



Financing joint measures across sectors for resilience at transboundary basin scale: towards more cooperative and impactful climate action

Virtual side event at the EU Pavilion

17 November 2022, 9.30-10.30 EET

Conveners: Finland, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), Adaptation Fund

The need to address water, food and energy security is pressing and international cooperation is more important than ever, including to turn climate measures into joint action and to upscale their impact. More effective use of financial resources and reduction of risks can result from reconciling different objectives at the regional level, across borders.

Transboundary cooperation in mitigation and adaptation is crucial as 60% of the world's freshwater flows is in shared basins and 153 countries worldwide share transboundary rivers, lakes and/or aquifers. Cooperation makes climate action more effective by reducing uncertainties through exchange of data, enlarging the planning space and guaranteeing the coherence of measures at the basin scale. Work on adaptation and trade-offs across resource management sectors (water, land/agriculture, energy and environment) across borders demonstrates the value of joint plans, strategies and measures.

More investment is needed in climate-resilience to support cross-sectoral, water-wise adaptation and climate smart economic transition. Climate financing combined with development funds, blended financing and innovative public-private partnering not only serves building climate resilience, also promotes cooperation and peace as well as supports regional integration and sustainable development. Experience is accumulating about transboundary basin organizations serving as a facilitator to mobilize funding and to develop partnership between national stakeholders, donors and international organizations. The Water Convention provides a legal and intergovernmental platform for practical transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation.

The side event highlights how supporting transboundary and regional water cooperation is making a difference. It will be explored how European initiatives, working with global frameworks and funders are creating cooperative development and climate impact opportunities, taking stock of the good practice worldwide. In addition to financing, cooperation initiatives and strategies are contributing to coordination and resource mobilization for resilience

The questions to be discussed at this virtual side event include:

- How is transboundary and regional cooperation adding value to climate action?
- What makes joint climate action and resource mobilization in water and related natural resource sectors successful?
- How could financing opportunities, including climate financing, for cross-sectoral regional projects (e.g. at river basin level) be increased and made accessible?





Programme

Opening: Mr. Jan Wahlberg, Climate Ambassador, Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Climate action for peace: cooperation in managing water and natural resources is key (2 min)

Moderator: Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Chief Specialist on Water Resources Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Panel (speakers TBC; 4 min each)

- Ms. Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, Water Convention secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe: (also on behalf International Network of Basin Organizations): Climate change adaptation in transboundary basins: benefits of joint action & lessons learnt
- Mr. Dibi Millogo, Deputy Executive Director, Volta Basin Authority: Joint action in the Volta Basin and mobilizing resources for adaptation, including from climate funds
- Mr. Arnaud de Vanssay, Team Leader – Water, Directorate-General International Partnerships, European Commission: Support to regional cooperation through EU’s International Partnerships?
- Mr. Mahamat Assouyouiti, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat: The added value of financing adaptation at transboundary level?
- Mr. Amgad Elmahdi, Water Resources Management Senior Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF): Potential for regional water projects in the GCF portfolio
- Financing national climate action: Central Asian countries perspectives (NDAs, DAs)
- Mr. Azamat Tashev, Climate Change Specialist, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC): Experience from project “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation for the Aral Sea Basin” and the outlook for enabling joint climate action in Central Asia

Discussion/interventions from the virtual floor (15 min)

Closure – Mr. Édouard Boinet, International Network of Basin Organizations (2 min)

Background: Where are we at with the value of working at the transboundary level for a climate impact?

The need to flesh out further the financing transboundary water action for climate emerged clearly at COP26 where the cross-cutting role of water solutions for adaptation and mitigation was showcased at the [event organized by UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate](#). In addition, financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins was the theme of the relevant [side-event focused on African region](#). Finally, the added value of transboundary cooperation for addressing climate change was highlighted through the [transboundary cooperation and climate security day](#) at the Water and Climate Pavilion and at the joint [GIZ/Water Convention side-event](#).

