

18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) under the Water Convention, 19-21 June 2023

Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Sibylle Vermont (Switzerland)
and
Niels Vlaanderen (Netherlands)

1. Main achievements in this area of work



- Exchanges on the water – agriculture nexus
- Progress within the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
- Inputs to global processes on water, climate change and disasters
- Continuation of activities in the pilot basins (the Dniester and the Chu-Talas)

2. How was it achieved?

- Twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 6–20 November 2022)
 - Water Pavilion
 - Side-event “Achieving Climate Change adaptation and mitigation through Water Resilience” (Recording: <https://youtu.be/981QcASzRRE?list=PLBcZ22cUY9RJc1scZLmb8SdZezq3IM00i>)
- Water and benefits of transboundary cooperation integrated into documents prepared under UNFCCC, e.g. [Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their application](#)
- [Global workshop on water, agriculture and climate change](#) (Geneva (hybrid), 17-18 October 2022)
- [Thirteenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate](#) (Geneva (hybrid), 19 October 2022, decisions are attached)
- [UN 2023 Water Conference](#) (New York, 22-24 March 2023)
- [Seventh meeting of the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change Adaptation](#) (Geneva (hybrid), 25-26 May 2023), [progress report](#).



COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

3/1. Challenges and lessons learned

- The awareness of the importance of adapting is still low in many governments and in many sectors
- As postponement of action is very costly, developing and implementing adaptation measures is urgent
- Especially implementation of measures lags behind policies
- Adaptation measures should be based on basin-wide water management
- Although there are positive examples such as from the Adaptation Fund, financing is still one of the main challenges for transboundary adaptation since the majority of climate finance is focused on the national level
- Increasing water scarcity worldwide puts great pressure on agriculture and livelihoods



3/2. Challenges and lessons learned

- Agriculture as the major water user has a huge responsibility in adapting to water scarcity
- Agriculture also has a responsibility towards water quality through the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- There is an urgent need for better information, both in collecting data and information as well as sharing of data and information
- Attention to water and especially to the transboundary dimension in global climate processes is still not sufficient; thus, more efforts are required in this regard
- Countries should mainstream transboundary aspects of water management into their national climate-related documents including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)



4. Planned future activities until MOP10

- Global Workshop on Climate Change and Water (Geneva, 26-27 February 2024)
- Thirteenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 28 February 2024)
- Development of Compendium of Good Practices
- COP 28, Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and the Global Stocktake - countries and RBOs are encouraged to contribute to them
- Initiation and/or contribution to pilot projects such as the Dniester and the Chu-Talas, and potentially new basins, for example, the Bug and in Africa



5. Partners



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



Ramsar
Convention
on Wetlands



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



AGWA Alliance for Global
Water Adaptation
alliance4water.org



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



ADAPTATION FUND



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UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



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**European
Commission**



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



**WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION**



THE WORLD BANK



**International Water
Management Institute**



**GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION**



**Global Water
Partnership**

Thank you!

(please include your contact information)



WEB

unece.org/env/water



EMAIL

water.convention@un.org,
hanna.plotnykova@un.org



RESOURCES

www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/water-and-adaptation-climate-change>



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