



WATER
CONVENTION



UNECE

Water Convention: new developments

Iulia Trombitcaia

Water Convention Secretariat, UNECE

The Water Convention history

- 1960s-1970s: over 30 decisions, guidelines, recommendations on water and environment by UNECE Committee on Water Problems
- Convention negotiated 1989-1992
- Signed 1992, in force 1996

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ECE GOVERNMENTS ON ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS FOR RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES

Prepared by the Seminar on Economic Instruments for Rational Utilization of Water Resources, held in Veldhoven (Netherlands) in 1980, and endorsed by the Committee on Water Problems at its twelfth session.

As water is becoming a limited and valuable resource and its development requires increasing investments, it is now generally accepted that its use must be most efficient and must secure the highest possible level of national welfare. In water management,



The Water Convention – from regional to global



Amendments

- Build on the success achieved
- Apply the principles worldwide => broaden political support for transboundary cooperation
- Interest from countries outside the region
- Willingness to learn from other regions

Entered into force in 2013

Operational since 2016

The Water Convention



Water Convention Key Principles

Principle of prevention of
transboundary impact

Principle of equitable and
reasonable utilization

Principle of cooperation

Main objective



Foster
cooperation over
transboundary
waters in order to
ensure that they
are **sustainably
and equitably
managed**

The Water Convention obligations



Obligations for all Parties (Part I)

Licensing of waste-water discharges and monitoring of authorized discharges

Setting emission limits based on BAT

Application of best environmental practices

Minimization of the risk of accidental pollution

Application of EIA and other assessments

Exchange of information

The Water Convention obligations



Obligations for Riparian Parties (Part II)

Conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements
and creation of joint bodies

Joint monitoring and assessment

Common research and development

Exchange of information between Riparian Parties

Consultation

Warning and alarm systems

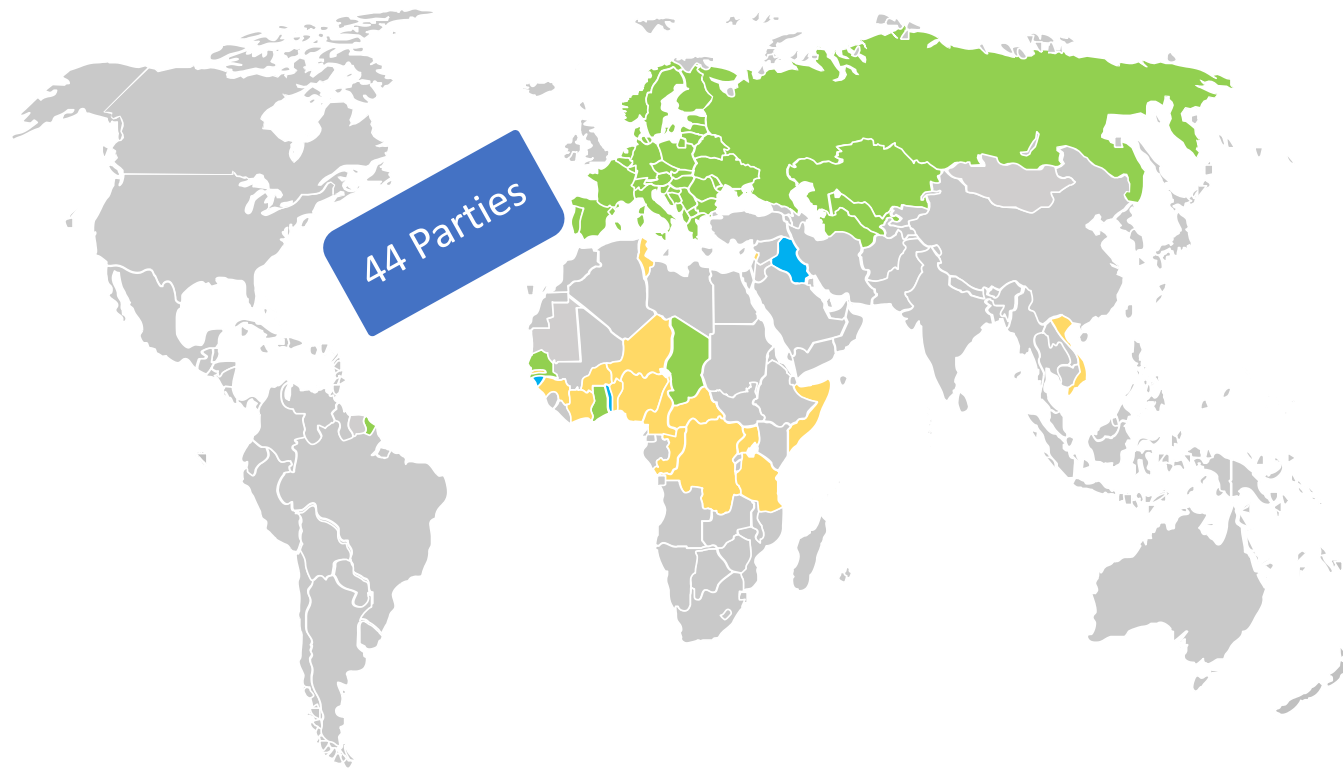
Mutual assistance

Public information

Institutional framework



Global opening



**Parties to the Convention (44):
newest Party – Ghana (2020)**

**Countries very close to accession:
Iraq, Guinea Bissau, Togo**

**Countries in the process of
accession (>10)**

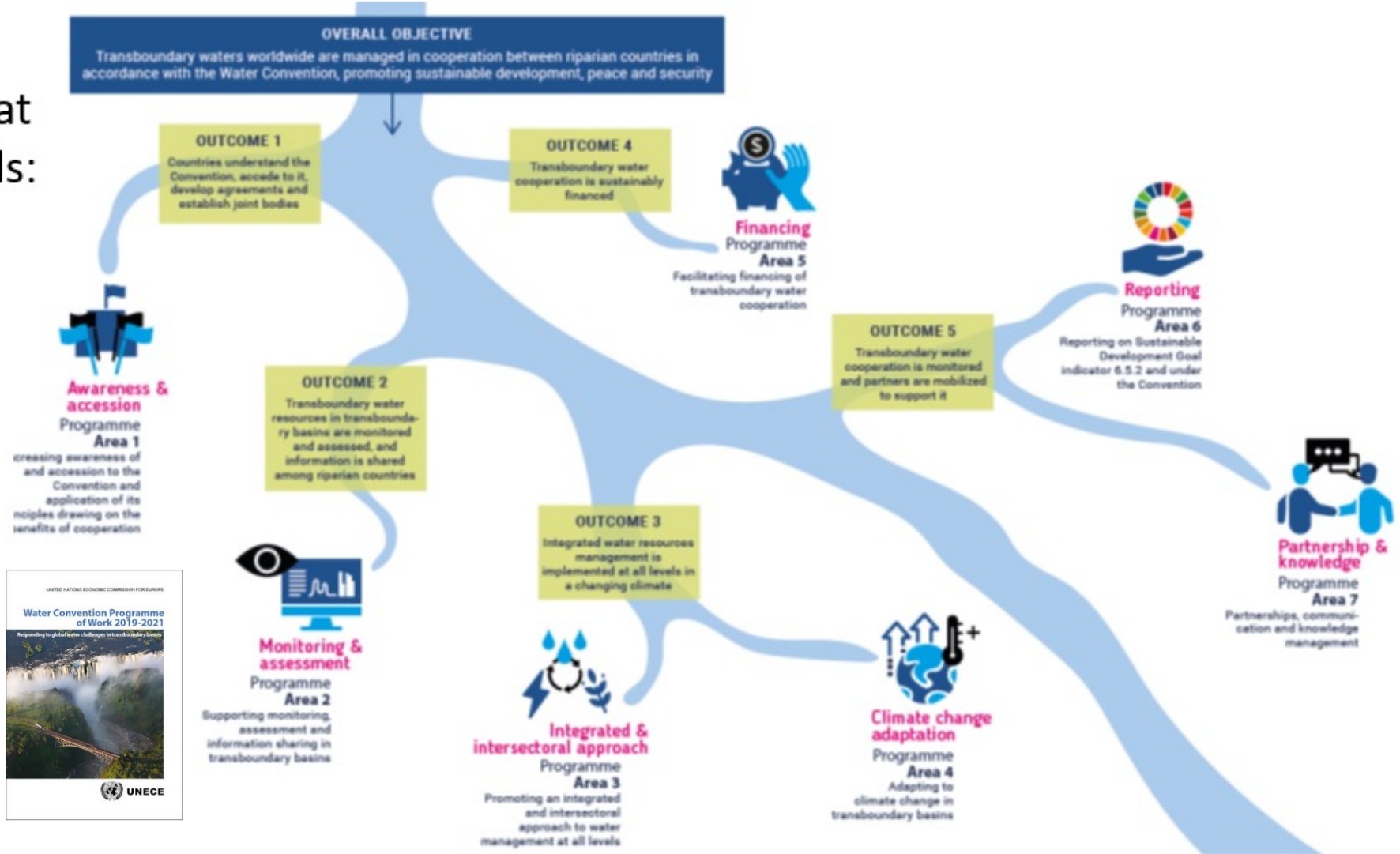
Globalization guided by the **Strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at global level**

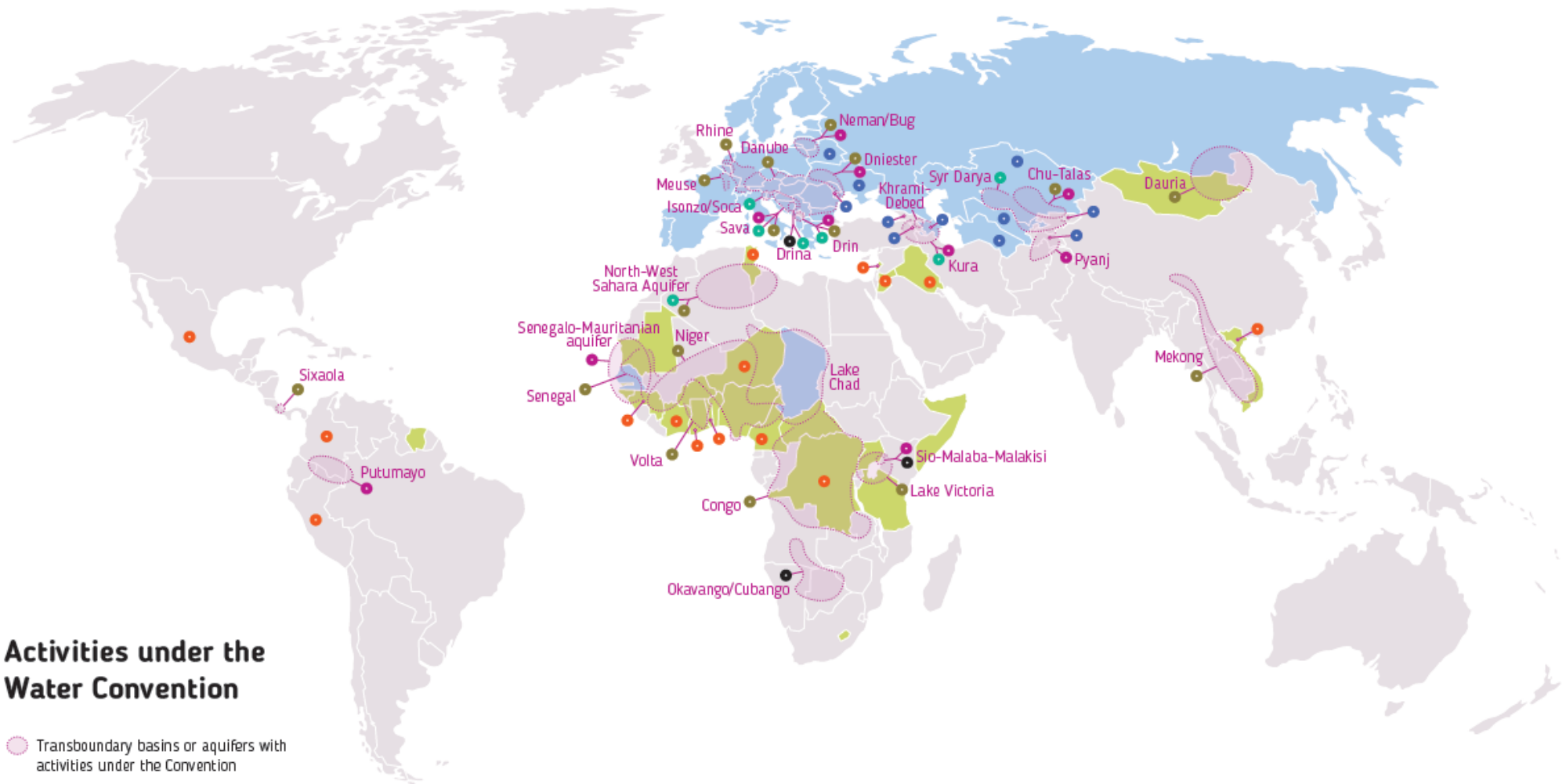
“The global opening of the Water Convention, the accession of the first countries from outside the UNECE region -- namely Chad and Senegal -- and the momentum in support of the Convention are promising developments. Along with the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, the world has the ability to strengthen the rule of law in transboundary cooperation worldwide. **I call on Member States to join both Conventions and to strive for their full implementation.**”



Water Convention Programme of Work 2019-2021

Delivering at different levels:





Areas of work

- Support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies
- Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

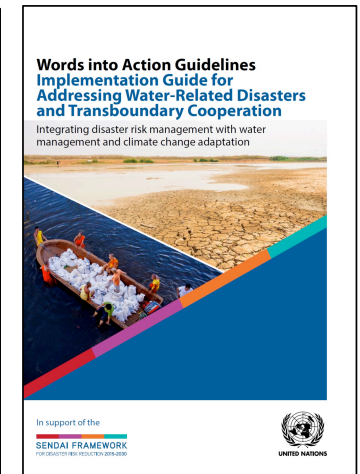
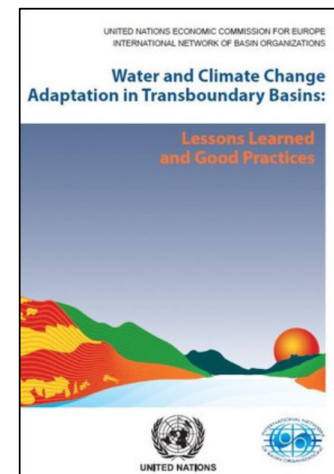
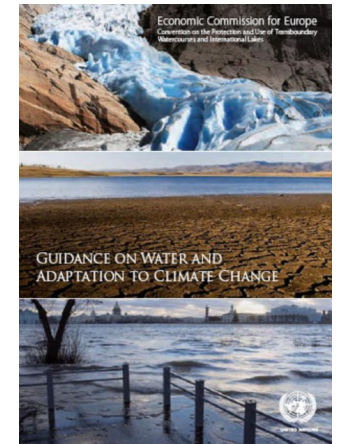
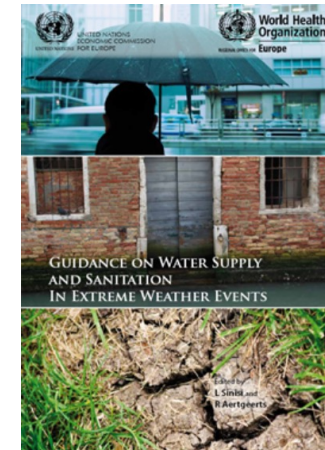
- Adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins
- Opening of the Convention, promotion and partnerships
- National Policy Dialogues on WRM under the European Union Water Initiative

Country Status

- Parties
- Countries which have started a discussion on accession

Programme area: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

- Task Force on Water and Climate since 2006
- Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation: *Chu Talas, Congo, Danube, Dauria, Dniester, Drin, Lower Mekong, Meuse, Neman, Niger, North Western Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS), Rhine, Sava, Senegal, Sixaola, Lake Victoria, Volta*
- Guidance documents
- Projects on the ground
- Input to global processes on CC and DRR
- Preparation of bankable projects



Protocol on Water and Health



Pan-European legally binding agreement aimed at protecting human health and well-being through sustainable water management and by reducing water-related diseases

Obligation to set targets to ensure access to drinking water and sanitation for everyone (special focus on access for all and human rights)

27 countries are Parties to the Protocol, 50 participate in activities

UNECE and WHO/Europe provide joint secretariat services



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For more information:

<https://www.unece.org/env/water/>

water.convention@un.org

Twitter: @UNECE_Water

Facebook: @UNECEWater

