

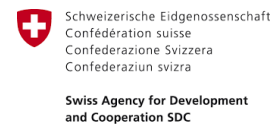
## Keystone Roundtable on Priority 3 Cooperation

Thursday 24 March

15:15 – 16:45 (UTC / Dakar time)

Auditorium

Co-Convenors:



المكتب الوطني للكهرباء و الماء الصالح للشرب  
Office National de l'Electricité et de l'Eau Potable



## CONTEXT

The programme of the 9th World Water Forum includes 23 ordinary thematic sessions dedicated to the discussions on Priority 3 – Cooperation. These sessions focus on the important role of cooperation in ensuring sustainable and peaceful management of water resources. This Keystone Roundtable discusses the main outcomes of the OTSs, including the commitments and recommendations for concrete actions to be implemented, and the potential actors to be involved to achieve the short-term and long-term goals of improving water cooperation.

## KEYWORDS

- transboundary water cooperation, peace

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION

The programme of the 9th World Water Forum includes 23 ordinary thematic sessions dedicated to the discussions on Priority 3 – Cooperation. These sessions focus on the important role of cooperation in ensuring sustainable and peaceful management of water resources. The Cooperation priority highlights the linkages between the following targets of the 2030 Agenda: Target 6.5 on integrated water resources management (IWRM) at all levels, Target 6.A on expanding international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation, Target 9.1 on building resilient infrastructure, including hydraulic structures, and SDG 17 on partnerships which is under review in 2022 at HLPF.

This Keystone Roundtable discusses the main outcomes of the OTSs, including the commitments and recommendations for concrete actions to be implemented, and the potential actors to be involved to achieve the short-term and long-term goals of improving water cooperation. As such, it will focus on the main political messages that came up during the discussions and the efforts required to achieve SDG Goal 6, Target 6.5, including inter alia the development of agreements on both surface and ground waters and accession to the UN Conventions on transboundary water management; the need to improve conjunctive management of groundwater and surface water resources at all levels, target 6.A and Target 9.1. The roundtable will also explore means to enhance cooperation at the basin, national, sub-national and international level, address the crucial elements that contribute to improving cooperation (water planning, infrastructure management, data and information sharing, capacity building, financing of cooperation activities); and discuss the different types of collaboration and partnerships needed at different scales, including civil society and private actors.

### *Suggested concrete actions toward accelerating progress and development:*

- An initiative on accelerating transboundary water cooperation for the 2023 UN Water conference
- Dakar action plan for the basins
- Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Water Management
- Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin
- Model adopted on the distribution of costs and charges at OMVS level (Infrastructure)
- Master Plan for Integrated Development of OMVG

## 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Dakar

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- Blue Peace

### *Guiding questions:*

- What is the status of transboundary water cooperation based on the results of the reporting mechanisms established at international and regional levels? How to measure and demonstrate benefits of water cooperation beyond water sector?
- What are the key areas of cooperation that governments, RBOs, civil society organizations, and other actors need to focus on to accelerate achievement of the water-related SDGs?
- What are the concrete actions that need to be taken to improve and accelerate cooperation on both surface and ground waters? Who are the main actors at the transboundary, regional, national, and sub-national level that need to implement these actions?
- What role should public and private financing institutions play in promoting cooperation and what incentive mechanisms should be put in place? Which partnerships need to be reinforced or newly created?

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## Political messages

1. Cooperative water resources management is a key factor for peace, sustainable development, regional integration and human well-being. However, it requires enormous additional efforts, especially for the achievement of the SDG target 6.5 on IWRM at the national and transboundary basin level, the development of agreements, the creation/ strengthening of basin organizations, and accession to and full implementation of the international conventions on transboundary basin management (Helsinki Convention 1992, New York Convention 1997).
2. Cooperation for conjunctive management of groundwater and surface water resources, from upstream to downstream, at national and transboundary basins level, should be supported, including strengthening national and transboundary basin organizations (technically, financially and diplomatically).
3. Cooperation also needs to involve different types of collaboration (North/North, North/South, South/ South) and also include support for water resources management planning, data and information sharing, capacity building (including training), and financing of water resources management, especially at the basin level (national as well as transboundary), thus building trust between users and between States in a transboundary basin.
4. Partnerships at different administrative scales between diverse sectors & stakeholders should be strengthened and encouraged, with inclusion and collaboration between public and private organizations but also CSOs including women and youth organizations.
5. States need to strengthen their efforts to meet the long-standing UN target of 0.7% of their gross national income to ODA, that puts water as a political priority of states' ODA (currently: 4% of total ODA) on an equal footing with agriculture and energy sectors.

## PROGRAMME (90 mins)

### Introduction to the session (10 min)

*Moderators:* **Mr. Henk Ovink**, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Netherlands and **Ms. Judith Enaw**, President of the African Network of Basin Organizations

- Overview of messages from the different action groups by the priority Cooperation co-chairs:  
**Mr. Ababacar Ndao**, Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG)  
**Ms. Yoonjin Kim**, Korea Water Forum

### Part I (35 min)

#### Improving cooperation between different sectors and stakeholders: Discussion on the required short and long-term actions

*Panel Interventions:*

- Supporting basin organisations to achieve the SDG target of cooperative IWRM & dialogue across sectors: replying to the call of the Dakar Action Plan for basins  
**H.E. Mr. Nizar Baraka**, Minister for Equipment and Water, Morocco
- Funding and financing in a multilevel cooperation: **H.E. Mr. Lamin Dibba**, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, The Gambia
- Cooperation and dialogue across sectors: **H.E. Ms. Pilar Cancela**, Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain
- The role of Youth: **Mr. Nounagnon Zinsou**, World Youth Parliament for Water (Benin)
- Cooperation and partnerships: **Mr. Howard Bamsey**, Chair, Global Water Partnership
- Regionale Perspective: **Ms. Dinara Ziganshina**, Acting Director, Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia

*Q&A session (10 min)*

## Part II (30 min)

### Enhancing water cooperation at the basin and international scale: discussion on the required short and medium-term actions

#### *Panel interventions:*

- South-South cooperation: **H. E. Carl Hermann Gustav Schlettwein**, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Namibia
- Team Europe initiative and approach: **Ms. Marjeta Jager**, Deputy Director General for the Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission
- Accelerating transboundary cooperation and the role of basin organizations as agents for peace: **H.E. Mr. Hamed Diane SEMEGA**, High Commissioner, Senegal River Basin Development Organization (OMVS)
- Joint infrastructure development, **Ms. María A. Gwynn**, Member of the Governing Council, ITAIPU Binacional
- The Global Water Conventions: **Ms. Sonja Koepfel**, Secretary, Water Convention, UNECE
- Role of financing for partnerships: **Mr. Franz Rojas-Ortuste**, Head of the Water Agenda, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

#### *Q&A session (10 min)*

### Summary and conclusions towards the 2023 UN Water Conference – 5 min Mr Ababacar Ndao and Ms Yoonjin Kim