



8<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**  
10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN

A dynamic splash of clear blue water against a light blue background, with water droplets and bubbles scattered around the main splash.

# Task Force on Water and Climate

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# 1. Main achievements of the TF on Water and Climate

## Pilot projects and the Global Network of Basins

- Neman – elements of a joint river basin management plan elaborated (joint delineation of water bodies, classification of status)
- Chu Talas – preparation of the Strategic Action Plan with an adaptation component and implementation of pilot adaptation measures with UNDP-GEF project
- Dniester – finalization of the Implementation Plan for the Strategic Framework for Basin Adaptation with OSCE
- Sava – Development of the Baseline work and extended outline of the transboundary climate change adaptation strategy with INBO



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## 2. Main achievements of the TF on Water and Climate

- International Workshop on Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (13 - 14 September 2016, Geneva)
  - Topics: Barriers and solutions for financing basin-wide adaptation. Financing for different types of measures. How to implement investments in transboundary basins? Etc.
- International Workshop on Water Scarcity: Taking action in transboundary basins and reducing health impacts (11 - 12 December 2017, Geneva), jointly with Protocol on Water and Health
  - Topics: How to design transboundary agreements flexibly to address water scarcity? How to make reuse of water efficient and safe? Etc.



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### 3. Main achievements of the TF on Water and Climate

- Training on how to prepare bankable project proposals for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (Dakar, 21-23 June 2017)
  - Jointly organized with World Bank, European Investment Bank, African Development Bank and INBO
  - Hosted by OMVS (Senegal basin development organization)
- International Summit “Water and Climate: Meeting of the great Rivers of the World” (Rome, 23-25 October 2017)
  - Organized by: Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea of Italy, UNECE, RIOB/INBO, Global Alliances for Water and Climate



## 4. Main achievements of the TF on Water and Climate

- Raised importance on transboundary cooperation in global processes by providing input to water days at COP22 and COP23
- Supported basins in raising funding for climate change adaptation at transboundary level and achieved convergent views on this topic with global financial institutions
- Started work on financing and the emerging topic of water scarcity in transboundary basins
- In the Dniester and Chu Talas basins, adaptive capacity was increased by implementing adaptation measures beneficial from a transboundary perspective.



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## 5. Main achievements of the TF on Water and Climate

Two publications:

- Words into Action guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation in cooperation with UNISDR
- Publication on preparing bankable project proposals for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins together with the World Bank, AFDB, EIB, INBO (under finalization)



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## 6. Lessons learnt for future work

- Water should become a high priority in the international negotiations on climate change and disasters
- Regional and transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation is crucial to effectively address this change
- Governments and the international community must ensure mobilization of funding for urgent actions to adapt water to climate, not only for infrastructure projects but also to improve knowledge, for capacity building, governance, water culture, and the monitoring and evaluation of policies



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## 7. Lessons learnt for future work

- **Water scarcity** and droughts are occurring more and more frequently and with increased magnitude, even in previously water-rich countries
- **Water scarcity** can negatively affect water supply and sanitation services
- **Water scarcity** may also limit economic growth:
  - decline in agricultural production
  - affect the environment and biodiversity by reducing environmental flow
  - lead to conflicts within and across countries
  - act as a migration push factor



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## 8. Lessons learnt for future work

- Include water scarcity in transboundary cooperation agreements - Most attention is at national and local level (NDCs, NAPs etc.) - much more work needed to demonstrate benefits of basin perspective
- Need to address health implication of water scarcity
- Groundwater is important in water stressed regions but currently often over-exploited
- Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins is very complicated; basin organizations need support in developing bankable project proposals
- Need to continue the exchange of experience between basins and to enlarge the network of basins to Latin America



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## 9. Suggested future work in this area

- Start new phase of exchange of experience on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins: 2 global workshops (next on 29-30 April 2019) and of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation (Meeting in February 2019)
- Continue the program of pilot projects
- Additional capacity-building in other regions/ basins on financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
- Contribute to global policy processes on water, climate and disasters, such as UNISDR and UNFCCC

