



Concept note for the thematic session on

MAINSTREAMING TRANSBOUNDARY ASPECTS OF WATER MANAGEMENT INTO CLIMATE-RELATED DOCUMENTS

Water and climate know no borders. More than 60% of freshwater resources worldwide are in shared basins which are home to more than 40% of the world's population. Transboundary water cooperation helps to address climate risks more efficiently (for example, by reducing uncertainty through the exchange of data, enlarging the range and location of available measures, and sharing the costs and benefits) as well as to prevent maladaptation such as possible negative impacts of unilateral measures. It also helps to promote resilience and sustainable development as well as peace and regional integration.

The year 2020, sometimes described as “the year of climate and water” due to the World Water Day and World Water Week At Home on this topic, provides an opportunity for illustrating the central role of water and the benefits of transboundary cooperation for both mitigation and adaptation. For example, in 2020, the countries are developing new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions in the framework of the Paris Agreement. Countries are also preparing their national adaptation plans (NAPs) to guide the implementation of adaptation actions on the ground. In addition, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is addressing management of water-related disasters and climate change at different levels, including regional and transboundary.

The Water Convention engages with UNDRR and UNFCCC to find coherence and interlinkages between global processes on water, climate change and disaster risk reduction. In particular, the 10th meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (1 May 2019, Geneva) highlighted that water and transboundary cooperation need to be mainstreamed into various climate-related documents developed in the framework of the UNFCCC, for example, into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) as well as national and regional adaptation strategies and river basin management plans.

Based on the above-mentioned prerequisites and the needs of the basins and countries, a thematic session on mainstreaming transboundary aspects of water management into climate-related documents will be organized under the Water Convention, in cooperation with AGWA, AWB, GWP, INBO, SIWI, UNDP, UNFCCC and WGF under the leadership of the Governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland. The thematic session will be organised within the meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate on 2 October 2020 in Geneva with the possibility of on-line participation.

The thematic session will aim to analyse how transboundary water cooperation can be mainstreamed into development, enhancement and implementation of NDCs, NAPs, national and regional adaptation strategies and river basin management plans. It will review concrete examples

from countries and basins across the world, will identify challenges, good practices, lessons learned and recommendations. The session will also consider linkages between adaptation and mitigation while addressing water management issues in climate-related documents.

Examples on mainstreaming the benefits of transboundary water cooperation into climate change adaptation and mitigation and river basin management planning will be provided from different countries and basins across the world.