

Launch | Frequently asked questions on the 1992 Water Convention

17 November | 11:000 -12:30 CET



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WATER
CONVENTION






EVENT | VIRTUAL

Launch | Frequently asked questions on the 1992 Water Convention

17 NOV 2020 11:00 - 12:30

Online | Webex
Water Convention

 Nature | Water

 SDG6

Speakers



Heide JEKEL

Head of Division, Federal Ministry for
the Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety,
Germany



Bernadette ADJEI

Chief Legal Officer, Water Resources
Commission, Ghana



Ziad KHAYAT

Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA



Dinara ZIGANSHINA

Vice-Chair, Implementation
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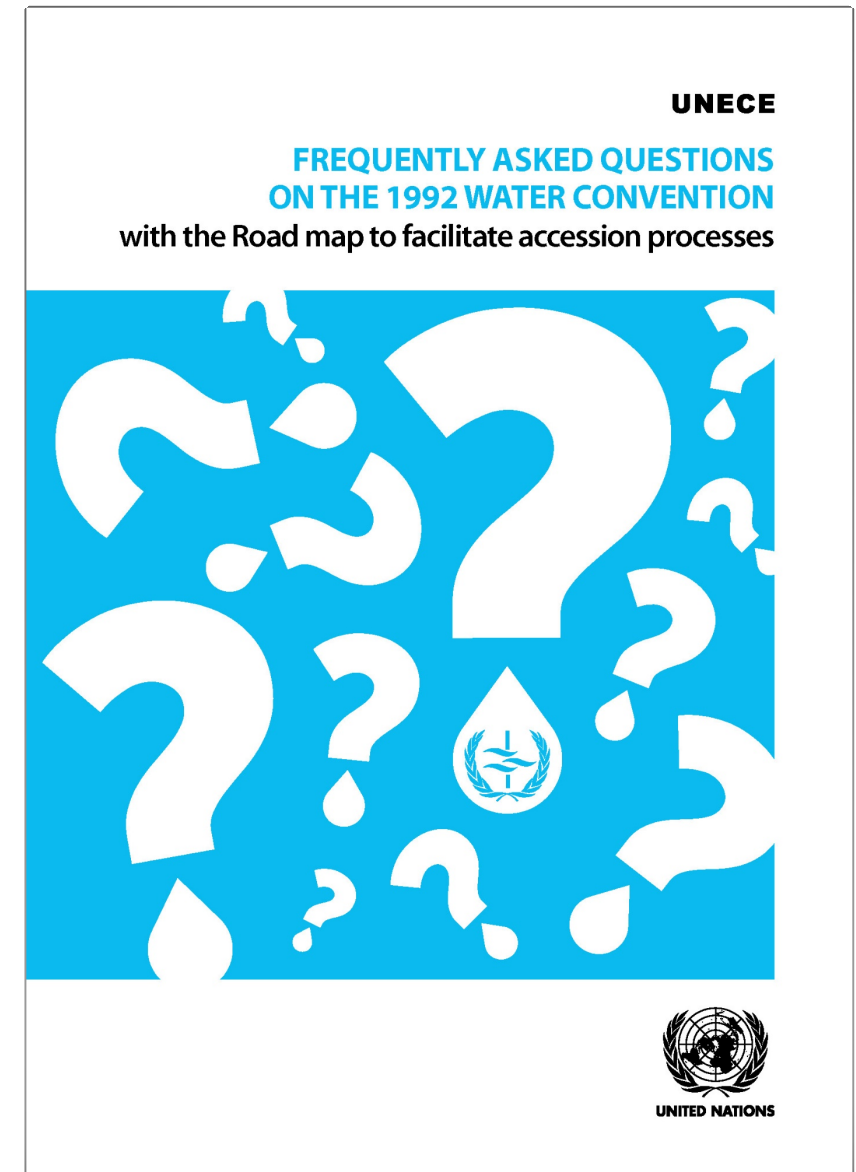


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What you always wanted to know about the Water Convention

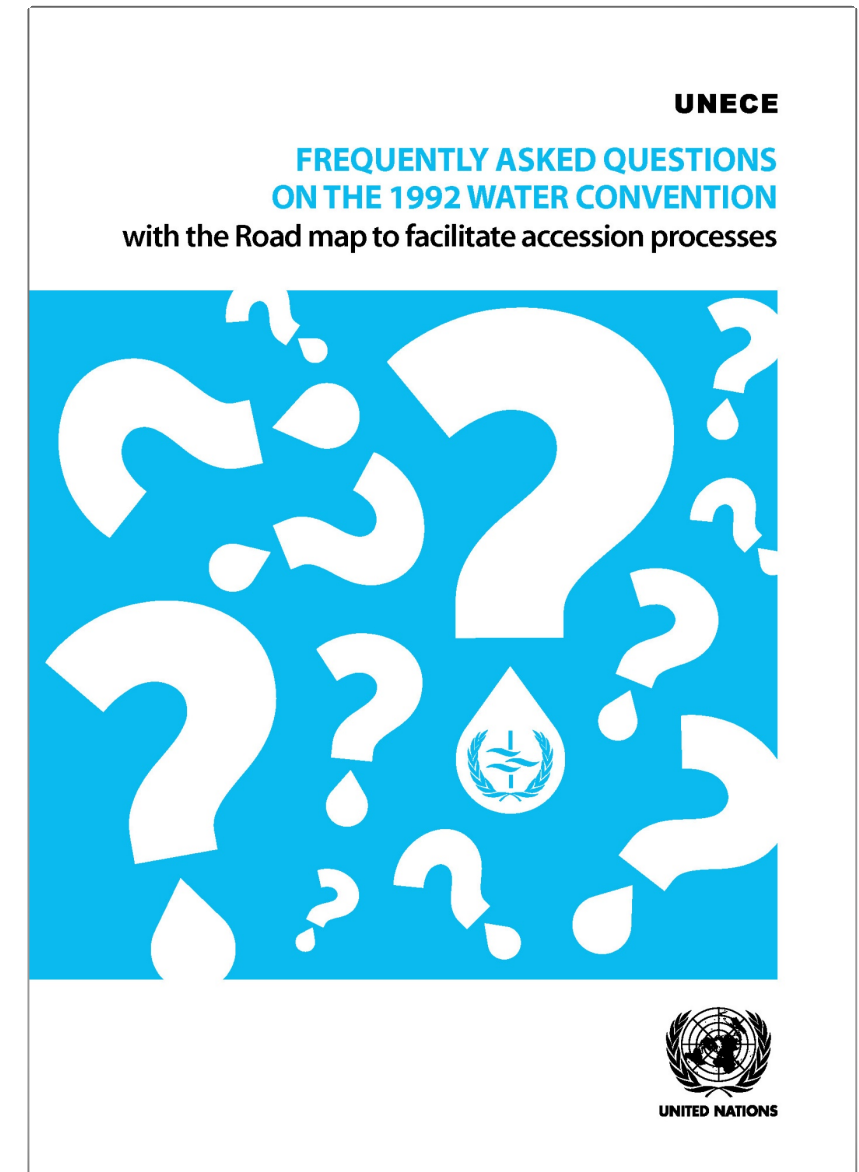
Heide Jekel, Germany
Co-Chair, Working Group on IWRM
Member, Water Convention Bureau



Over 50 FAQs

- Added value at global, transboundary & national scales
- Global application
- Relationship with the 1997 Watercourses Convention
- Scope
- Principles and obligations
- Implementation, operation, capacity & compliance
- Accession preparation and process

<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=55164>



FAQ 1.2: What does my country achieve by becoming a Party to the Water Convention?



FAQ 1.9: How can the Water Convention prevent conflicts and wars over transboundary waters?

- Daily cooperation (agreements and joint bodies) increases trust => instrumental for preventing conflicts and wars
 - Can be confirmed by Germany's experience in 6 international river basin commissions
- Institutional framework assists to set up agreements and joint bodies (projects in Drin, Kura, Dniester and Chu-Talas basins, Senegal-Mauritania aquifer cooperation)
- Advice and assistance from the Implementation Committee



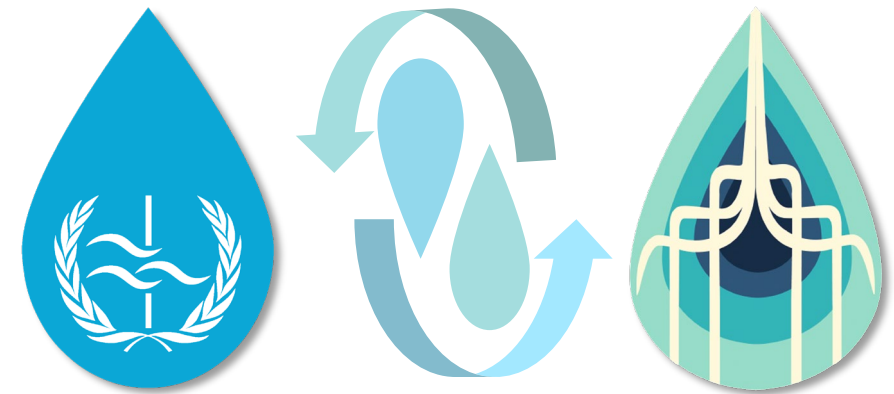
FAQ 2.1: The Water Convention was originally drafted as a regional agreement. Why was a decision taken to open it to all United Nations Member States?

- Build on the success achieved => practice had demonstrated usefulness
- Apply the principles and provisions worldwide
=> broaden political support for transboundary cooperation
- Interest from countries outside the region
- Willingness to learn from other regions and to share



FAQ 3.2: Can a country that is already Party to the 1997 Watercourses Convention accede to the 1992 Water Convention? What are the benefits?

- Two Conventions are fully aligned and compatible => Countries can accede to both without legal complications
- 17 countries are Parties to both
 - Germany for example
- Water Convention's institutional platform supports implementation (projects, Implementation Committee, soft law)
- Some differences between the two texts represent useful complementarities



FAQ 6.1: Can a country accede to the Water Convention if it cannot implement all its requirements due to the lack of resources and capacity?

- Parties are at different stages of development and this is fine!
- Most obligations are “due diligence” ones: Parties shall take “all appropriate measures”
- Measures should be proportionate to the economic, financial and other capacity of the Party, and to the degree of risk of transboundary impact
- Step-by-step implementation
- New Parties => Implementation Plan



Why is the Water Convention important for Germany?

- For two decades the only UN instrument in force on transboundary water management
 - Now a global instrument!
 - Germany is Party since 1995
- Basis of river basin commissions in which Germany cooperates with other countries
- Influenced EU water law
- Covers countries in transboundary basins, which are not EU Member States
 - Common language
 - Shared principles
 - Jointly developed products
- Practice oriented document
 - Checklist for necessary ingredients for successful transboundary water cooperation
- Important platform for exchanging experience and knowledge – and a lot of fun, too



Photo: Klaus Wendling



For more information:

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

water.convention@un.org

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**ASK YOUR MOST DIFFICULT
QUESTION ABOUT THE
WATER CONVENTION !**

