



Talking Points by the UN Resident Coordinator

Mr. Sen Pang

***National workshop related to the Convention on the
Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and
International Lakes: Namibia's accession process***

Venue?, Windhoek May 31, 2022 at 9:00 am

All previous protocol observed

**H.E. Hon. Carl-Hermann Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture,
Water and Land Reform**

Ms. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention

**Mr. Achim Schaffert, Head of Cooperation of the European
Union to Namibia**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is my great honour to be here and greet you on behalf of the UN System in Namibia.

Nowadays, water has become one of the key factors of sustainable development. And as the time limit for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) draws to a close in 2030, the global community is taking stock of how it can move towards a sustainable future.

As my distinguished colleagues highlighted, SDG 6, the water goal and its targets address the development aims of societies and the promotion of human dignity. However, it is my request that we also utilise this workshop as a platform to review whether our achievements truly are sustainable and reflective of long-term results. The water convention grants us an opportunity to continue as written.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On this note, allow me to highlight that UN Namibia has been playing an active and proactive role towards the achievement of the SDGs and specifically in implementing target 6.5.

In realising the universal value of the integrated water resources management at all levels, it is worth noting that the United Nations Partnership Agreement (UNPAF) 2019-2023, explicitly pillar III (3) is also dedicated to environmental sustainability and natural resources management, to pursue and to promote resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

UN Namibia development outcomes thus jointly contribute to relevant policies, regulatory frameworks, economic growth, environmental protection etc. which is in line with international conventions and national legislation.

Specific examples include the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Community Conservancy (CC) Project, which is aimed at reconciling the challenges of wildlife conservation with those of food security in a set of key socio-ecosystems (forest, wetland and savannah). The Kavango-Zambezi Transborder Conservation Area (KAZA) covering Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana. An additional example of this cooperation includes UN Namibia's work in North-East Namibia in support of 13 community conservancies with about 36,000 inhabitants.

Subsequently, UN Namibia is also implementing the Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) project in support of the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System (STAS)

between Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. The three phased project is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The project addresses key targets on reforming legal, policy and institutional arrangements, strengthening capacity and implementing collective measures at national and regional level to develop sustainable management and governance of transboundary aquifers and associated ecosystems.

As such, UN Namibia is demonstrating its commitment towards the efficient management of water and shared water basins. Our interventions are aimed to put in place strong measures to spur economic and social development, particularly for the disadvantage Namibians, while ensuring that environmental integrity is sustained for future generations.

In closing, ***ladies and gentlemen*** allow me to welcome you to the national planned workshop related to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

I wish you a fruitful meeting.

Thank you!