

## **NAMIBIA Interventions - WEF TF meeting**

### **Agenda Item 6: Water allocation in a transboundary context (11.00am - 12.00pm Geneva time) on Friday 8 December.**

We have been following the high level political statements of presidents, especially those we share rivers with during the COP 28. Two mentioned how they will develop water infrastructure in view of water scarcity brought about by climate change. All in all, climate change impacts on available water resources make it urgent for member states to discuss around allocation of water from the transboundary waters. As you may be aware Namibia shares all her perennial rivers with neighboring countries and water allocation from international rivers is of crucial importance to Namibia. This is significant to avoid possible conflict and move towards cooperation and joint management. Namibia has water allocation agreement only with Angola on the Kunene River, even with such arrangement; practical implementation proves to be a challenge. Namibia is in process of drafting a national water negotiation strategy inclusive of allocation concepts, and is in conversation with other river basin member states such as at OKACOM – Okavango River Basin and PWC – Lower Orange River level.

In order to strengthen our capacity in transboundary water cooperation, Namibia is the first country in southern Africa to join the Water Convention (1992) and is currently implementing the twining initiative project with Finland as an experienced party within the framework of the Twinning Initiative under Water Convention. This is with the aim to exchange knowledge and experience. Activities under the Finland-Namibia Twining Project include:

- Capacity building exchange visit for Namibian experts to Finland planned for Feb 2024
- Potential regional workshop in Southern Africa, also incorporating Water allocation (Apr/May 2024)
- Exchange of information along the way by e-meetings and e-mails
- Final workshop, summing up experiences, defining way forward (Aug/Sep 2024)

We are very grateful to Finland and off course the Water Convention Secretariat for this opportunity to learn and exchange experience together. We are also looking forward to use the tools and resources presented in the Handbook on water allocation.

I thank you