

1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

BENEFITS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

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WATER
CONVENTION

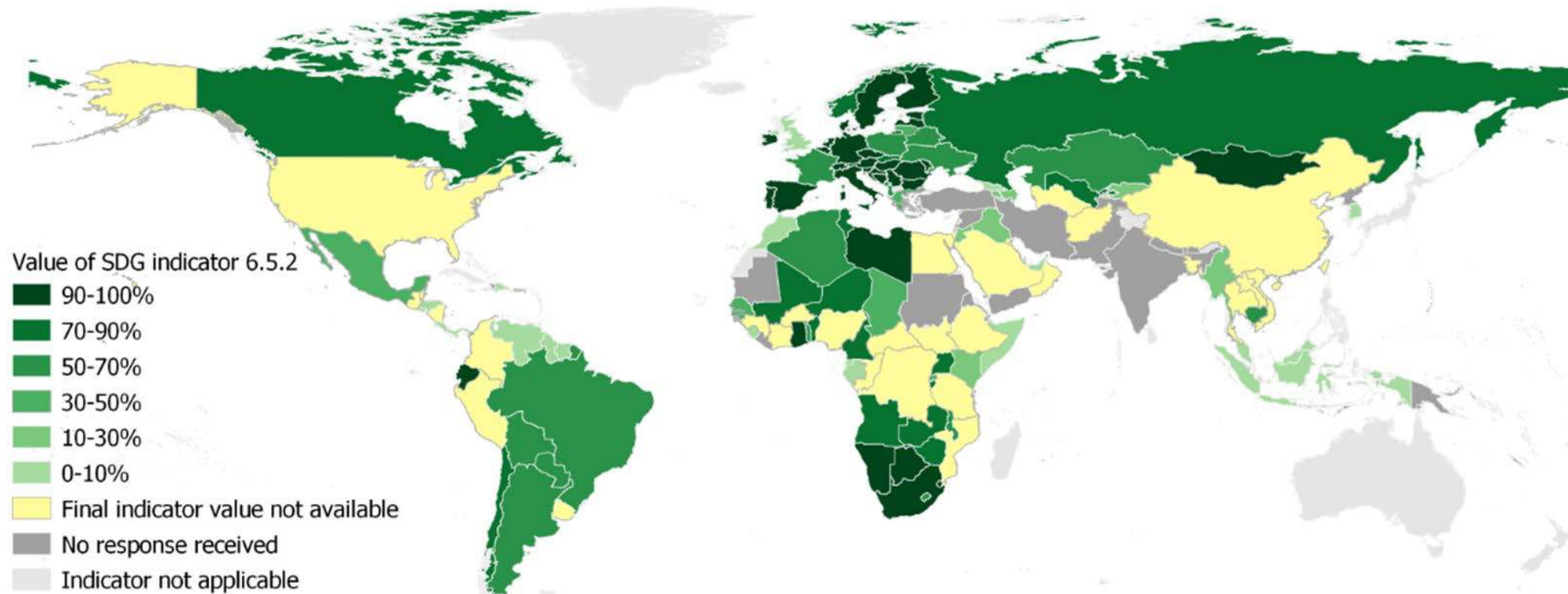


More than **3 billion people** worldwide depend on water that crosses national borders. Yet, out of **153** countries that share rivers, lakes and aquifers, only **24** countries report having operational cooperation agreements for all their shared water.

Cooperation over shared water resources is crucial

SDG 6 Target 6.5 aims to implement **integrated water resources management** at all levels, including through **transboundary cooperation**.

Indicator 6.5.2 measures the proportion of transboundary basin area with an **operational arrangement** for water cooperation.



SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

In the second reporting exercise on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 (2020/2021), only **24 countries** reported all transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by operational arrangements.

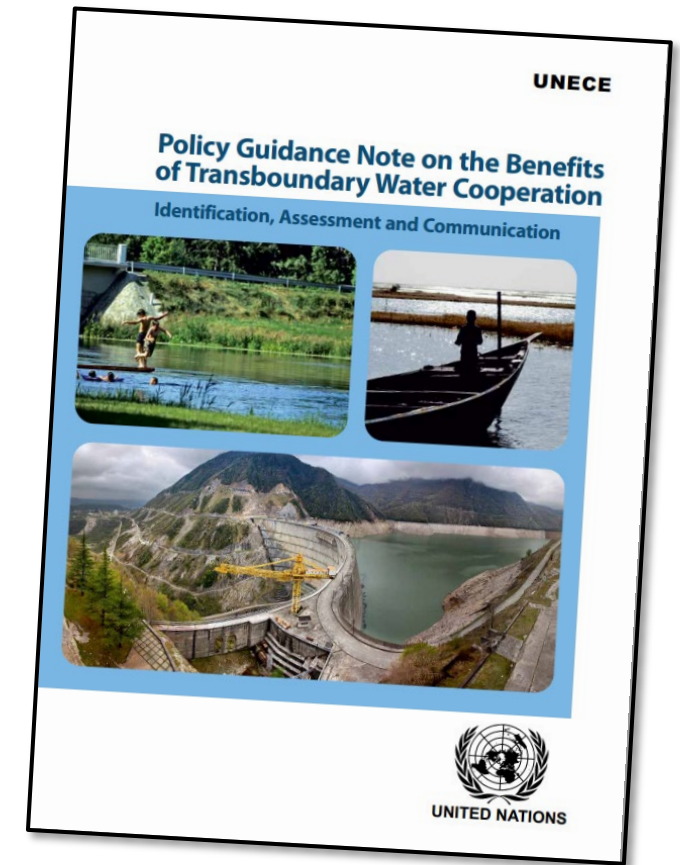
Policy Guidance on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation

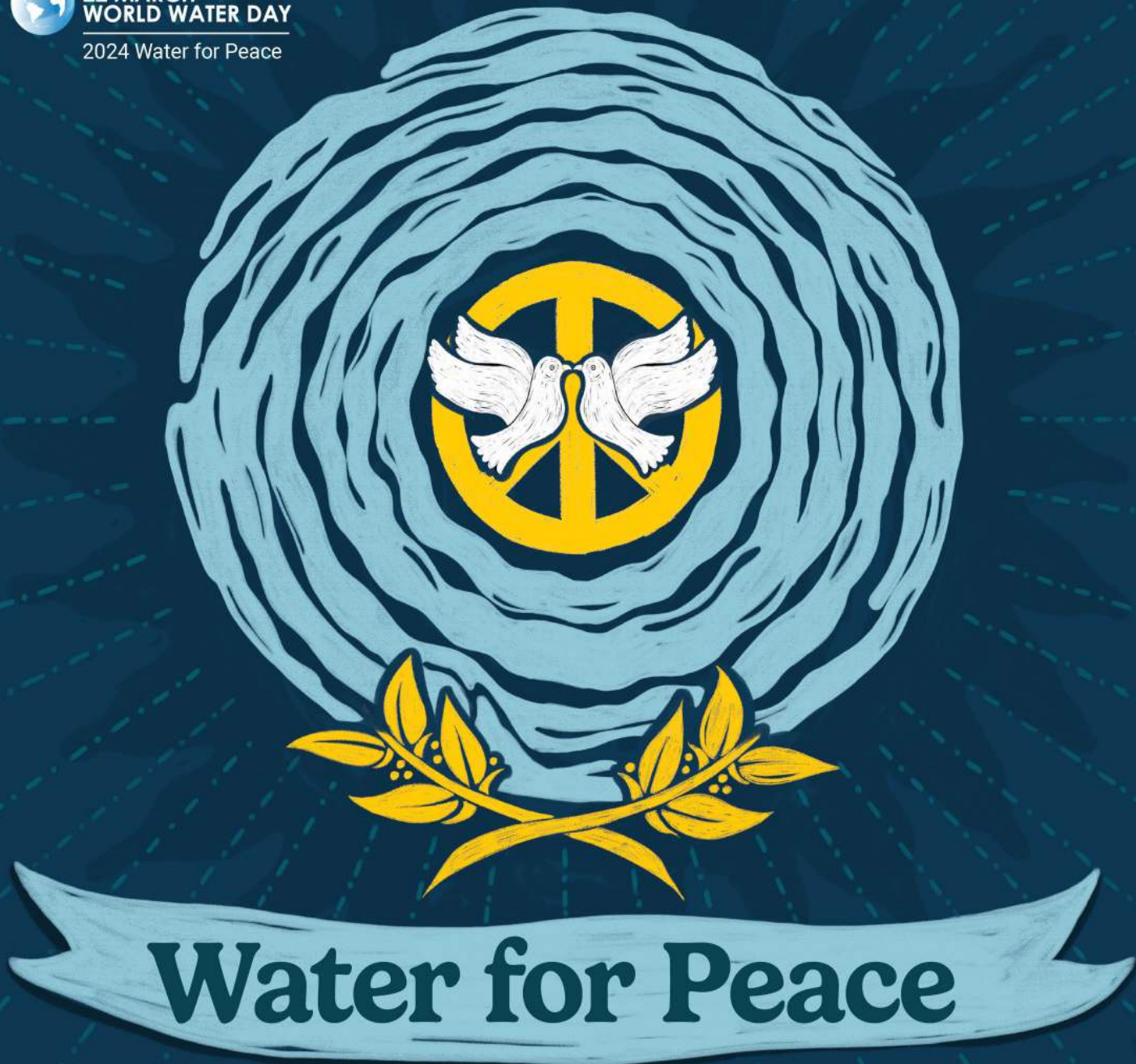
Transboundary Water Cooperation is necessary to manage shared waters in an **integrated and sustainable way**.

It has the potential to generate **significant benefits** (economic, social, environmental, regional, peace, etc.) for cooperating countries.

It helps pave the way for other forms of cooperation by **enhancing trust**.

Communication is key to integrating benefit assessment results in policy processes.





Transboundary Water Cooperation supports Peace and Security

It helps **prevent water-related conflicts** and **solve existing ones**.

It has **spillover effects**, contributing to reduced political tensions, security and other foreign policy objectives.

The **institutional mechanisms** developed through transboundary water cooperation constitute a key element for the realization of peace and security benefits.

An aerial photograph of a vibrant turquoise river meandering through a lush, green forested valley. The river flows from the top right towards the bottom left, forming a large loop. A light-colored, winding road follows the contours of the valley floor, parallel to the river. The surrounding hillsides are covered in dense, multi-colored trees, suggesting a diverse ecosystem. The overall scene is bright and scenic, with a soft, hazy atmosphere in the background.

Cooperation in the Sava River Basin

***A Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin** entered into force in 2004.*

***The International Sava River Basin Commission** was established as a joint body to implement the agreement.*

*The cooperation on the river basin has helped to **build trust following the conflicts in the region** and to **develop cooperation** between the countries.*

UN Water Convention



*A global **legal and institutional framework** for transboundary water cooperation contributing to **sustainable development, international peace and security.***



*A **unique platform** to discuss progress of transboundary water cooperation worldwide under the umbrella of the **United Nations.***



*Opened to all interested countries, with **52 parties** and more than **130 countries** exchanging experiences and knowledge to prompt progress in cooperation.*





Importance of the UN Water Convention for Peace

The Water Convention supports the development of agreements in basins even in **complex political or diplomatic settings**.

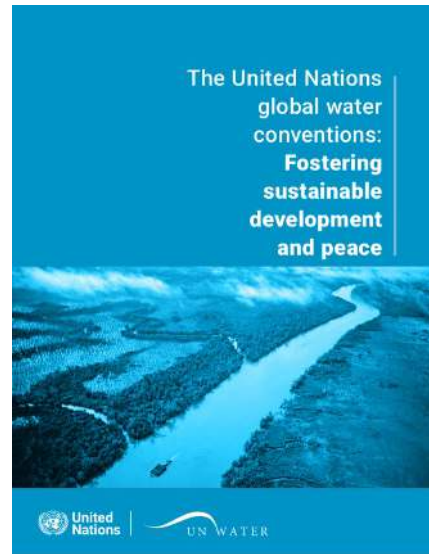
It **supports the establishment of RBOs and other joint institutions**, providing platforms for dialogue, negotiations, and improved water resource governance.

It **promotes the gradual improvement of cooperation** and strengthens implementation, e.g., through a platform for sharing experiences and good practices.

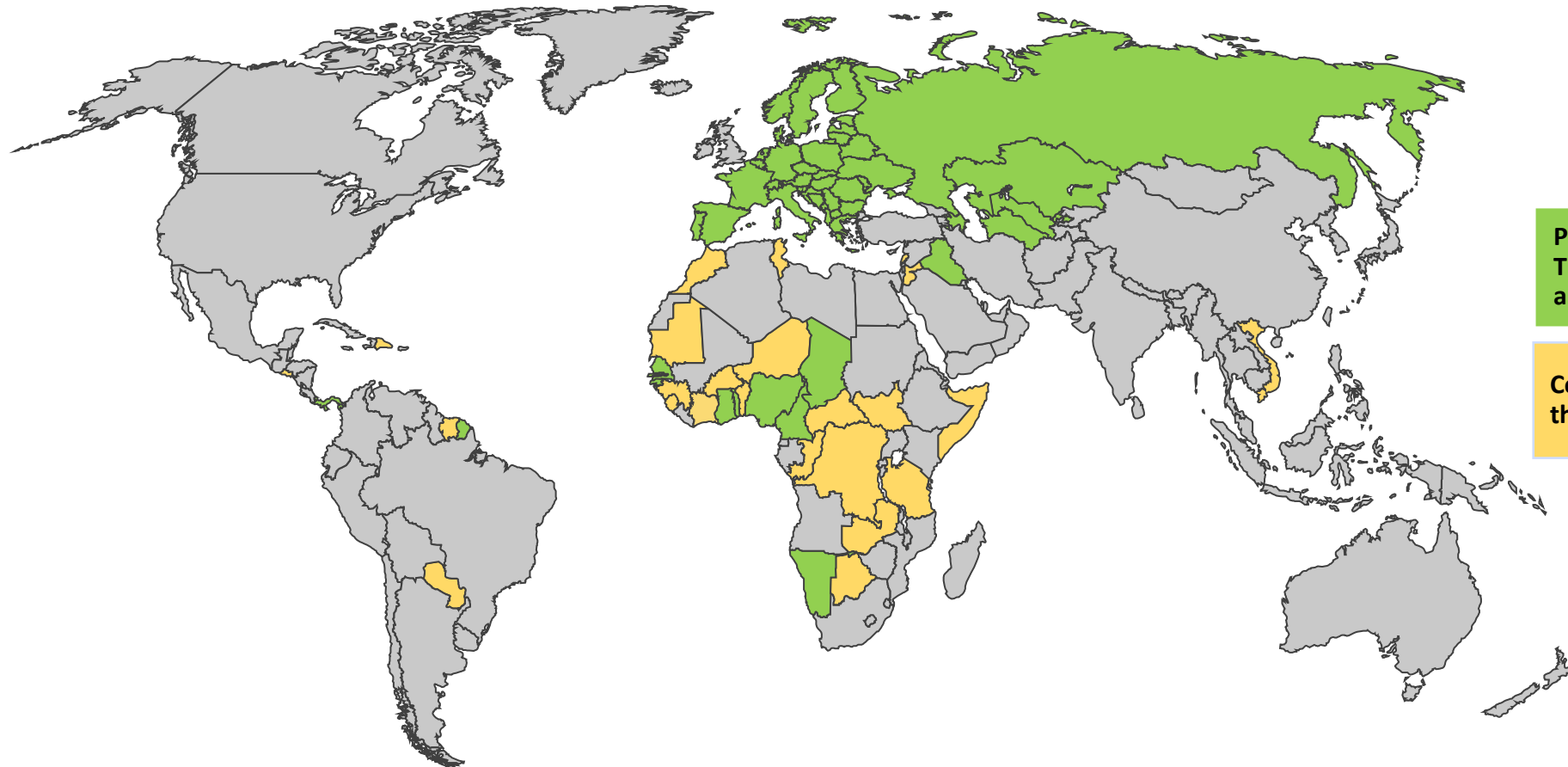
It **supports existing treaties** and where basin agreements are to be created the Convention can facilitate negotiations and cooperation.

The **Implementation Committee** (est. 2012) supports conflict prevention and provides practical assistance.

Strengthens the **profile of transboundary waters** at national and international political level and fosters synergies with other global initiatives.



Globalization of the Water Convention

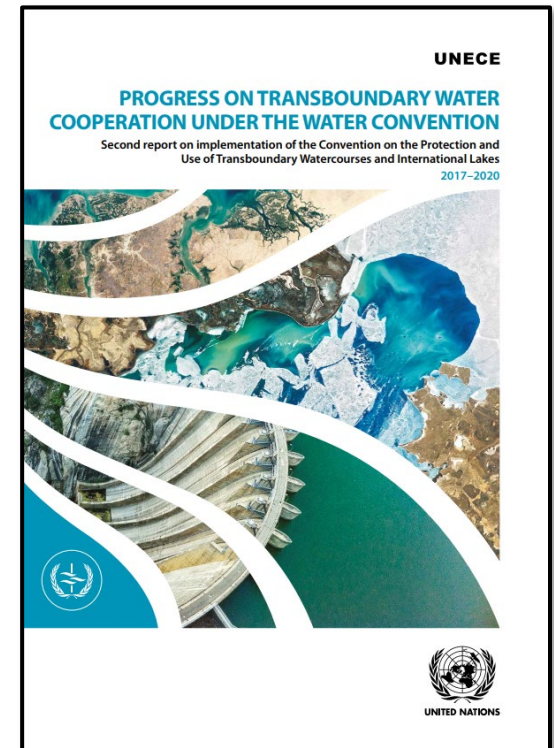
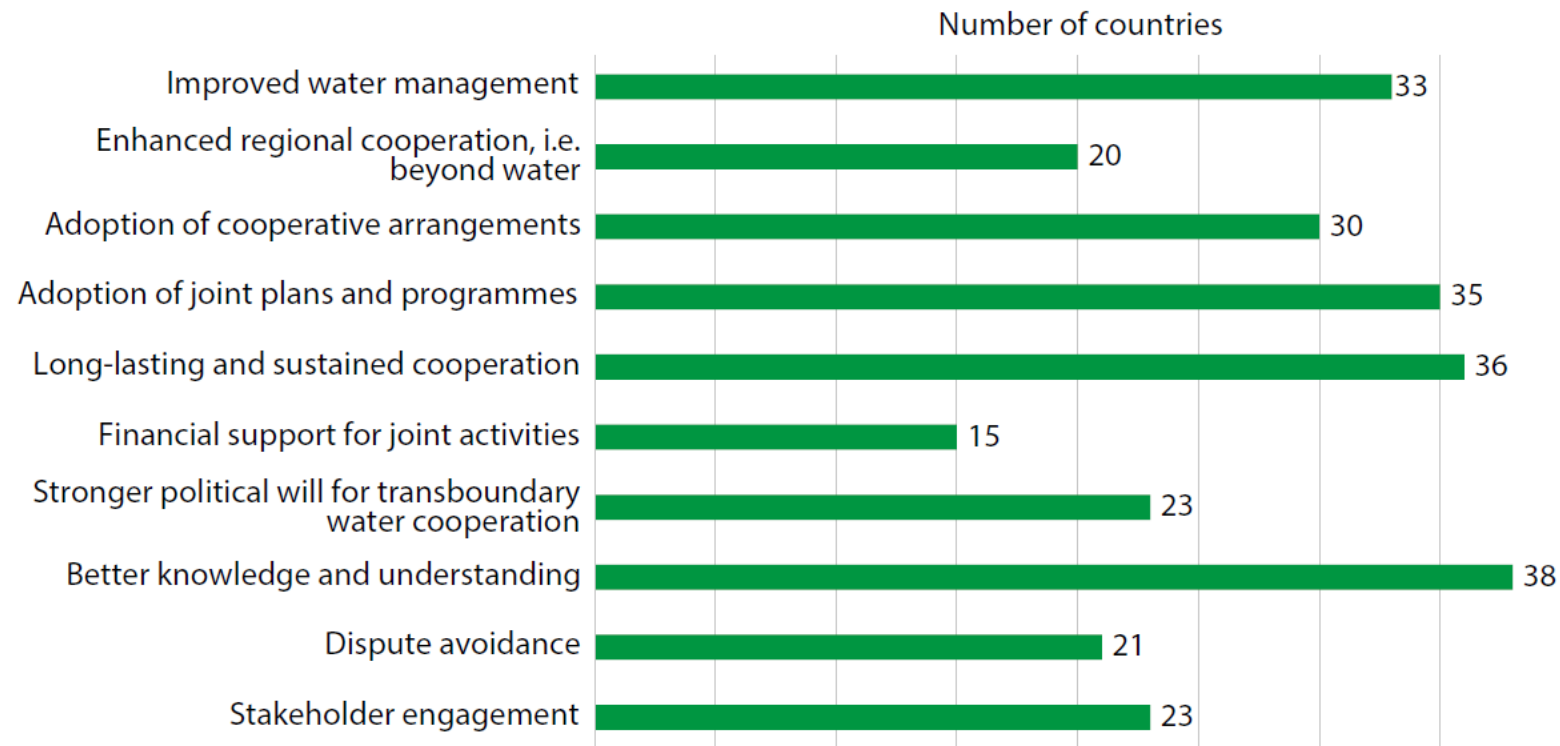


Parties to the Convention (52) – newest:
The Gambia, Panama, Namibia, Nigeria
and Iraq (2023)

Countries in the process of accession to
the Convention (>20)

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

Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation





Online and in Stockholm, Sweden | 25-29 August 2024

World Water Week 2024: 25-29 August



Joint meeting of the Working Group on IWRM and
the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
(Geneva, 6-8 May 2024)

10th Meeting of the Parties to the Water
Convention (Ljubljana, 23-25 October 2024)





WATER
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We must accelerate efforts to work together across borders, and I urge all countries to join and implement the United Nations Water Convention – which promotes managing shared water resources sustainably. - António Guterres

For more information: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water>

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