

Opening of the Convention

Fabien Dupuis, France

Nathalie Rizzotti, Switzerland

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1. Main achievements in this area of work

- ▶ Entry into force of the amendment in February 2013
- ▶ Entry into force of Watercourses Convention in August 2014
- ▶ Increased awareness of international water law and the two Conventions
- ▶ More than 60 countries from outside the UNECE region have participated in activities under the Water Convention
- ▶ Some have announced interest in acceding to the Water Convention or started national accession processes
- ▶ Non-UNECE countries enriched the products developed under the Convention (benefits guidance note, principles for effective joint bodies), and the sharing of experience in meetings under the Convention
- ▶ Growing requests for the Convention bodies and the secretariat to be involved in global water policy processes
- ▶ New political relevance of Convention (e.g. EU Council Conclusions)



2. How was it achieved? Major milestones since 2013

- ▶ Regional events on the Water Convention
 - Workshop on transboundary water cooperation: Latin American and Pan-European regions: sharing experiences and learning from each other, June 2013, Buenos Aires
 - Workshop “Legal frameworks for cooperation on transboundary waters — Key aspects and opportunities for the Arab countries” (Tunis, June 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)
 - Iraq (Erbil, 7–8 December 2015)
- Promotion of the opening of the Convention during numerous events:
 - Ibero–American Water Directors Conference CODIA
 - General Assembly of the African Network of Basin Organizations
 - Africa Water Week, World Water Weeks, World Water Fora
 - Budapest Water Summit, Different trainings on international water law

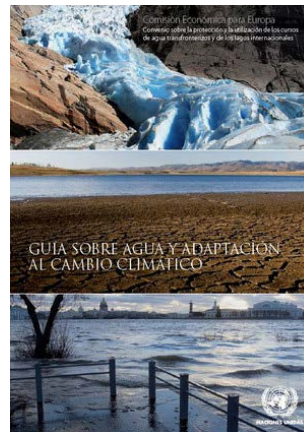
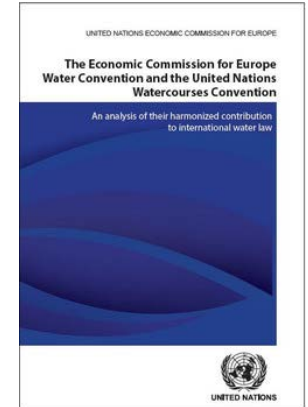
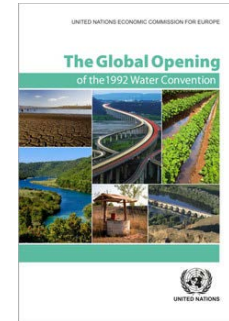


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2. How was it achieved? Major milestones since 2013

- ▶ Opening brochure prepared
- ▶ New publication on 2 Conventions
- ▶ Guidance documents and text of the Convention translated in Spanish and Arabic



3. Lessons learnt for future work

- Growing interest from countries in the Water Convention but accession processes are long
- The Convention can play an important role to promote implementation of the 2030 Agenda in relation to transboundary cooperation issues at the global level
- Interest in the experience about Convention's implementation
- Need for building understanding on the Convention
- Confusion about the relationship between the two Conventions
- Importance of involving large range of stakeholders, including civil society, parliamentarians...
- Importance of cooperation with international and regional partners
- Need for translating documents into national languages
- Convention's opening requires engagement by secretariat, Bureau, all Parties – need to develop a strategy





4. Suggested future work in this area

- ▶ *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 non ECE countries to different meetings under Convention
- ▶ Promote synergies with New York Convention
- ▶ Expand cooperation with partners, such as GEF
- ▶ Contribution to global processes such as SDG monitoring and indicator discussion
- ▶ Promotion, e.g new opening brochure
- ▶ Preparation of opening strategy

