



**Statement by the Republic of Azerbaijan at the special session to celebrate
Chad's accession to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)**

delivered by Kamala Huseynli-Abishova

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Thank you Excellency!

We would like to thank the UNECE and in particular the Secretariat of the Water Convention for organizing this event.

We welcome the opening of the Water Convention for global accession and applaud the accession of Chad to the Water Convention. Much is ahead for you! We wish you all success and we stand ready to share with you our experience and best practices in this field.

We believe that the Water Convention is valuable tool to preserve and protect the most important, precious and unfortunately scarce resource and achieve a number of SDGs directly or indirectly related to Water resources.

We hope that a number of countries from outside as well as from the inside the UNECE region will follow the suite. We are pleased to hear that a number of countries have expressed their interest to accede to the Convention.

Azerbaijan is a downstream country in terms of freshwater reserves. Large amount of Azerbaijan's freshwater reserves are formed in the neighboring countries and their intensive pollution, contamination with chemicals, radioactive and other harmful substances on the territory of these countries causes problems in supplying drinking water to the population.

Tremendous work has been done under the Water Convention in Azerbaijan and we will continue to work closely with UNECE and Water Convention Secretariat in this direction.

However we believe that such an important tool can be even more valuable if all neighboring and riparian states accede to this Convention.

We therefore, express our sincere hope that the UNECE and in particular Water Convention Secretariat will continue to work to achieve universal accession.

Thank you!