

## **Namibia intervention on transboundary water allocation**

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Our river basin organizations are responsible for advising parties on transboundary water management and ensuring equitable and reasonable utilization of water resources in river systems to support sustainable development in each party's territory. In most cases, parties notify each other of any planned development that could adversely affect other basin parties. The notification and response procedures are clearly specified in agreements.

However, the procedure for allocating water among member states at the basin level is not specified, especially for basins that do not have agreed allocation in the Agreements. This creates a significant challenge, as countries endeavour to economically develop. Some river basins are seriously considering the water allocation, to ensure sustainable future development and avoid future conflicts. It is therefore advisable that basins and countries facilitate agreements on resource allocation.

As such, Namibia sees an opportunity to explore the Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context and how it can guide us through the process of water allocation in our shared basins while identifying the benefits of all member states. As I had mentioned yesterday, this is one of the important activity we will engage in our twinning initiative with Finland. We are also planning to collaborate and provide inputs into a potential regional workshop on transboundary water allocation planned by the Water Convention in 2024.

Thank you.

Our river basin organisations are tasked with among others to advise parties on matters related to transboundary water management; and on equitable and reasonable utilisation of the water resources in the river systems to support sustainable development in the territory of each party. In most cases, parties notify each other of any planned development that could adversely affect other basin party. The notification and response procedures are specified.

However, the procedure for how water is allocated among member states at basin level is not specified, especially for basins which do not have agreed allocation in the Agreements. This creates a big challenge. In order to make future development sustainable, and in order to avoid future conflicts it is advisable that basins and countries facilitate agreements on the allocation of resources possibly over a specified time horizon and reviewable.

Namibia sees an opportunity to explore the Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context and how it can be employed and guide us through the process of water allocation in our shared basins, and identifying the benefit of all member states.