



SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 28th of February 2024.

**The session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Session Code and Title:

T4A3: Innovative finance for transboundary and cross-border cooperation

Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

- Julien Katchinoff, Team Lead, OES/ECW Water Team, US Department of State, OESWaterTeam@state.gov, 202-322-4494
- Dr. Mohamed C.B.C DIATTA, Coordinator of the Follow-up, Promotion and Capitalization Unit of the 9th World Water Forum, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, cbcdiatta@gmail.com, (+)221 77 353 31 22

Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

Nearly half of the world's population lives in transboundary basins, which cover more than 45% of the world's surface. While it is generally acknowledged that transboundary basins require coordinated management and sustainable development, the lack of sufficient and reliably available financial resources often puts this at risk¹.

This risk is real. According to the second reporting exercise on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 6.5.2 (UNECE/UNESCO/UN-Water, 2021), which was undertaken in 2020-2021 and measures the proportion of transboundary basin area operating with an arrangement for water cooperation, out of 129 countries reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2, 76 indicated "resources constraints" as one of the main challenges faced in cooperating on transboundary waters. Moreover, the lack of financial resources has been identified by a number of countries as one of the main challenges they face to implement arrangements

Therefore, to ensure sustainable cooperation for peace and shared development around water, particularly in the context of climate change, it is important to develop innovative financing mechanisms. Such financing systems can play an important role in fostering transboundary and cross-border cooperation for water management and can also help addressing funding gaps, encourage investment, and support collaborative initiatives aimed at sustainable water resource management.

In addition, Innovative finance mechanisms offer opportunities to mobilize diverse sources of funding, incentivize collaboration, and address the complexities of financing transboundary and cross-border cooperation for sustainable water management. By combining different financial instruments and approaches, stakeholders can catalyze investments and facilitate the implementation of essential water-related projects while ensuring long-term environmental and social benefits

Considering these opportunities and challenges, this session is design to address the following key aspects: (1) reinforce basin organizations and support their efforts for inclusive, sustainable and integrated water resources management, (2) mobilize adequate public financial resources, as well as those of development partnerships, to invest in transboundary and cross-border infrastructures and to develop «blue» and «green» jobs, in particular for young people, women, vulnerable and marginalized communities, (3) encourage innovative financing mechanisms and private sector investment in transboundary and cross-border, (4)

¹ How to Accelerate the Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development?, https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/ECE%20MP.WAT.72_web_final_7.3.2023.pdf, 23022024

advance international financing models to generate more investment in transboundary and cross-border projects and programs to foster peace and community resilience.

Discussions during the session should lead to the following outcomes:

- The main innovative financing and funding which can be mobilize for transboundary water cooperation
- Opportunities and challenges of these various innovative financing and funding
- Successful experiences and challenges of basin organizations in mobilizing financial resources
 - o The main financial needs at basin level to enhance cooperation and sustainable development

Detailed Session plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
<10'`	An introduction to the Panel by two keynote speakers, to set the context of the subject and give a general orientation to the discussions.	- Keynote speaker Minister of Water and Sanitation of Senegal	OK
		- SAM CHEPTORIS, Cabinet Minister of Water and Environment in the Cabinet of Uganda, Nil chair com - (If not confirmed, Ms. Nancy Eslick)	TBC
~30'	Horizon-Scanning: This moderated panel will consist of a variety of experts to share experiences, opportunities, and innovative approaches in the field of financing cross-border cooperation. This panel will also provide an opportunity to take note of emerging challenges or opportunities for further reflection by practitioners in the follow-on panel.	- Moderator: Saroj Kumar Jha, Director, Water Global Practice, World Bank	OK
		- Walid Queslati, head of Climate, Biodiversity and Water Division, OCDE	OK
		- Blue peace financing/Geneva Water HUB/UCDF	OK
		- Mr. Alex Simalabwi, Executive Secretary and Director Africa Water Investment Program and High-Level Panel Convenors; International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa	OK
		- Elysa Vaillancourt, Youth Movement for water	OK
~45'	Practitioner Exchange : This panel will feature expert decision-makers with active responsibility in transboundary water cooperation. This panel will reflect on the issues presented by the	- M. Elhadji Lansana, Haut Commissaire OMVS OMVG	OK
		- Dr. Rashid Mbaziira, AMCOW Executive Secretary	OK
		- M. Mohamed ABDELVETAH, Haut Commissaire OMVS;	OK



	preceding panel and offer views based on personal experiences and perspectives on a way forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Maria-Giner - Commissioner, U.S. Section of the International Boundary Waters Commission 	OK
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adriana Reséndez Maldonado, Commissioner of the Mexican Section of the IBWC 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bruno Piggot, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 	
<5'	Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Nancy Eslick - Senior Deputy Assistant to the Administrator, U. S. Agency for International Development 	