

## UNECE Water Convention 18th Working Group on IWRM

Agenda Item 6. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

19 June 16:35 – 18:00 and 20 June, 10:00 – 10:15.

FI intervention (2 min)

- My warmest congratulations for Namibia for acceding to the Water Convention. Welcome to the Family.
- The mission of the International Water Strategy of Finland is to work **together** towards responsible and equitable water security with a vision of water secure world by 2030.
  - **Together** emphasizes the importance of partnerships and collaboration
- Finland and Namibia share a remarkably long history together. In 2020, we celebrated the 150 anniversary of our close friendship.
  
- In May, we launched a Twinning Initiative between Finland and Namibia in a Kick off meeting in Windhoek.
- We are happy to be able to
  - share, our experiences in transboundary water cooperation and the work done under the UN Helsinki Water Convention
  - and also learn from the experiences of Namibia on water management and cooperation with your neighbours.
  
- The kick-off meeting brought together various stakeholders, which contributed to fruitful discussions and mutual learning to shape the content of the twinning.
- A 2-year workplan was agreed upon and it will especially focus on the sharing of experiences and capacity building activities on the 3 topics, namely,
  - transboundary water monitoring and assessment,
  - water allocation and
  - water diplomacy.
- Namibian officials are welcomed to the study tour in Finland later this year.
- For 2024, the parties agreed to provide collaboration and inputs into the regional workshop planned by the Water Convention.
  
- We are looking forward to continuing this well started cooperation. To work **together**.