



Baku Climate Change Conference (COP29)

11 November – 22 November 2024

BENELUX-EIB Pavilion – Side-events

16 November, 17.30-19.00, Blue Zone, Zone E, G7

<p>Event title (max. 100 characters including spaces)</p>	<p>Watering climate action within and across borders: good practices and priorities for action</p>
<p>Lead organiser</p>	<p>The event will be organized by Luxembourg, in cooperation with the Netherlands, and by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) which hosts the secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and its Protocol on Water and Health (together with WHO/Europe).</p>
<p>Description to be uploaded on the event website (max 2500 characters incl. spaces).</p>	<p>Water is at the heart of climate change and most climate impacts are felt through the water cycle. Those climate impacts don't recognize borders with 153 states sharing water basins which cover 46% of the earth's land surface and host about 40% of the world's population. Therefore, transboundary water cooperation is crucial for both adaptation and mitigation, as well as for sustainable development and regional integration.</p> <p>Increasing climate threats are likely to damage infrastructure and auxiliary services, interrupting access to water and sanitation, and deteriorating water quality – increasing the risk to human health and economies. Building the resilience of water and sanitation services is therefore critical. At the same time, water and sanitation services are themselves sources of the greenhouse gases, of which methane is a particular concern. Measures to reduce emissions as part of strategies to achieve net zero carbon offer opportunities to yield multiple benefits.</p> <p>Concerted action is therefore needed across countries and sectors at transboundary, national and local/municipal levels.</p> <p>The recently adopted UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience includes water as its first thematic target and recognizes the benefits of climate-informed transboundary management.</p> <p>The session will provide an opportunity to highlight and discuss the role of transboundary water cooperation and water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in building climate resilience. The action-oriented document on mainstreaming transboundary water cooperation and WASH action into development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) will be launched at the event. The relevance and timeliness of this research is driven by the commitment of the countries to revise their NDCs in 2025 and the call to all countries to have in place NAPs.</p> <p>This overall presentation on the research will be complemented by examples and insights from countries and basins on the benefits of and integration of climate resilient WASH and climate-informed transboundary management into national adaptation and mitigation policies. The session will conclude with some recommendations on how to mainstream WASH and transboundary water cooperation into national</p>

climate policies as well as the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and UAE-Belem work programme (bearing in mind the on-going process on developing indicators as part of this programme).

Programme outline

Moderator: **Ms. Hanna Plotnykova**, Water Convention Secretariat, UNECE

Opening remarks

- **Mr. Sébastien Kieffer**, Ministry of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, Luxembourg
- **Ms. Karen Meijer**, Coordinating Policy Officer International Climate Adaptation, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands

Findings and recommendations of the background study

- Action-oriented document on mainstreaming water supply, sanitation, transboundary water management and cooperation into nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans: **Ms. Sonja Koeppel**, Secretary, Water Convention and **Mr. Jose Gestí**, Senior Water and Climate Consultant, UNECE consultant

Moderated panel discussion (4 min per speaker)

- Cross-border cooperation on water resources and WASH between Luxembourg and its neighboring countries, **Mr. Sébastien Kieffer**, Ministry of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, Luxembourg
- Case-study on how transboundary water cooperation and WASH are integrated into national climate policies, **Mr. Callist Tindimugaya**, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning Regulation, Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda
- Case-study on how the regional organization can support countries in coherent policies on water management, WASH and climate, **Mr. Hongpeng Liu**, Director, Energy Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Case-study on the linkages between climate-informed transboundary management and national climate action: Senegal (tbc)
- The Benelux builds bridge, **Ms. Yvonne Havenga**, Policy coordinator at the General Secretariat of the Benelux Union (video message)
- The role of and current opportunities for funding climate and WASH action in transboundary basins: **Ms. Elina Vaananen**, Climate Change Specialist, EIB Projects' Directorate

Discussion with the audience

Conclusions

- UNECE: **Ms. Sonja Koeppel**, Secretary, Water Convention