

Sixth meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation

“Accelerating progress toward the achievement of SDG 6:
lessons learnt, and problems faced by RBOs
in the development of adaptation actions”

Monday 25th April 2022, 10:00 -12:00 am – 2:00 - 4:00 pm (CET)

Geneva, Palais de Nations – Room TPS1
& Online, Zoom

With simultaneous interpretation into English, French, Russian



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU
Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV
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INFORMATION NOTE

Background

Climate change is one of the largest and possibly most impactful ongoing but also future environmental drivers, which manifests itself, amongst others, in the increasing frequency and magnitude of extreme events such as unpredictable rainfall patterns, aquatic ecosystems degradation, altered river flows, sea level rise, induced salinization of coastal groundwater, more frequent and intense floods and droughts. Hydrological changes induced by climate change add challenges to the sustainable management of water resources and negatively impact freshwater ecosystems, including aquifers, which are already under severe pressure in many regions of the world.

As climate change impacts increase and world is off track on achieving availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, greater cooperation between the water and climate communities is required.

On the one hand, it is imperative that the climate change community give greater attention to the key role of water in addressing the climate change crisis. Most NDCs updated in 2021 include a wider range of sectors and measures that include water-related activities. In addition, more connections between the NDCs and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were made by most parties, including specific reference to SDG6 Clean Water and Sanitation were found in approximately 35% of NDCs.

On the other hand, it is equally essential that the water community focuses its efforts to promote the importance of water in terms of both adaptation and mitigation, through the development of vulnerability assessments, adaptation strategies and inclusion of climate change into basin management plans, development of concrete water-related project proposals for inclusion in NAPs and NDCs and access climate finance, as well as strengthening the means and capacities to plan, implement and monitor water-related activities in NDCs and at basin scale.

Moreover, the next year United Nations Conference (22-24th of March 2023) on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, will represent a crucial occasion to analyse gaps and identify further action and initiatives to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and promote the implementation of the objectives of the Decade.

In this context, transboundary water cooperation plays an important role. Indeed, cooperation among countries sharing common water resources helps in improving adaptation to water-related climate risks (for example through the exchange of data, enlarging the range and location of available measures, and sharing the costs and benefits). It prevents maladaptation that might unfold through unilateral measures and their potential negative impacts.

Nevertheless, in the portfolio of projects supported by climate finance actors, water is underrepresented, lagging far behind the sectors of energy, agriculture or forestry. Countries and river basin organizations (RBOs) pursuing basin-level adaptation approaches often face even greater difficulties in accessing financial resources for the implementation of transboundary and multinational development strategies.

The sixth meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation has therefore the scope to provide an occasion to share experiences, updates, progress, lessons learned and best practices in developing, financing and implementing adaptation plans - with particular attention to ecosystem-based adaptation - and actions at transboundary level, in view of the acceleration needed to achieve SDG6 and in line with the Dakar Action Plan for basins.

The meeting will be organised by the secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) - serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) - in cooperation with the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and under the leadership of the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The Global network was created in 2013 and it includes, at present, 17 basins. It is jointly coordinated by INBO and the Water Convention with the aim to promote cooperation on adaptation in transboundary basins, to compare different methodologies and approaches for adapting to climate change and to promote a shared vision between the participating basins. In the past years, activities of the network focused on increasing the capacity of basins in addressing water-related disasters and raising funds for climate change adaptation.

[Agenda outline](#)

As a meeting approach, the discussion will be focused on the expertise of the basin organizations, which will have a central role.

Introduction (10:00 – 10:20)

Welcome remarks and short introduction

First session (10:20 – 12:00)

General updates of the network members about respective climate change actions, including links to NDCs

Lunch-break (12:00 – 14:00)**Second session (14:00 – 15:15)**

Tackling climate change effects on freshwater ecosystems at transboundary level: examples from basin organisations

Third session (15:15 – 15:45)

Future activities of the network vis-a-vis other global and regional developments and actors.

Closure (15:45 – 16:00)

Wrap-up and closing remarks

Practical information

The meeting of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation will take place on **Monday 25th April 2022 from 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. and from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

The meeting will be organised in a **hybrid format**. It will be held in the Palais des Nations – room TPS1, Geneva and virtual participation in all sessions will be arranged for through Zoom.

Interpretation will be provided into English, French and Russian.

Further information and background materials will be made available at: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/sixth-meeting-global-network-basins-working-climate-change-adaptation>

The meeting is open to representatives of the members of the network and selected other invited experts and will be designed in an interactive way. Experiences from different regions and by different partners will be shared to draw lessons learned and best practices. For this reason, we kindly ask you to inform us, by **1st April 2022**, on your progress and future plans by **filling out the attached template**. The compiled report with your input will serve as a background document for the meeting and will help design the programme.

Invitees planning to attend the meeting, whether virtually or in-person, are kindly asked to register by **4th April 2022** using the following link <https://indico.un.org/event/1000657/>, as only registered participants will get access to the meeting. Participants are requested to indicate whether they intend to participate remotely or in person.

For those planning to join the meeting virtually, please note that the connection details and further guidance on how to use the virtual platform will be shared with registered participants a few days ahead of the meeting.

For those planning to join the meeting in person, please note that travel restrictions put in place to address the spread of the coronavirus are subject to change. We recommend to confirm directly with Swiss authorities for the most current information (please visit the website of the [Swiss Federal Office of Public Health](#)). Please visit the Swiss Government Travel Check Website to verify which entry requirements apply to your entry to Switzerland: <https://travelcheck.admin.ch/home>.

Participants requiring entry visas to Switzerland should initiate visa procedures at least five weeks before the meeting. The Secretariat will provide participants with an invitation letter, which should be used to apply for a visa at the nearest consular office of Switzerland. For requesting visa letters, please contact the Secretariat as early as possible.

On their way to the meeting, participants should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix. Please allow time for this.

A map of the Palais des Nations is available [here](#).

For assistance with registration and other organisational issues, please contact Ms. Olga Petrova olga.petrova@un.org.

For content-related issues please contact Ms. Veronica Girardi veronica.girardi@un.org (Secretariat of the Water Convention) and Mr. Edouard Boinet e.boinet@inbo-news.org (INBO).