Opening the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region

Capacity building activities

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Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
1. Progress and achievements in this area of work in the triennium, esp. since 2014

* National capacity building workshops on the Water Convention, organized upon requests by countries:
  - Lebanon (Beirut, 4–5 February 2015)
  - Jordan (Amman, 10 March 2015)

* Promotion of the opening of the Convention during events:
  - Ibero-American Water Directors Conference CODIA (Panama, 20 November 2014)
1. Progress and achievements in this area of work in the triennium, esp. since 2014

- Guidance documents and text of the Convention translated in Spanish and Arabic

Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
2. Main results and lessons learned

* Much interest from countries in the Convention but more promotion effort needed still
* Importance of providing detailed information on complementarity between 2 Conventions and support through legal expertise and sharing of experience about Convention’s implementation
* Necessity to involve large range of stakeholders, including civil society, parliamentarians...
* Request from countries outside the UNECE region to consider their specific needs in framing Convention’s work
* Importance of cooperation with regional partners – partnerships to be strengthened
* Need for documents into national languages
3. Plans in this area in the draft programme of work for 2016-2018

* Sub-regional and national workshops on the Water Convention (Mexico, Iraq, Tunisia, date tbc)

* **Programme area 5: Opening, promotion and partnerships** to include activities on “Promoting accession by raising awareness about the Convention and developing capacity to implement its provisions”
  - National and regional events (upon request) -> awareness raising and capacity building on Convention
  - Guidance material and expert advice
  - Secretariat / Bureau... participation in relevant events
  - Invitation of representatives from non ECE countries in different meetings under the ECE Water Convention