Day 1 - Tuesday 5 December 2023

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING (10.00-11.00 a.m. CET)
Moderator: Ms. Dimka Stantchev Skeie, Project Manager, Section Water, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Welcoming remarks
- Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNEP)
- H.E. Mr. Coly Seck, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representation of Senegal to the United Nations, Senegal
- Mr. Simon Zbinden, Head, Section Water, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)
- Mr. Niels Vlaanderen, Coordinator International Water Affairs, The Netherlands
- Ms. Michiko Suga, Representative of ADB’s European Representative Office, Asian Development Bank (ADB) (online)

Keynote address
Mr. Christopher Flensborg, 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

Mr. Nchidzi Mmolawa, Deputy Permanent Secretary – Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana

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, 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. Arsen 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, 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 - Development bank of the Latin America and the Caribbean
CAF strategy to support transboundary water cooperation
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

Marketplace 6: European Commission
EU support to transboundary water cooperation worldwide.
Facilitated by Mr. Arnaud de Vanssay, European Commission

Marketplace 7: 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
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. Åsa Sterte Knudsen, Senior Advisor and Team Manager, Climate & Sustainable Finance, 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, Directorate for International Partnerships (INTPA), European Commission

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, Foundation 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 p.m.-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 and UNCDF
OMVG Blue Peace Bond
Facilitated by Ms. Åsa Sterte Knudsen, SEB and Mr. Thierno Sadou Diallo, UNCDF

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 Solutions
Facilitated by Mr. Richard Fitton, Finance Earth

Marketplace 5: OECD (online)
Setting up an enabling environment for investment in water security, opportunities to maximise investment and minimise transaction costs
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)

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

Final remarks:
Mr. Claude Gascon, Director of Strategy and Operations, Global Environment Facility (online)
Ms. Sonja Koeppel, 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.