

# Improving climate resilience through transboundary water cooperation

Side event at COP28, SDG pavilion, 10 December, 16.45-17.45

## Organisers

The event will be organized by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), German Development Cooperation (BMZ/ GIZ) and the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW). UNECE hosts the Secretariat of the [Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes](#) (Water Convention). It is a unique international legal instrument and intergovernmental platform which aims to ensure the sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation incl. in climate change adaptation. Nine African countries have joined the Convention and 15 more are in the process. [GIZ](#) is a service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development with over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development, environment incl. water, peace and security. [AMCOW](#) aims to promote cooperation, security, social, economic development and poverty eradication among member states through the effective management of the continent's water resources and provision of water supply services.

## Background and Context

Transboundary water cooperation in climate change adaptation and mitigation is crucial. Like water bodies, the impacts of climate change know no border - 60% of the world's freshwater flows is in shared basins and 153 countries worldwide share rivers, lakes and/or aquifers. In Africa, this percentage is even higher. However, in many cases, transboundary water cooperation is not (strongly) institutionalized, leading to tensions and loss opportunities. In addition, funding climate change interventions still remains one of the biggest challenges for transboundary basins.

At the same time, transboundary cooperation can serve as a tool to achieve SDGs in a coherent manner. In particular, it can make climate action more effective by reducing uncertainties through exchange of data and knowledge, thereby, enlarging the planning space and promoting the coherence of measures at basin scale. The session aims to showcase best practices and lessons learnt in the context of transboundary cooperation, e.g. through case studies from Africa, such as those financed by the Adaptation Fund and the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Transboundary Water Management in Africa. In addition, challenges, needs and solutions for transboundary basin organisations in facilitating funding for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins will be discussed. Some of the good practices presented from Africa can be highlighted/replicated in NAPs, global climate processes etc.

## Draft Programme (60 minutes)

*Moderator* – Fanni Zentai, GIZ and Sonja Koeppel, Secretary to the Water Convention UNECE (tbc)

## **Opening remarks (15 minutes)**

- Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Mr. Rashid Mbaziira, Executive Secretary, AMCOW (in-person or online)
- Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

**Moderated Panel Discussion (25 min, 5 each each)** – Current opportunities, policies and best practices in financing transboundary adaptation

- Mr. Mtchera Chirwa, Coordinator of the African Water Facility, African Development Bank (AfDB) (tbc)
- Ambassador Nuhu, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission
- Senegal Basin Development Organization, OMVS

**Q&A (10 min)**

**Conclusion & Way forward (10 min)**

- Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General for the Environment, European Commission

**Links to background documentation:**

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/water-and-adaptation-climate-change>

[https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Global_network_overview_pilot%20projects_progress_May2023_ENGL_Final_0.pdf)

[07/Global\\_network\\_overview\\_pilot%20projects\\_progress\\_May2023\\_ENGL\\_Final\\_0.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Global_network_overview_pilot%20projects_progress_May2023_ENGL_Final_0.pdf)

<https://www.giz.de/en/aboutgiz/profile.html>

<https://amcow-online.org/amcow/>

[Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Water Management in Africa | Capacity4dev \(europa.eu\)](https://team-europe.eu/en/initiative-on-transboundary-water-management-in-africa)

[INTPA - Team Europe steps up support for climate change adaptation and resilience in Africa \(europa.eu\)](https://team-europe.eu/en/initiative-on-transboundary-water-management-in-africa)

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