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Regional cooperation

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 29 July 2025

[on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Europe
([E/2025/15/Add.1/Rev.1](#))]

2025/27. Multilingualism in meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025, of decision E (71) on multilingualism in meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes,¹

Endorses Economic Commission for Europe decision E (71), annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to provide translation and interpretation services into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in addition to English, French and Russian, at future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes from the United Nations regular budget, including the translation of official documents and publications of the Convention into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in order to enable effective and equal participation by all Member States.

*40th plenary meeting
29 July 2025*

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1936, No. 33207.



Annex**Decision E (71)****Multilingualism in meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recognizing the significant progress made since the entry into force in 1996 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), which has provided a sound legal framework and an effective intergovernmental platform for the promotion of cooperation and the sustainable management of water resources at the basin, regional and international levels that are key for peaceful and sustainable development,

Recalling decision III/1² of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention opening the Convention to accession by all United Nations Member States and its entry into force in 2013,

Welcoming the significant global interest in acceding to the Water Convention, which since 2018 counts 12 new Parties from Africa (Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), one from Latin America (Panama) and one from the Middle East (Iraq),

Welcoming also the fact that more than 20 other countries are in the process of acceding to the Water Convention and should soon become Parties, including five Spanish-speaking countries and two Arabic-speaking countries,

Highlighting that, in addition to the current 55 Convention Parties, around 80 other countries take part in meetings and activities under the Convention, making a total of more than 130 participating United Nations Member States,

Emphasizing that the Convention offers the only United Nations intergovernmental framework for policy and technical discussions on the sustainable management of transboundary water resources, and that its platform and work are useful to all countries sharing water resources, not only to Parties,

Recalling multiple resolutions of the General Assembly on multilingualism, including resolutions [71/328](#), [73/346](#) and [76/268](#), which emphasize the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations,

Noting the adoption, at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024), of Decision X/3 on promoting equal and effective participation of all Parties in sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes through translation and interpretation into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish,

1. *Decides* that translation of all official Convention documents and publications into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish shall be ensured in order to enable equal and effective participation of all current and future Parties and other countries in Convention activities;

2. *Also decides* that interpretation into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish at sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other official Convention meetings shall be ensured in order to enable equal and effective participation of current and future Parties and other countries in Convention activities;

² ECE/MP.WAT/14.

3. *Requests* the United Nations Secretary-General to provide translation and interpretation services into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in addition to English, French and Russian, at future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention from the United Nations regular budget, including the translation of official documents and publications of the Convention into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish, in order to enable effective and equal participation by all Parties and other countries;

4. *Decides* to transmit to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.
