

Outcomes of the Side event and other promotion activities at the “5th Africa Water Week” 26-30 May



Sonja Koeppel
UNECE



Presence of the UNECE Water Convention at the 5th African Water Week

The Fifth African Water Week was organized on 26-30 May in Dakar, Senegal, by the African Ministers' Council on Water and the African Union, over 1000 participants, topic: SDGs

- Sub theme 2 - Setting the stage – Why is Water critical for Sustainable Development? (26 May)
- Teaser Plenary (27 May): WASH goal or broader water goal?
- Sub theme 2 - Transboundary Water Resources and Cooperation (27 May)
- Side event on the legal frameworks for transboundary cooperation (27 May)

Side event on global legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation

- Co-organized by France, UNESCO, Dundee Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science under the auspices of UNESCO, WWF, Green Cross International
- Attended by app. 40 participants from African governments, RBOs
- Presentations on the two Conventions, UNESCO-ISARM, CICOS, points of view of countries
- Very engaged discussions and critical questions
- Conclusion: some consider accession to UNECE Water Convention, others not, institutional framework is very useful

Lessons learnt

- Africa is very advanced in transboundary cooperation; others can learn from African basins
- Need to work with regional organizations and joint bodies, such as African river basin organizations
- Need for discussions and capacity-building on the two Conventions
- Need to take into account concerns and questions of countries