

**Web seminar: Geneva Environment Dialogues | #8**

**COVID-19 Impacts on the Global Environmental Agenda:  
The Water Convention and Transboundary Water  
Cooperation**

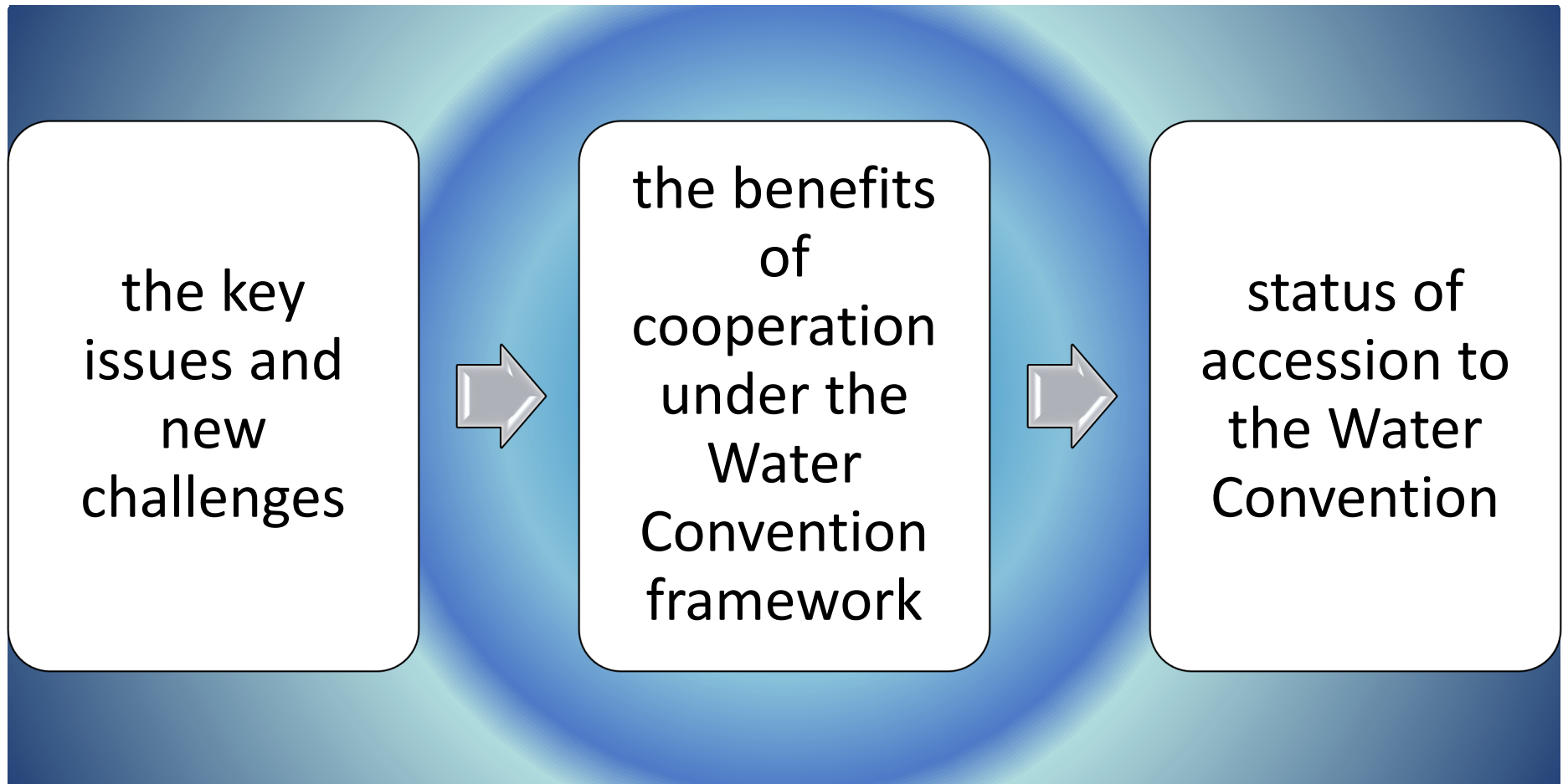
**GHANA'S PERSPECTIVE**

**Ben Ampomah**

**Water Resources Commission, Ghana**

# FOCUS OF PRESENTATION

Ghana's perspective on transboundary water resources under the current COVID-19 circumstances



# DEALING WITH THE ISSUES, ESSENTIALS OF COOPERATION AND THE NEW CHALLENGES

## *Transboundary operations*

- work practically through 3 local transboundary river basin secretariats and the Volta Basin Authority (international body)

## *Review of plans*

- Activities held virtually or postponed or reconceptualized
- Limited field activities initiated

## *Reprioritization and reallocation of resources*

- Government prioritised supply of clean water,
- Targeted vulnerabilities highly exposed to hazards - floods,
- Post COVID-19 recovery
- Substantial reallocation of internal resources to safe water and flood (national and transboundary causes)

## *Adopting and Implementing COVID-19 Protocols*

- Country pushed to adopt a more integrative approach
- A TB project **redesigned to include** COVID-19 prevention protocols.
- Field exercises commenced with strict observation of protocols

## *Reporting on the status of the SDG 6.5*

- Reporting on the status of SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 commenced
- Initial virtual communication with immediate riparian focal points and local basin secretariats

# New Challenges

1. Adjusting to the new circumstances and ensuring interventions are achieved.

2. Recovery measures may increase pressures on transboundary water resources - quantity, quality and health aspects

3. Need to improve information exchange and monitoring of transboundary rivers.

# BENEFITS OF COOPERATION UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION FRAMEWORK

- ✓ Adoption of specific standards and procedures provided by the Convention for single transboundary project:
  - Single trans-border water infrastructure, the Pwalugu Multipurpose Dam.
- ✓ Improving water governance - International principles, standards and practices to:
  - enhance the management of Ghana's international watercourses; and
  - contribute to the implementation of SDG target 6.5.

# FINALLY:

- Ghana has virtually completed accession to the Water Convention.
- President signed the instrument on April 24, 2020.
- Verge of submission to the UN Treaty Section.
- We take this opportunity to urge our riparian neighbours in particular to also accede to the Convention.