



**Global Workshop**  
**on Droughts in Transboundary Basins**  
26-27 February 2024, Geneva



# Discussions in the breakout groups



# 1. What are the major problems around droughts that you encounter in your basin?

- Water scarcity affecting agriculture, ecosystems, water supply (domestic, industry), hydropower, navigation, pollution, saltwater intrusion, land subsidence, etc.
- Biodiversity loss, forest fires, sandstorms, desertification
- Lack of good governance, undermined education and inclusion (especially women)
- Population growth, tensions/conflicts – conflict of interests
- Migration

## 2. Is this a common concern among the riparian countries in your basin?

- Not singular issue
- Generally a common concern
- Different priorities
- Upstream/downstream
  - Severity of drought
  - E.g., pollution
- Percentage shared of the basin
- Ownership and leverage around certain issues in the basin
- No common vocabulary (“transboundary basins”, “shared waters”, “hydrological basins”, “sovereign basins”)

### 3. What do you see as the most important solutions for dealing with droughts in your basin?

- Water deficit is closely related with sustainable land management
- Governance: IWRM, preparedness, action plans, quantitative management (flood/drought), drought insurance schemes, raising public awareness and political will, financing transboundary coordination, principle of sharing benefits and burdens, enforcement of laws and regulations, water use restrictions
- Water use efficiency: Climate Smart Agriculture, reuse water
- Water capture and storage: Nature-based Solutions (ecosystem restoration), water harvesting, Managed Aquifer Recharge, combat sealing of soils, prevent erosion
- Monitoring, early warning, data sharing, water footprint, modelling, DSS

4. Are all countries in the basin working towards the same solutions / is there a shared approach?

- Can be improved - drought preparedness and planning and crisis coordination - different interests (discussing lists of priorities), harmonizing is difficult
- Strengthen regional bodies (avoid duplications), institutionalise cooperation/strong agreements – need for dialogues, hydrodiplomacy
- Strengthen capacities
- Stress economic benefits of cooperation
- Emphasize that water security is food security
- Discuss values (ecosystem approach)
- Tackling deforestation in one basin is a means to decrease droughts in another.