

GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON FUNDING AND FINANCING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND BASIN DEVELOPMENT

5-6 DECEMBER 2023 - GENEVA & ONLINE

Day 1 - Tuesday 5 December 2023

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING (10.00-11.00 a.m. CET)

Moderators: Ms. Dimka Stantchev Skeie, Project Manager, Section Water, **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** & Mr. Niels Vlaanderen, Coordinator International Water Affairs, **The Netherlands**

Welcoming remarks

- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (**UNECE**)
- **H.E. M. Paul Bekkers**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, **The Netherlands**
- **Mr. Simon Zbinden**, Head, Section Water, **Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)**
- **H.E. Mr. Coly Seck**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representation of Senegal to the United Nations, **Senegal**
- **Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi**, Director, Agriculture Food Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, **Asian Development Bank** (online)

Keynote address

Mr. Christopher Flensburg, Head of Climate and Sustainable finance, **Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken (SEB)**

Setting the scene

Ms. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention, **UNECE**

Ms. Diane Guerrier, Environmental Affairs Officer, Water Convention secretariat, **UNECE**

Mentimeter exercise

Facilitated by **Mr. Julien Favier**, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Water Convention secretariat, **UNECE**

SESSION 1: (11.00-11:45 a.m. CET)

Public funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation processes: how to ensure the financial sustainability of institutionalized cooperation mechanisms and their resulting projects and activities in transboundary basins?

Moderator: Ms. Astrid Hillers, Senior Environmental Specialist, International Waters, **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

Securing national budget to support the establishment, functioning and work of institutional mechanisms for transboundary water cooperation: experience sharing from Spain and Senegal

Ms. Conchita Marcuello, Coordinator of International Water Issues, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, **Spain**

Mr. Niokhor Ndour, Director of Water Resources Management and Planning, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, **Senegal**

What public financial mechanisms could be used to support the establishment, functioning and work of transboundary water cooperation institutional mechanism? Example of the CEMAC Community Integration Tax and the regional training school to support the functioning of the International Commission for the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha basin (CICOS)

Mr. Gabin Ahembina, Principal Expert for administrative, financial and human resources affairs, **International Commission for the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha basin (CICOS)** (online)

Joint basin investment plan as tools to mobilize financial resources: the experience of the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) basin

Mr. Maximo Twinomuhangi, Team Leader for Kyoga Water Management Zone, Ministry of Water and Environment, **Uganda** (online)

Questions and Answers

SESSION 2: (11.45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. CET)

Public funding and financing for transboundary water management and basin development activities: how can countries and river basin organizations (RBOs) mobilize domestic and international public funding and financial resources for their water related activities at basin level? A focus on opportunities offered by international financial institutions (IFIs)

Moderator: Ms. Jenifer Bukokhe, Deputy Director, Local Transformative Finance, Director Local Transformative Finance, **UNCDF**

Pairing 1: Nile Basin Initiative & the World Bank

Selected project: Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA)

Mr. Michael Kizza, Deputy Executive Director, **Nile Basin Initiative**

Mr. Anders Jägerskog, Senior Water Resources Management at the Water Global Practice, **World Bank**

Pairing 2: Kazakhstan & the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Selected project: The implementation of the CAREC Water pillar in the Aral Sea region

Mr. Arden M Zhakanbayev, Chairman of the Water Management Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, **Kazakhstan**

Mr. Kazuhiro Yoshida, Senior Water Resources Specialist, **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

Pairing 3: Niger Basin Authority & the African Water Facility (AWF)

Selected project: Multipurpose infrastructure to adapt to climate change in the Niger Basin

Mr. Abderahim Bireme Hamid, Executive Secretary, **Niger Basin Authority**

Mr. Mtchera Johannes Chirwa, Coordinator, **African Water Facility, AfDB**

LUNCH BREAK (1:00-3:00 p.m. CET)

SESSION 2 (continued): (3.00-3:30 p.m. CET)

Moderator: **Ms. Jenifer Bukokhe**, Deputy Director, Local Transformative Finance, Director Local Transformative Finance, **UNCDF**

Pairing 4: Trifinio Plan & the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

Selected project: Trifinio transboundary water fund (Upper Lempa River Basin)

Ms. Liseth Oliveth Hernández, Executive Secretary, **Trinational Commission of Plan Trifinio**

Mr. Raul Munoz, Senior Water Resources Specialist, **Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)** (online)

Discussant: **Ms. Astrid Hillers**, Senior Environmental Specialist, International Waters, **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** to share her perspective on the crosscutting role of GEF portfolio in shared basins worldwide

SESSION 3: (3.30-4.30 p.m. CET)

Climate funds and innovative financing mechanisms: additional options to support transboundary water cooperation and basin development?

Moderator: **Mr. Anders Jägerskog**, Senior Water Resources Management, Water Global Practice, **World Bank**

Unlocking climate finance for regional and transboundary water management: Accessing the Green Climate Fund

Mr. Bapon Fakhruddin, Water Resources Management Senior Specialist, **Green Climate Fund** (online)

Questions and Answers

The Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) Fund: developing a hybrid fund to enhance livelihoods, improve ecosystem resilience and provide equitable benefits to riparian states. Experience sharing from OKACOM

Ms. Tracy Sithabile Molefi, Programme Coordinator, **Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)**

Questions and Answers

How can energy production revenues be used to support transboundary water cooperation and management activities in a shared basin? Example of Itaipu Bi-national

Ms. Maria A. Gwynn, Senior Research Fellow, International Law Institute, **University of Bonn** and former member of the **Governing Council of Itaipu Bi-National**

Questions and Answers

MARKETPLACES (Part 1) (4.30-6.00 p.m. CET)

Moderator of the introductory part: Water Convention secretariat

Introductions in plenary and then two rounds of 30 minutes.

Marketplace 1: World Bank

Modalities for supporting transboundary water management and development.

Facilitated by Mr. Anders Jagerskog and Ms. Kathia Havens, World Bank

Marketplace 2: CAF (tbc)

Facilitated by Mr. Rene Gomez, CAF

Marketplace 3: Global Environment Facility

GEF financing mechanisms for cooperation and management of transboundary waters.

Facilitated by Ms. Astrid Hillers, Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Marketplace 4: African Water Facility

How the AWF is supporting transboundary water management and adaptation to climate change: funding mechanisms offered, the case of the Niger River Basin.

Facilitated by Mr. Mtchera Johannes Chirwa, African Water Facility

Marketplace 5: Asian Development Bank

ADB's support to long-term regional cooperation under the CAREC Water Pillar.

Facilitated by Mr. Kazuhiro Yoshida, Asian Development Bank

Market place 6: European Commission

EU support to transboundary water cooperation worldwide.

Facilitated by Mr. Arnaud de Vanssay, European Union Commission

Market place: European Investment Bank (online)

EIB support to transboundary water financing.

Facilitated by Mr. Emmanuel Chaponnière and Ms. Maria Diamanti, EIB

***Reception on the invitation of Switzerland ***

6.30-8.30 p.m. CET

Venue: Restaurant "Le Vieux Bois", Ecole Hôtelière de Genève, Av. de la Paix 12, 1202 Genève

Day 2 - Wednesday, 6 December 2023

SESSION 4: (10.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. CET)

How to further mobilize private capital to support sustainable transboundary water management?

Moderator: Mr. Niels Vlaanderen, Coordinator International Water Affairs, The Netherlands

What are the challenges to be addressed to further attract private capital?

Ms. Asa Knudsen, Senior Advisor, SEB

How are financial institutions and companies considering river basin health in their investments?

Ms. Miriam Denis Le Seve, Senior Manager, Water Security, CDP

Questions and Answers

The example of Blue Peace financing initiative: how to use transboundary water cooperation as an entry point to support water management at basin and municipal levels? The example in the Gambia river basin

Mr. Elhadji Lansana Fofana, High Commissioner, OMVG on the context and challenges on mobilizing financial resources for water related projects in the basin.

Ms. Christel Alvergne, Regional Coordinator, Western and Central Africa, UNCDF on the opportunities offered by the Blue Peace Financing initiative.

Mr. Thierno Sadou Diallo, Senior Investment Officer, UNCDF on the blue peace bond mechanism.

Questions and Answers

Enabling investments in nature-based solutions: experience sharing from Finance Earth

Mr. Richard Fitton, Director, Finance Earth

What are the required enabling conditions to attract investments in water security?

Ms. Delia Sanchez, Environmental Economist, OECD (online)

Mr. Vahagn Tonoyan, EU4Environment Water and Data Program, Armenia

Questions and Answers

SESSION 4 (PART 2): (12:00 -1:00 p.m. CET)

Panel discussion – mobilizing different categories of financial actors and different financial instruments.

Moderator: Mr. Arnaud de Vanssay, Team Leader Water, EU commission, Directorate for International Partnerships (INTPA) tbc

Panellists:

Ms. Jessica Smith, Programme Management Officer, UNEP Finance Initiative

Mr. Hans-Ruedi Mosberger, Head Asset Management and Sustainable Finance, Swiss Bankers Association

Ms. Cheryl Hicks, Senior Advisor, CEO Water Mandate (pre-recorded video)

Mr. Derek Queisser de Stockalper, Président branche Suisse, Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco

Ms. Miriam Denis Le Seve, Senior Manager, Water Security, CDP

Mr. Richard Fitton, Director, Finance Earth

LUNCH BREAK (1.00 pm-3.00 p.m. CET)

MARKETPLACES (Part 2) (3:00-4:00 p.m. CET)

Moderator: Water Convention secretariat

Introductions in plenary and then 45 minutes of group discussions.

Marketplace 1: OMVG

Blue Peace Financing Master Plan in the Gambia basin
Facilitated by Mr. Daouda Samba Sow, OMVG

Marketplace 2: SEB

Sustainable finance: an introduction
Facilitated by Ms. Asa Knudsen, SEB

Marketplace 3: GEF IW-LEARN

How to engage with the private sector under IW:LEARN?
Facilitated by Ms. Konstantina Toli, GEF IW:LEARN

Marketplace 4: Finance Earth

Attracting private finance into Nature-based Solution
Facilitated by Mr. Richard Fitton, Finance Earth

Marketplace of the OECD (online – tbc)

Sharing the experience of the OECD scorecard and how to use it - a two-way discussion
Facilitated by Ms, Delia Sanchez, OECD

SESSION 5: (4.00-5.00 p.m. CET)

Thinking ahead: what are the further needs to be addressed with regards to the mobilization of funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development under the Water Convention and other frameworks?

Moderator: Ms. Dimka Stantchev Skeie, Project Manager, Section Water, **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

Panel discussion on tools or frameworks used by countries and RBOs to mobilize financial resources for transboundary water cooperation and water management, lessons learnt and future needs, with the following panellists:

Ms. Bernadette Adjei, Director, Water Resources Commission, **Ghana** (online)

Mr. Gininpale Konlani, Director, Water Resources, **Togo**

Mr. Miguel Angel Rios Dominguez, Engineer of the Water Security Directorate, **Panama**

Mr. Riadur Rahman, Executive Engineer, **Joint Rivers Commission**

Interactive brainstorming exercise in plenary will follow the panel discussion and aim at identifying what are the needs with regards to topics and issues identified discussed the workshop.

HIGH-LEVEL CLOSING (5.00-5:30 p.m. CET)

Moderators: Ms. Dimka Stantchev Skeie, Project Manager, Section Water, **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) & **Mr. Niels Vlaanderen**, Coordinator International Water Affairs, **The Netherlands****

Mr. Claude Gascon, Director of Strategy and Operations, **Global Environment Facility** (online)

Mr. Sergio Campos, Chief, Water and Sanitation Division, **Inter-American Development Bank** (online)

Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Secretary of the Water Convention, **UNECE**

FURTHER INFORMATION

All workshop-related documents are available on the meeting's webpage: [Global workshop on Funding and Financing Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development | UNECE](#).

ORGANIZERS

The global workshop is organized under the auspices of the Water Convention serviced by UNECE, under the leadership of the Netherlands and Switzerland and in cooperation with Senegal, ADB, the GEF, GEF IW:Learn, IADB, OECD, UNCDF and the World Bank.

