

The Water Convention and the meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Introduction

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The Water Convention: What is it for?

Objective: Protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation

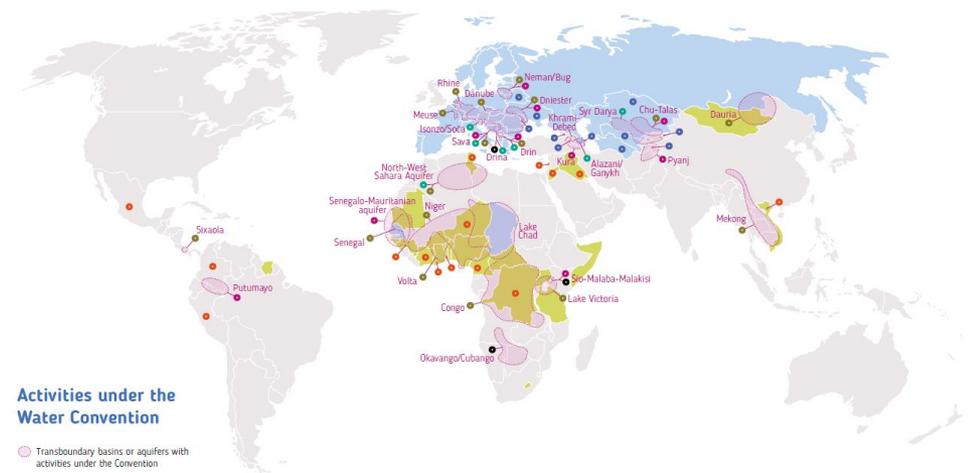
→ Support to transboundary water cooperation (initially in the pan-European region, now globally) for the sustainability of water resources

1992: Signature

1996: Entry into force

2016: Effectively open for accession to all UN Member States

2018: Accession by Chad and Senegal, 43 Parties



Activities under the Water Convention

Transboundary basins or aquifers with activities under the Convention

Areas of work

- Support to the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies
- Identification, assessment and communication of the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- Assessment and promotion of the Water-Food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

- Adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins
- Opening of the Convention, promotion and partnerships
- National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative

Country Status

- Parties
- Countries which have started a discussion on accession

The Water Convention: what does it require?

3 main pillars

Parties have the obligation to:



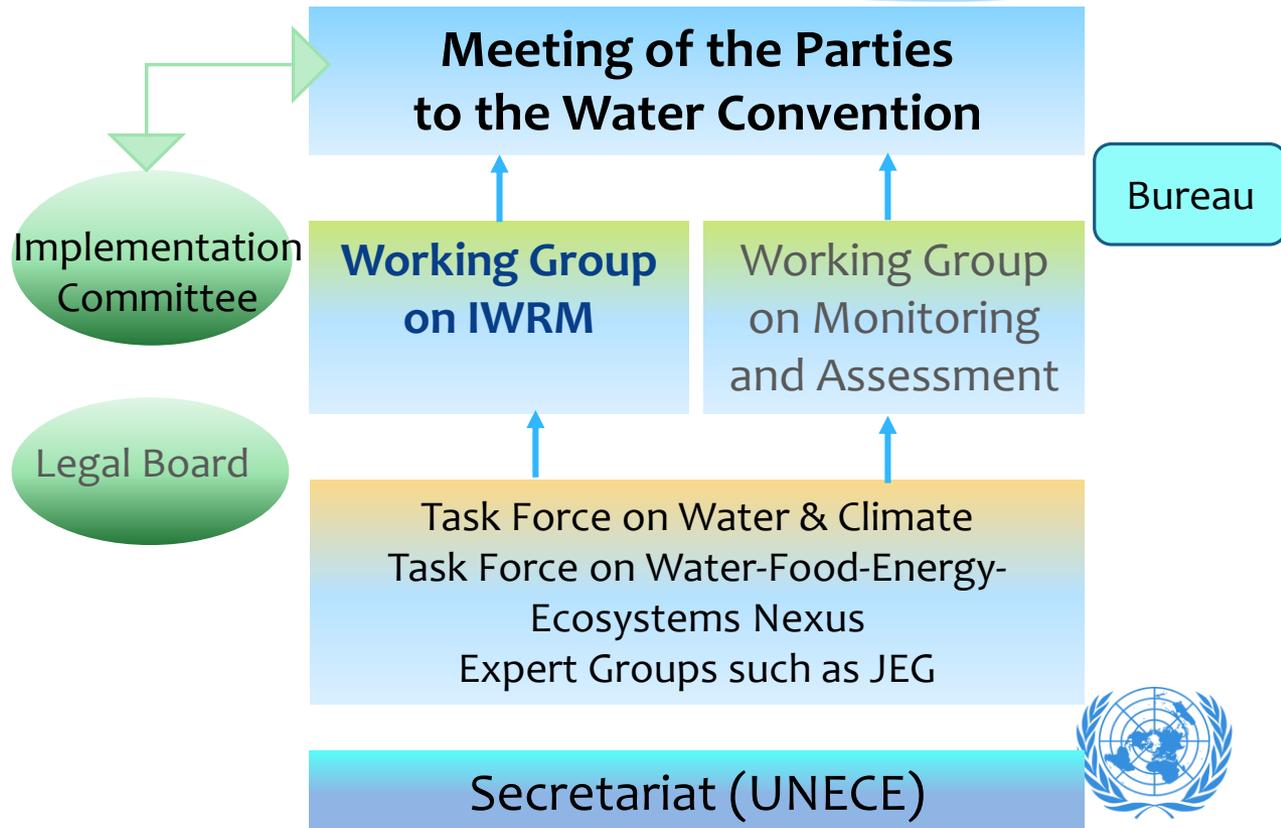
Prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts

Ensure reasonable and equitable utilization of transboundary waters

Cooperate through establishment of agreements and joint bodies responsible for joint management

The Water Convention: How does it work?

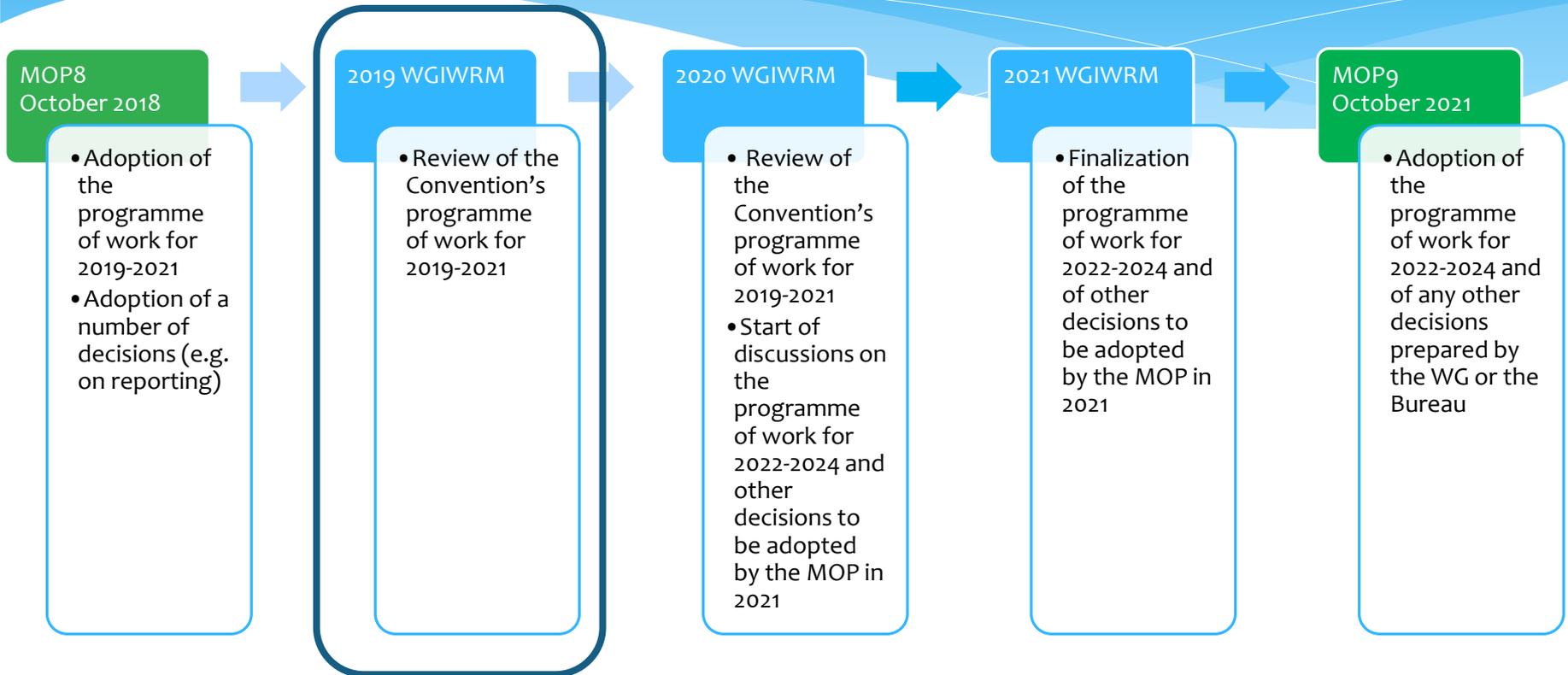
	A sound legal framework
	An active institutional framework
	Projects on the ground



The Working Group on IWRM: role and responsibilities

- * A subsidiary body established by the Meeting of the Parties of the Water Convention
- * Open for participation to Parties, non-Parties, Non-Governmental Organizations, International Institutions and other stakeholders
- * Meets yearly to review progress in implementing the programme of work of the Convention
- * Provides an open forum for sharing knowledge and successful experiences of support transboundary water cooperation: policy guidance, bilateral and multilateral activities, pilot projects, capacity-building...

Where do we stand in the Convention's cycle?



Aims of this meeting

- to review implementation of the work programme for 2019-2021 of the Water Convention;
- to discuss the implementation of decisions taken by the eighth Meeting of the Parties (Nur-Sultan, 10-12 October 2018);
- to prepare for the 2nd reporting exercise under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2;
- to discuss the Convention's global opening;
- to discuss ongoing and future activities, e.g. on water allocation and financing transboundary water cooperation.

Overview of the programme and rules of the Meeting:

**Rules for Interventions : MAX. 2 minutes, Presentations max. 8 minutes
Longer versions will be posted on the website**

**Tuesday
22 October**

10.00 a.m - 6.00 p.m: Meeting of the Working group (Salle XII)

At 6.30 p.m: Reception at the invitation of Switzerland (Restaurant le Vieux Bois, Avenue de la Paix 12)

**Wednesday
23 October**

10.00 a.m - 6.00 p.m: Meeting of the Working group (Salle XII)

**Thursday
24 October**

10.00 a.m-12.30 p.m: Meeting of the Working Group (Salle XII)

2.30 p.m-5.00 p.m: Event “Promoting an integrated and inter-sectoral approach to water management in the Mediterranean region”, co-organized by UNECE and the Union for the Mediterranean (Salle XII)

Thank you for your attention!

All presentations will be available at:

<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50208>



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The Water Convention: How does it work?

