

Programme area 5.a

Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national process towards accession

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14th meeting of the Working Group on IWRM
(Geneva, 22-24 October 2019)



Progress and activities to increase capacity and support accession to the Convention in 2018-2019



AFRICA

- *Support to regional and basin events*

Presentation at AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting (Gabon, 26- 27 October 2018).

Sessions at the 7th Africa Water Week (Gabon, 29 Oct.-2 Nov. 2018)

Sub-regional workshop on the Convention (Chad, 19-21 November 2018)

Regional workshop for Niger Basin Authority countries (Côte d'Ivoire, 11 April 2019)

Presentation at the Ordinary Session of the Volta Basin Authority Council of Ministers (Ghana, 6-9 May 2019)

Regional training on how to use the 2 global water conventions to advance transboundary water cooperation (Senegal, 18-19 June 2019)

Contribute to the Kick Off Meeting of World Water Forum in 2021 (Senegal, 20-21 juin 2021)

Presentation at OKACOM meeting (Botswana, 10 July 2019)

Progress and activities to increase capacity and support accession to the Convention in 2018-2019



AFRICA

- *Support to national process of accession and national workshops*
 - ✓ Legal & technical guidance to 10 countries in process of accession:

Benin

Guinea

Cameroon

Niger

Central African Republic

Nigeria

Congo

Togo

Côte d'Ivoire

Gambia

- ✓ National workshop for Côte d'Ivoire (11 April 2019)



Progress and activities to increase capacity and support accession to the Convention in 2018-2019

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- *Support to regional and basin events*

Sessions at ESCWA Expert Group Meeting on Improving Shared Water Resources Cooperation within the Framework of Global and Regional Agreements (6-7 Dec. 2018) → SDG 6.5.2 indicator and regional processes driving discussion on strengthening TWC.



Contribution to Conference on hydrodiplomacy and climate change for peace in Mesopotamia (Paris, 10 December 2018).

- *Support to national process of accession and national workshops*

Legal and technical advice to understand the Convention's provisions and obligations to Lebanon and follow-up with Tunisia and Iraq.

National high-level consultation - The Water Convention: an opportunity for Lebanon? (11 April 2019) (and Beirut Water Week)



Progress and activities to increase capacity and support accession to the Convention in 2018-2019

LATIN AMERICA

- *Support to regional and basin events*

Support to organization of 1st symposium on transboundary waters in Latin America organized by Peru (Lima, 8-9 November 2018)

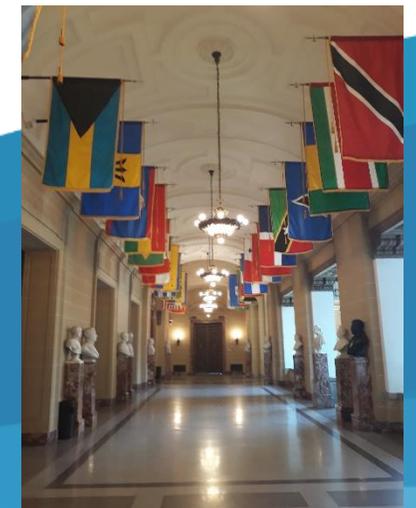
→ regional dialogue on usefulness applying international water law.

Presentation at the OAS Joint Session of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the Permanent Council (PC) in celebration of World Water Day 2019 (Washington, 19 March 2019)

→ reach out to community of Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

- *Support to national process of accession and national workshops*

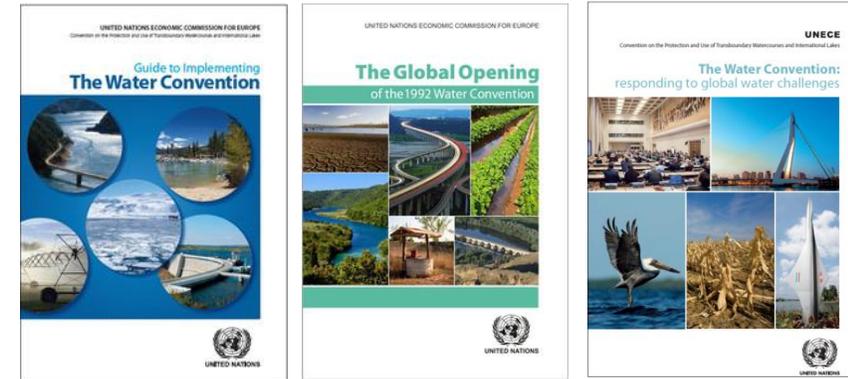
Initial discussion on benefits of implementing the Convention with some countries (through focal points, Permanent mission to OAS and to UN Geneva) → answer questions, clarify some misunderstanding.



Partners



Tools



Frequently asked questions

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes



The Road map to facilitate accession processes to the UNECE Water Convention

- The Road map is of recommendatory and non-prescriptive nature as the exact national process by which a State becomes a Party depends on that State's domestic legislation concerning the ratification of treaties.
- The different steps described in the Road map are drawn from good practices and lessons learned from completed accession processes to the Water Convention.

Preliminary discussion and expression of interest by the Ministry in charge of water

- Nomination of focal points and participation in activities
- Discussion on the Convention, article by article, by the technical and legal services in order to establish its compliance with commitments
- Presentation on the Convention and discussion among relevant departments of the Ministry
- Sending a letter expressing the country's interest



Broader discussion involving relevant sectoral Ministries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as any relevant actor

- Discussion in an informal framework (exchange meeting in preparation of the national workshop) or formal framework (by establishing an Interministerial Committee or a Working group).
- Prepare the list of questions and subjects, related to benefits and opportunities to be discussed during the workshop



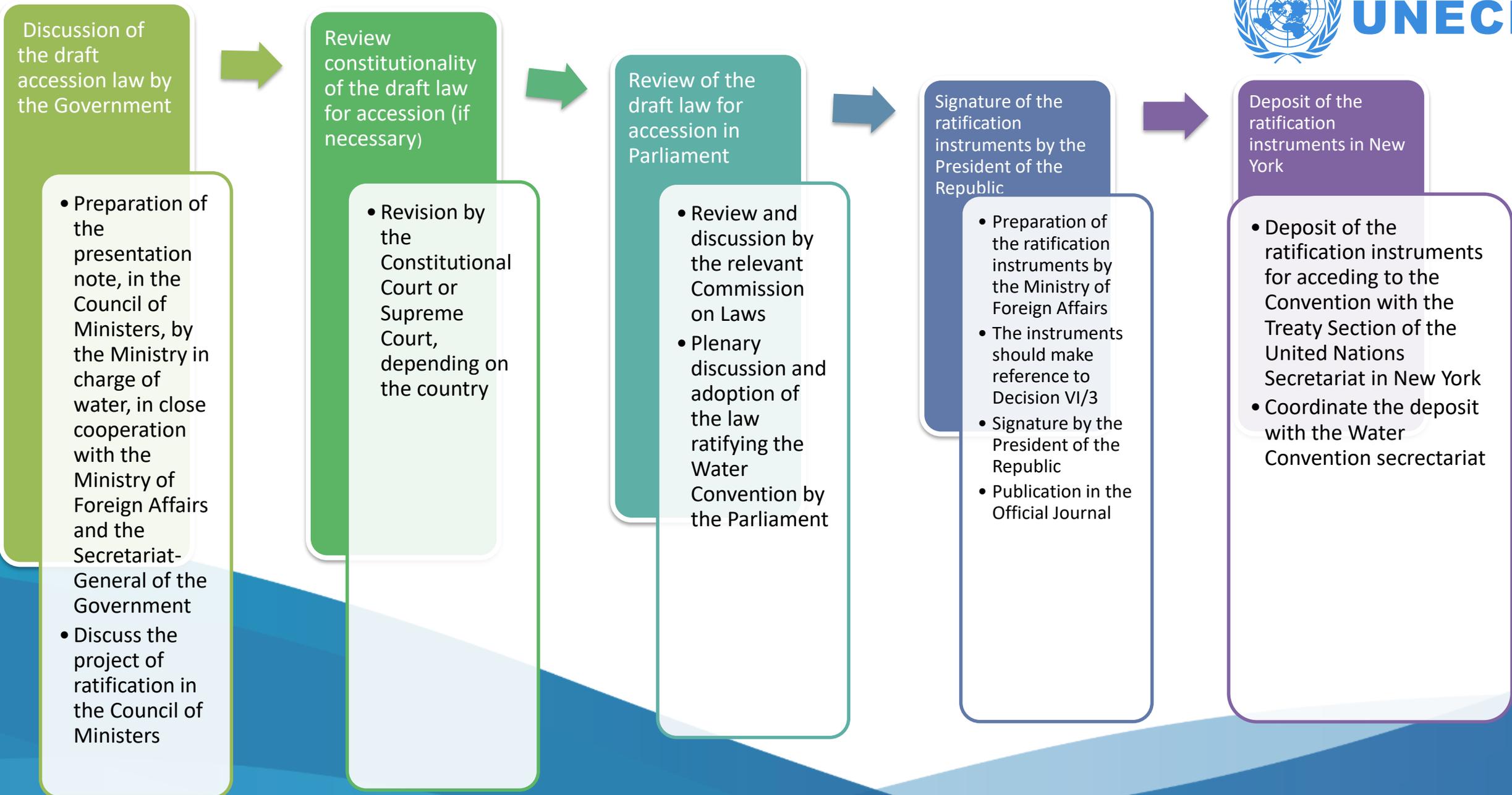
Organizing a national workshop on the Convention

- Discussion on the benefits of the Convention and challenges of the implementation among key actors for the accession process (relevant sectoral Ministries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Parliament, Office of the Prime Minister, basin organizations, civil society, etc.), Water Convention experts (Convention Secretariat, international expert) and technical and financial partners



Beginning of the national procedure for the ratification of treaties (for accession)

- Procedure varies depending on the country but requires close cooperation between the Ministry in charge of the water sector, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Parliament, the Office of the President of the Republic and the Water Convention secretariat
- The duration of the procedure differs from one country to the other and depends on the level of political commitment from the Ministry of Water and of the functioning of institutions



Lessons learned and challenges

- Increased understanding of the benefits of joining and implementing the Water Convention and of the impact of its work in all regions
- Reflection on benefits of the Water Convention at various levels: national, basin, sub regional, regional, through RECs...
- On-going acceleration of the process of globalization of the Water Convention, particularly in Africa
- Countries as «champions» in their basin, region and sub-region, promoting the Water Convention to support regional cooperation
- Recommendations:
 - Participation in activities = first step to understand how the Convention can support transboundary water cooperation in practice
 - Parties can share their experience about accession with interested countries = possibility of “twinning approaches”
 - Water Convention Secretariat = helpdesk for technical and legal support, but globalization only possible with help of regional / basin partners

Planned future activities to increase capacity and support accession to the Convention in 2019-2021

Activities to (1.1.1) raise awareness and knowledge of the Convention and (1.1.) support accession to the Convention

- Regional Workshop for ECCAS Region on accelerating SDG 6.5 (November 2019)
- Regional workshop on transboundary water cooperation for MENA region (End February 2020)
- Regional workshop on conventions and theme cooperation for OMVG/OMVS Riparian Countries (End February 2020)
- Regional workshop for Asia on transboundary cooperation (May 2020)
- Regional workshop on conventions for AMCOW TACs members (July 2020)
- Inputs to Global and regional agenda (9th World Water Forum, Africa Water Week etc.)
- Briefing session for diplomats on Global Conventions (2020)
- Training on Global Conventions for Partners (2020)
- Support to at least 10 countries in the process of accession

Questions or needed actions by the Working Group

- Comments on lessons learnt regarding accession processes
- Comments on the road map?
- Comments on proposed future activities to promote and build capacities on the Convention?



Thank you for your attention!