Global processes on climate, water and disasters and contribution of the network of basins

Niels Vlaanderen, the Netherlands
Programme Area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

4.1 Support development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures
• Projects on climate change adaptation in selected basins *
• Experience exchange through global network of basins **
• 2 global workshops on transboundary climate change adaptation *
• Print, translate and disseminate the “Words into Action” guide on water, transboundary cooperation and disasters *
• Contribute to global policy processes on water, climate and disasters *

4.2 Support transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation
Finalize and disseminate publication on «Preparing bankable projects for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins» *
• Regional/basin-level trainings on preparing bankable project proposals *

Key: *Global level, **Regional/basin-level, ***National level
Links with SDGs

- SDG 6 on water, including target 6.5 on transboundary cooperation: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. Network supports transboundary cooperation in adaptation.

- Target 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity. Network supports this, e.g. by focusing on droughts and water scarcity at this meeting.

- Target 11.5 within the goal on cities: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters. Several network basins focus on droughts and floods. Convention requires prevention of unilateral measures.

Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction

• The Sendai framework:
  – Requests an increase international cooperation, including transboundary cooperation;
  – Counts on treaty bodies to support its implementation and the integration of disaster risk management in all national practices;
  – Water management, river basins, ecosystem management feature prominently.

• Contribution of the global network of basins:
  – Support the application of the very positive experience and practices in trans-boundary cooperation on water issues, incl. to other sectors;
  – Development of a Words into Action on “water/river basins management and transboundary cooperation” to illustrate application of integrated disaster risk management in water and transboundary cooperation
  – Sharing of good practices among countries
The Increasing importantencer to water at the last UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties
Links of the network with the Paris agreement

**Universal agreement**
- To stay below 1.5°-2°C temp. increase
- First agreement with obligations for all countries, including adaptation

**Nationally Determined Contributions**
- Regular new NDCs to be submitted

**Global Climate Action Agenda**
- Mobilizing non-state actors
- Regular action days/ sessions on water at COPs
- Paris Pact for basin adaptation

**Finance and technology**
- $100 billion per year to developing countries
- Technology transfer mechanism

Support countries/ basins with regards to water and transboundary/regional aspects
Can support countries in their implementation and in particular raise transboundary aspects
Contributed to its development, mobilized signatures
UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice: outcomes relevant for water

• guidance in relation to nationally determined contributions (NDCs): Katowice agreed on common time frames, and modalities, work programme, and functions under the Paris Agreement: future NDCs could also include transboundary/regional aspects and the network of basins could contribute to this

• on adaptation communication:
  – Parties can include information on water resources (Adaptation goals, actions, objectives, undertakings, efforts, plans).
  – They should provide information on cooperation on enhancing adaptation at the national, regional and international level, as appropriate;
UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice: outcomes relevant for water

• on climate finance:
  – Katowice provided guidance on the identification of the information to be provided by Parties in accordance with Paris Agreement Article 9.5 (ex ante finance transparency): Parties to provide information on sectors, including water
  – matters relating to the Adaptation Fund: this fund continues to accept transboundary project proposals

• On the global stocktake on adaptation: Parties should submit information on water resources: network basins can contribute and provide information to their national UNFCCC focal points
Conclusions

• Generally, the importance of water has grown over the last years in global processes on climate change disasters, but more efforts are needed

• While water and regional cooperation is not officially included in the Paris agreement, it is mentioned in several of the COP24 Katowice rulebook elements- this provides an entry points for the global network basins to:
  – Link up with national UNFCCC delegations
  – Report on their activities e.g. in the adaptation communications/ global stocktake
  – Argue and provide good practice examples for inclusion into the revised NDCs as examples of regional/ transboundary NDC elements
  – Participate in and contribute to future COPs
Water-Wise Climate Solution to Mitigate, Adapt and Thrive:

SESSION 1: Achieving Resilient NDCs: Can Water Connect the Sectors? (big focus on NBS)
SESSION 2: Water-Wise Consumption and Production: Innovation for achieving SDG12 (WWDI, Desalination)
INBO opened the event...

...and voiced its messages through its invited speakers

Burkina Faso reminded basin is the optimal scale to manage water resources efficiently for adaptation to climate change

Ramsar showcased the interest of Nature-Based Solutions and their multiple benefits, beyond adaptation to climate change

The Federal District of Brasilia told how drought affected its city & highlighted that the solution was to reconnect cities to their basins to prevent drought.
UNESCO opened the session reminding we cannot achieve water-wise consumption and production without **knowledge and well structured Water Information Systems**, citing UNESCO-WINS as an exemplary model. GCWDA presented low carbon desalination as a solution for mitigation and adaptation challenges.

CDP / BAFWAC moderated the session and highlighted commitments from companies to reduce their water footprints...

Australia's Dept. of the Environment (rep. World Water Data Initiative -WWDI) stressed the need to tap existing knowledge and to develop new ones to meet SDGs.

The Megacities Alliance for Water & Climate showcased innovative adaptation measures implemented in cities.