

Item 10

Facilitating the financing and funding of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

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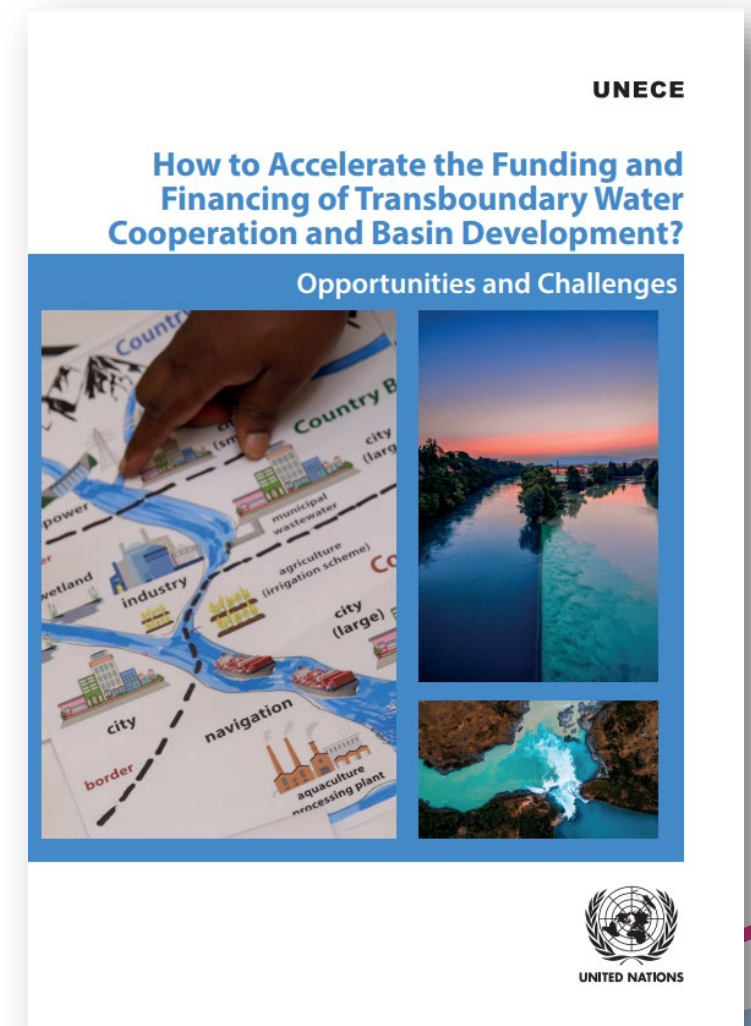
Mr. Niels Vlaanderen, Ministry of infrastructures and water management, The Netherlands

1. Main achievements in this area of work

- **Continued cooperation** between the Water Convention's secretariat and partners working on the topic of financing transboundary water cooperation and management including :
 - IFIs (e.g. World Bank, IDB)
 - International and regional organizations (e.g CEDEAO, OECD, UNCDF ..)
 - Technical and financial partners within countries (GIZ, AFD, GWP..)
- **Awareness raised** at global, regional and national levels on the importance of mobilizing and ways to mobilize funding and financing resources for transboundary water cooperation processes and basin development activities.

2. How was it achieved? (1)

- **Development and dissemination** of the Brief *How to accelerate the funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development*;
- **Contribution to several relevant events at global and regional levels** to raise awareness on the issue of funding and financing transboundary water cooperation :
 - **9th OECD Roundtable on financing water** (7-9 February 2023, Geneva)
 - **UN Water Conference** – March 2023 (input in the background paper of ID 4 on cooperation; inputs to side events organized e.g. UNCDF on Blue Peace financing)
 - **Regional workshop** on the process of accession, ratification and implementation of the Conventions on shared surface and ground waters, organized by UEMOA, GWP –Ouest Africa and UNECE (3-5 May 2023, Ouagadougou)



2. How was it achieved? (2)

- Organization of a **special session on financing transboundary water cooperation processes and activities** during the **Togo's Water Convention implementation plan validation workshop** to discuss with **technical and financial partners**:
 - Synergies between Togo's priorities and their priorities with regards to integrated water management;
 - How to develop bankable projects that can draw their attention and interest;
 - How they can support Togo in implementing activities identified in the Water Convention's implementation plan to improve shared waters' governance and management.

Technical and financial partners involved:



3. Challenges, lessons learnt and opportunities

Lessons learnt:

- There is a **need to diversify financial resources mobilized for transboundary water cooperation and basin development** – in this regard, promoting the engagement of ministries of finance in the discussion is crucial;
- **Partnering and working closely with different IFIs** under this workstream is **key to access funding and financing sources in an effective way**;
- **Further tailored capacity-building** and exchange of experience and information about funding and financing existing mechanisms is needed at basin and national level;
- Need to **further develop innovative financial mechanisms** to mobilize money from private financiers (e.g. blue peace financing)

Challenges:

- Reaching out and working with the **private sector representatives** (corporate and finance actors) under this workstream **is not easy** and more efforts need to be made to speak their language and show what opportunities exist for them;

Opportunities:

- UN Water conference and future ones: important focus on transboundary water cooperation → case for more funding
- Use the next global workshop on financing to further raise capacity on the topic

4. Planned future activities until MOP10



Second global workshop on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development on 5-6 December 2023 in Geneva!

- **2 days in person workshop** co-organized by Switzerland, the Netherlands and a number of IFIs, international and regional organizations including: GEF, IW-LEARN, OECD, UNCDF, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and others to come;
- Addressed to representatives of **countries** with shared water resources (from Ministries of water, environment, foreign affairs and finance); **RBOs** and joint bodies; **international financial institutions** (IFIs) and **multilateral development banks** (MDBs); **climate finance mechanisms**; **private sector**, UN entities, **international organizations** and **NGOs** working on financing.

Main objectives of the workshop?

→ Build on the first global workshop on financing (Dec 2020) and the publication (2021) by going **further in depth in unpacking existing challenges** faced by countries and RBOs in mobilizing **financial resources for basin cooperation and transboundary water management and development activities** from different sources and **present successful financial strategies** which could be replicated;

→ Identify how to further **match needs at basin level and financing opportunities by allowing** the financing community representatives to share information on their priorities, their financial mechanisms and requirements for countries and RBOs to access their financing and funding support for transboundary water cooperation and management;

How?

→ Through panel discussions, case studies presentations and **interactive thematic and/regional roundtable discussions** enabling cross-learning, mutual understanding and networking.



Case studies from basins and countries on how to best mobilize financial resources for the funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development are welcome !
(contact the secretariat @ diane.guerrier@un.org by 15 september)



5. Partners under this workstream:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management



République du Sénégal
Un Peuple, un But, une Foi



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IDB
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Bank



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Thank you!



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RESOURCES

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/financing-transboundary-water-cooperation>

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



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