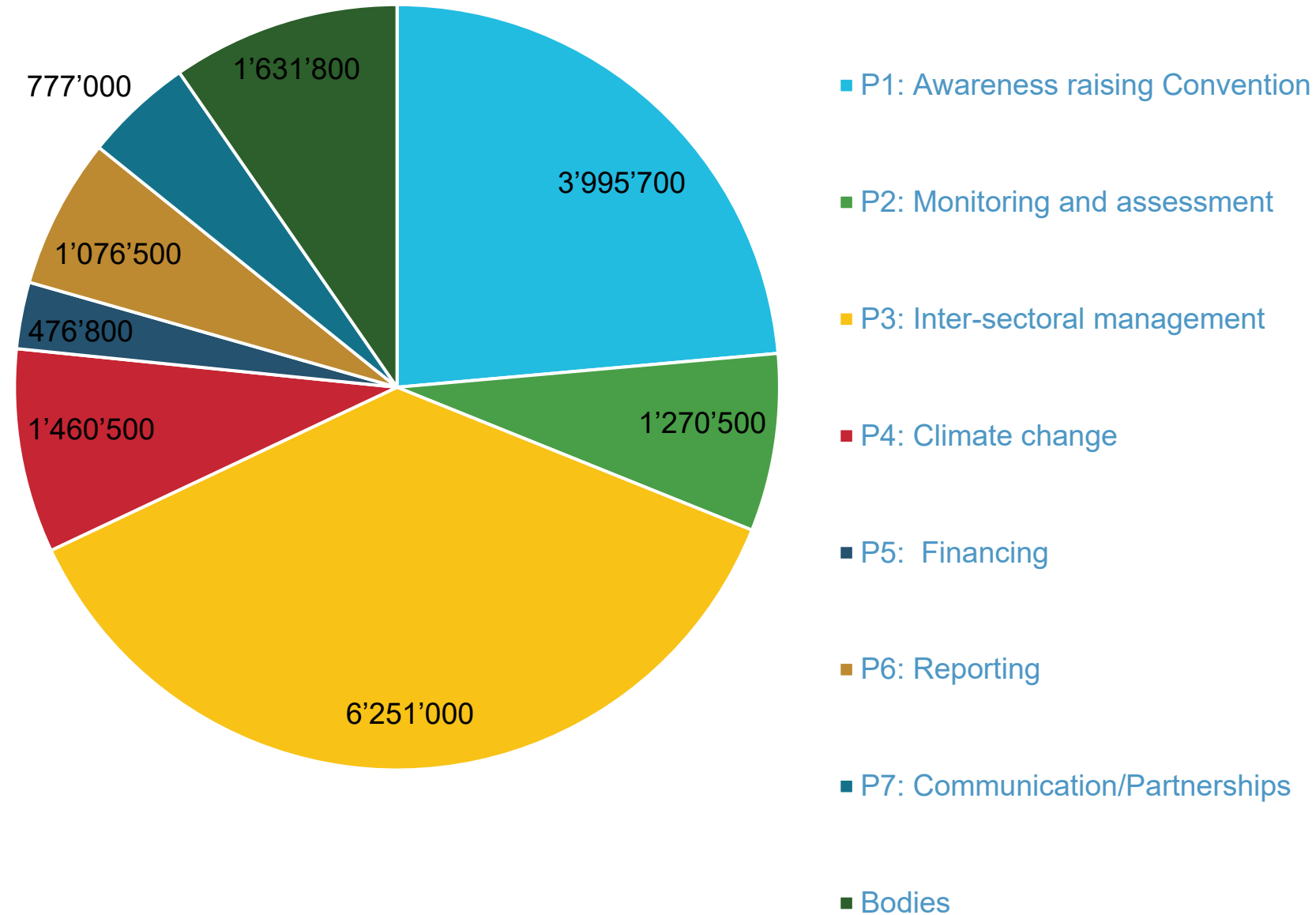
- Production of **information and communication materials** (leaflets, brochures...). An updated brochure will be developed which provides a reader-friendly overview of existing publications. Update of Convention **website** and **social media** channels. Regular **newsletters**.
- Development and dissemination of **tailored communication materials/policy papers for diplomats and parliamentarians**.

## Mainstreaming gender

*Gender mainstreaming is important to ensure that water policies and decisions benefit both men and women and do not increase inequality*

- **Women's participation** in Convention bodies, capacity-building events, pilot projects and other activities will be promoted and **gender considerations** will be taken into account in activities and publications
- Mainstreaming gender perspectives as an aspect of IWRM will be part of the **focus of the thematic sessions** organized at Convention intergovernmental meetings.
  - *Under 3.1 Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins*
- **Dissemination of data on gender** in transboundary water cooperation **through SDG 6.5.2 progress reports**
  - *6.2 Promoting the use of the reports for enhancing transboundary water cooperation*

# Budget by programme area: Total: \$ 16,939,800



# Overview of resources needed for the implementation of proposed activities

- Total resources required for the entire programme of work, including 7-13 % overhead costs: \$ 18,902,000
- Higher resources requirements mostly linked to opening activities and for activities on new sub-programme areas (such as source to sea and conjunctive management), reporting and input to global processes)
- In addition, higher costs for office costs for XB staff, UNOG costs, translation/interpretation etc.
- Some pledges and some funding already confirmed, but does not cover all resource needs by far
- Importance of having clear indications on the financing of programme of work by MOP10

## Next steps for the development of the 2025-2027 programme of work

Time	Action
8-9 May	Discussion by the Bureau
30 May	Deadline for written comments by Parties, non-Parties and partners
June	Revision based on comments received
July	Final review by the Bureau
14 August	Official document submission for MOP
23-25 October	Final discussion and adoption at the 10 <sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties

## Programme area 1

### Sub area 1.3.: Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

Possible lead Parties: Germany and Hungary

Proposed activities:

- **Support to regional cooperation and to regional economic communities** for development of regional frameworks for water cooperation in Africa and Latin America
  - Africa: e.g. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and
  - Latin America: e.g. Central American Commission for Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System (CCAD/SICA)).

# Questions

- Do you have any comments on the proposed activities?
  - Is there anything you would like to delete or add?
  - Can you contribute to the activities, financially, in-kind, through synergies with your already ongoing projects, by hosting meetings or providing experts etc.?
- 