



**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. CARL-HERMANN GUSTAV SCHLETTWEIN, THE MINISTER  
FOR AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND LAND REFORM, REPUBLIC OF  
NAMIBIA, AND AMCOW PRESIDENT  
DELIVERED DURING A HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON "LESSONS AND  
PERSPECTIVES ON WATER  
COOPERATION FOR AFRICA AND EUROPE: FROM THE 2022  
DAKAR FORUM TO THE 2023 UN WATER CONFERENCE"  
10 JUNE 2022,  
VIRTUAL  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

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*Cooperation at the African level: Namibian perspective: H.E. Carl Hermann Gustav Schlettwein,  
Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Namibia, Chairman of the African Ministers' Council  
on Water, (7 min) tbc*

## Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen

I am honoured to have been invited to participate in the **High-Level Event on “Lessons and Perspectives on Water Cooperation for Africa and Europe: from the 2022 Dakar Forum to the 2023 UN Water Conference.**

Namibia is one of the countries that shares transboundary basins and has entered into bilateral and multilateral Agreements to establish River Basin Commissions, aimed at promoting joint management and sustainable development of the transboundary waters. Furthermore Namibia has ratified the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses of 1997, and the Revised SADC Protocol on shared watercourses of 2000. With the global opening up of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992 Water Convention), to allow other UN Member states outside of UNECE region to accede, Namibia sees this as a great opportunity to be part of this global framework, together with Africa and Europe states who are already party to the Water Convention, and has started the accession process. The national stakeholders workshop held last week, showcased the value proposition for Namibia’s accession, and provided an opportunity for Namibia and international stakeholders to learn about benefits that can be derived from the accession process.

**Commented [KS1]:** UNECE region includes Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus and North America

## Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Namibia has benefited from cooperating on transboundary water since 1886, when the former colonial powers Portugal and Germany signed the First Border Agreement that defines the borders of Angola and Namibia, and the **mutual use**

**of the water of the Kunene River.** Angola and Namibia has since been cooperating and benefiting from the waters on Kunene River. That experience taught us that, with increasing competition for water among states and the declining of available water resources due to among others population growth and climate change impacts, transboundary cooperation is a must. Additionally, as one of the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and a downstream of most basins, cooperation allows Namibia and other basin states to have dialogues around sharing of water in equitable and reasonable manner, as well as developing joint infrastructure projects to the benefit of all. Benefit sharing presents an alternative to the traditional transboundary water management paradigm.

**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

At continental level Africa is a leader in transboundary water cooperation and has over 54 shared river basins across regional economic groupings and most of which have operational arrangements. It cannot be overstressed that cooperation in the management and development of transboundary water resources is a key building block towards regional and economic integration. The Africa Water Vision looks to an Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and the environment. AMCOW as a pan-African institution has a responsibility to effectively and efficiently coordinate water and sanitation projects in the continent and facilitate the strengthening of regional cooperation and transboundary water management and development. Cooperation requires funds, therefore AMCOW also coordinate funding projects such as the Africa Investment Programme (AIP)

is aimed at transforming the investment outlook for water security and sustainable sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful, and equitable Africa. Developing water infrastructure will ensure access to water and sanitation for all. However investment transboundary water projects in Africa remains very slow hampering progress towards the continent's economic growth aspirations and 2030 SDG targets.

**Commented [KS2]:** The minister may call on governments and other actors to mainstream transboundary water cooperation and issues at stake at the 2023 UN Water Conference, including during the preparatory phase

With those few words of intervention, I thank you.