

**5th joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Water Convention, 6-8 May 2024**

**Agenda Item 6b/  
Supporting the development of agreements  
and the establishment of joint bodies**

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# 1. Main achievements in this area of work

- **Dialogue space created for countries to share knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned** on proven strategies for crafting effective transboundary water agreements or other arrangements that yield mutual benefits for countries and basins
- **Practical guidance and support for negotiating agreements or other arrangements have been provided** to countries and basin organizations, international and regional organizations experts, based on the Practical guide for the development of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation
- **Establishment of valuable partnerships, and strengthened collaborative efforts** to developing agreements or other arrangements;





## 2. How was it achieved?



*Global workshop (group)*



*Interactive exercise at the Global Workshop*



*BASM negotiation meeting*

- **Global Workshop on the development of Transboundary Water Agreements and other arrangements (7-8 November 2023, Budapest)**
  - **Format:** 2-days workshop on developing operational agreements (focus on how to apply the Practical Guide with a view to prevent conflicts)
  - **Participants:** 110 registered participants (103 in person, 7 on-line)
  - **Organizers:** Water Convention Secretariat, under the leadership of Germany and Hungary, in cooperation with GEF IW-LEARN, Geneva Water Hub/University of Geneva, Global Water Partnership (GWP), International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Northumbria University, World Bank (WB) (funding partners: Germany, Hungary, GEF IW-LEARN)
  - Outcome document with **key messages**
  - Organization of **sideline negotiation meetings** (e.g. BASM negotiation on 9-10 November 2023)

## 2. How was it achieved?



*Luapula negotiation meeting*



*Training on the Practical Guide*

- Upon request from Zambia and DRC, the secretariat supports the **First round of Technical & Planning Negotiations of the Draft ‘Agreement on the Establishment of the Luapula River and Lake Mweru Authority’**, including organization of a capacity-building training on the use of the “**Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements**” (17-19 April 2023)
- Upon request from the concerned countries, **support to basin-level projects** supporting the development of agreements and strengthening of institutions on the **Senegalese-Mauritanian aquifer, Dniester and Chu Talas**

**Request for capacities building activities** from countries to support the development of agreements and strengthening of institutions:

**•Europe and Asia:**

- ✓ Albania/Kosovo\*/North Macedonia/Montenegro (Drin);
- ✓ Ukraine (Bug and Dniester);
- ✓ Armenia/Georgia (Khrami-Debed basin);
- ✓ Kazakhstan/Kyrgyzstan (Chu-Talas);
- ✓ Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan (Pretashkent Aquifer)

**•Africa:**

- ✓ Senegal/Guinea Bissau/The Gambia/Mauritania (Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer basin);
- ✓ Togo (Mono Basin, coastal sedimentary aquifer basin);
- ✓ Zambia/DRC (Luapula basin and Lake Moroe);
- ✓ Tanzania (Songwe Basin);
- ✓ Congo/Cameroon (Ogooué-Ntem-Nyanga-Komo);
- ✓ Côte d'Ivoire/ECOWAS (Comoe-Bia-Tanoé);
- ✓ ECOWAS countries (the development of directive on shared waters in West Africa)

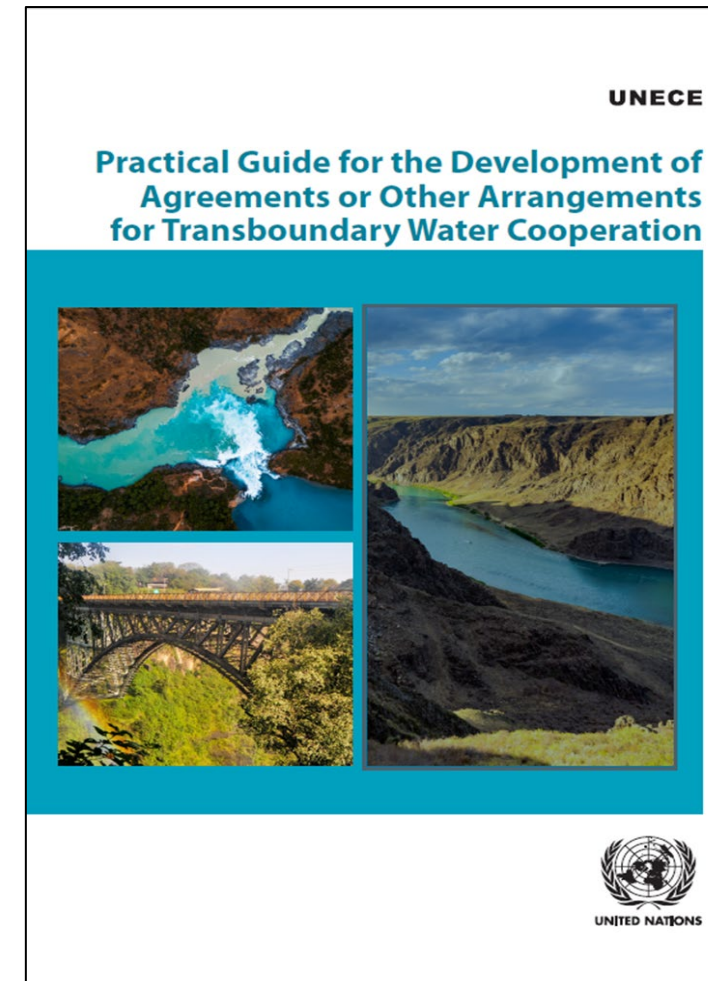
**•Latin America and Caribbean:**

- ✓ Panama/Colombia (Rio Jurado basin);
- ✓ Honduras/El Salvador (Ocotepeque-Citala aquifer basin);
- ✓ SICA countries – support to the development of regional guidelines for transboundary waters in Central America
- ✓ Dominican Republic-Haiti



# 3. Challenges and lessons learned

- Challenges to respond to the all requests due to financial and capacity constraints
- Further engagement from partners is key to support countries and regional organizations
- Lesson learned: SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting helped in raising attention to the gap regarding operational agreement and joint bodies“
- Lesson learned: Need for stronger attention to the development and implementation of legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation and develop more capacities



## 4. Proposed future activities for 2025-2027 under Programme area 1.3 Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies (led by Hungary and Germany)

- The **Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements and other Arrangement** for Transboundary Water Cooperation **will be further developed into an online toolkit**, with good practices collected, links to agreements, etc.
- A **global workshop on developing and implementing legal frameworks agreements** will be organized to support cooperation processes, promoting tools and best practices developed under the Convention
- **Support to regional cooperation and to regional economic communities** for development of regional frameworks for water cooperation in Africa (e.g., Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)), and in Latin America (e.g., Central American Commission for Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System (CCAD/SICA)).

## 4. Proposed future activities for 2025-2027 under Programme area 1.3 Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies (led by Hungary and Germany)

- **Tailored assistance and support will be provided to countries and basins for the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements and strengthening of institutions, based on the Practical Guide, building on the benefits of transboundary cooperation and with due account taken of gender mainstreaming. Such support will be provided to the Drin River basin and the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin, and may be provided in other basins, subject to availability of resources (e.g., the Bug, Chu Talas, Comoé-Bia-Tanoé, Dniester, Euphrates-Tigris, Kura, Luapula and Lac Moero, Mejerda, Mano, Mono, Neman, Ogoué-Ntem-Nyanga-Komo, Pedernales and Masacre and the Sixaola River basins, as well as the Pre-Tashkent Aquifer).**



# 5. Partners



# Thank you!

(please include your contact information)



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RESOURCES

[www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html)

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