Innovative financing mechanisms of the Gambia River Basin Development Organisation

Virtual Workshop on designing legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation

28-29 July 2020

Ababacar NDAO- Secretary General Dakar - Senegal
I. OMVG river basins

- **Three river basins:**
  - Gambia, Kayanga-Geba and Koliba-Corubal

- **Four countries:** The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Senegal;

- **Three working languages:** English, French and Portuguese.

**Surface area of the 3 river basins: 118,000 km²**

- Gambia: 77,054 km²
- Kayanga-Geba: 15,000 km²
- Koliba-Corubal: 25,000 km²
- Population: 6 millions inhabitants

**Population in the three basin areas**

- Gambia: 5.1 million inhabitants
- Kayanga-Geba: 552,000 inhabitants
- Koliba-Corubal: 263,997 inhabitants
II. Types of financing

**Basis:** A legal framework: Convention on the creation of the OMVG, Convention on the legal status of common works and Convention on the financing of OMVG common structures

2.1. Operation of the OMVG
   Member States through matching contributions;

2.2. Joint infrastructure projects:
   - Financing by technical and financial partners (TFPs);
   - Member States act as borrowers;
   - Contribution of each State commensurate with the benefits it derives;
   - On-lending of loans to the OMVG, which is the contracting authority
   - TFPs granting loans for infrastructure projects directly to the OMVG (rare case)

2.3. Studies
   Financing in the form of grants to the OMVG
III. Challenges

❖ Protracted delays in mobilizing funding and implementing projects due to the multiplicity of donors and the numerous loan conditions;

❖ Loans to States and not the High Commission (general rule).

❖ Exploring new financing mechanisms for the OMVG to gain direct access to external funds and thereby reduce the debt burden on States: ongoing experience with the Master Plan for Integrated Development (PDDI) through the Blue Peace initiative: in collaboration with Switzerland (SDC, Geneva Water Hub) and UNCDF;

❖ Adapting the legal and institutional framework for access to innovative financing.
IV. Lessons learned/Recommendations

➢ Forty (40) years of non-confrontational cooperation between the 4 member States;

➢ Operating guidelines underpinned by a consensus-based legal corpus, consultation;

➢ A joint organization that plans and implements projects in shared river basins;

➢ Solidarity between the Member States and enhanced sub-regional integration;

➢ Debt reimbursement by the OMVG through revenue from its projects;

➢ Rational, harmonious and equitable use of shared basin resources;

➢ Creating the conditions for the OMVG to have direct access to funds for the implementation of its programme
Thank you for your attention!