

Progress regarding accession to Global Conventions in Ghana

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The different steps and actions taken:

- The first step was the national stakeholder workshop held to discuss the importance for Ghana to ratify and accede to the two international transboundary water conventions.
- Technical support from UNECE
- Participants unanimously agreed that Ghana should proceed with the accession of the Convention.
- Developed the accession kit for submission to Key Decision Makers.

The different steps and actions taken

- Submitted the accession kit to Cabinet through sector ministry, which has been involved in the process from the beginning.
- Met Cabinet subcommittee and clarified issues, especially on the benefit of accession and costs of no accession
- Obtain Cabinet approval in August 2019
- At the same time efforts have been ongoing towards mobilizing stakeholders to sustain the education and dissemination of the Convention to the population.

The different steps and actions taken

- Water Resources Commission (lead agency)
- Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (lead ministry),
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration,
- Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice,
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development,
- Ministry of Finance,
- Water Research Institute,
- Coalition of NGOs in the Water and Sanitation Sector (CONIWAS) and Global Water Partnership.
- Major Water User Institutions including the Volta River Authority, the Ghana Water Company and the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority.
- Water related regulatory institutions including Environmental Protection Agency, Forestry Commission and Minerals Commission,
- Local Non-Governmental Organizations,
- private water-related entities, and
- The Media.

The current stage of the accession process

Submitted to Parliament (currently on recess) awaiting ratification.

The next steps

- Follow-up and facilitate ratification after Parliament resumes
- Prepare and submit ratification instrument

Lessons learned

- Lead agency key to initiate all necessary steps and to get the political buy-in;
- Adequately brief the key institutions, leadership and decision makers on the need to accede to these conventions and get their commitment;
- In seeking political commitment, take advantage of the linkages with other major global agreements such as the SDGs and national policies and commitments and use them as selling points;
- Package the benefits of the conventions to the country in a simple document for dissemination; and
- Accession has been central within the Volta Basin Authority (VBA). All the six riparian states have been encouraged and agreed to proceed with the accession. It is recognised as an activity to be carried out by the riparian states with the support of the VBA.

Thanks for your
attention!

