

Dakar Action Plan for River, Lake and Aquifer Basins

March 2022



At the 9th World Water Forum, to be held from 21 to 25 March 2022 in Dakar, we, the representatives of governments, international organisations, donors, national and transboundary river, lake or aquifer basin organisations, local authorities, civil society and private sector, provide the Dakar Action Plan for river, lake and aquifer basins, with the political objective of contributing to the progress and conclusions of the United Nations Water Conference scheduled for March 2023, around the global need to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 "by the basins and for the basins". We are convinced that we will thus be able to consolidate the major objectives of access to drinking water and sanitation.

Principles for action

Basin organisations are peacemakers and accelerators of sustainable development.

National or transboundary, they are, by construction, multi-stakeholder platforms. **They are places for dialogue, between countries on a transboundary scale, between users and water stakeholders on a sub-national scale.** In order to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6.5.1 ("Degree of implementation of integrated water resources management") and 6.5.2 ("Proportion of transboundary basins where an operational arrangement for water cooperation is in place"), it is important to develop these two scales of sharing and solidarity.

Cooperation at the level of river basins has proved its worth and brings concrete benefits to the populations. They are relevant structures to ensure a joint and sustainable management of surface and groundwater resources and lead ambitious actions of adaptation to climate change.

On a transboundary scale, cooperation facilitates a shared vision of the use of water resources, pressures and uses; it brings more means by the mutualisation of technical and human resources and hydraulic infrastructures, when they are necessary, thanks to a concertation on their location; the experiences on hydraulic infrastructures common to several countries, their successes (sharing of benefits, peace preservation...) and difficulties must be more widely shared.

The United Nations Water Conventions (1992,1997) are valuable tools for improving this cooperative and integrated management of transboundary basins.

More complementarity is needed between transboundary and national basin approaches.

Transboundary basin organisations (TBOs) are a relevant framework for transboundary management. However, they must be able to rely on a national, and then local implementation, so that operational measures can be implemented in the territories. And conversely, national basin approaches must be consolidated at the transboundary level, under the coordination of an operational, effective and recognised TBO.

At national and local levels, basin organisations are multi-stakeholder platforms. They must allow an integrated approach in line with the SDGs, allow a precise and homogeneous diagnosis of water resources and needs, participatory planning, better ownership of the measures decided upon, and thus optimised results for coordinated sectoral policies.

Local authorities and communities, economic sectors, civil society actors must be better associated and involved in basin management.

Cooperation between the institutions involved, and in particular between basin organisations worldwide and in each region, **should be strengthened** to facilitate the transfer of experience and know-how on best practices in water management.

Support and implement the Dakar Action Plan for an increased mobilisation of basin organisations

In order to implement the Declaration of Dakar: "*a blue deal for water and sanitation security for peace and development*" adopted by the Heads of State, Government and Heads of International Institutions attending the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on March 21, 2022.

In accordance with our respective mandates, we commit to :

- **Confirm the basin organisations role and effectiveness in the service of water security, peace and sustainable development**
 - **Strengthen**, from upstream to downstream, **the association of the different sectors and stakeholders of basin water resources**.
 - **Involve all sectors to the joint management** of surface water and groundwater to protect their quality and quantity
 - **Work for a cooperative, rational and sustainable management** of water resources in order to better manage transboundary basins together
 - **Leverage innovative financing solutions** and generate new investments for transboundary and multi-sectoral water projects.
 - **Capitalise on past and ongoing initiatives**, notably the High Level Panel on Water and Peace
 - **To work for a cooperative, rational and sustainable management** of water resources in order to better manage transboundary basins together

- **Value the positive impact and concrete results produced by basin organisations including economic and social development, shared facilities and an ecological approach**
 - **Promote models of cooperation between basin organisations and local authorities** and their concrete results and innovations as a source of inspiration
 - **Strengthen common information systems and practices** for producing, using and sharing data
 - **Generate regular exchange of good practices between basin organisations**
 - **Enhance the participation of all water user sectors**

- **Strengthen visibility and institutional frameworks, especially for transboundary basins:**
 - **Strengthen exchanges** with other territorial and administrative levels
 - **Encourage and support the adoption of new legal agreements** for water protection and sustainable use in transboundary basins, including adherence to the United Nations Water Conventions (1992,1997)

- **Promote innovative and autonomous financing mechanisms at basin level**

- **Plan the implementation of integrated management between uses at basin scale**
 - **Better integrate adaptation to climate change**
 - **Support the economic development of territories**
 - **Preserving resources and ecosystems**

In order to demonstrate our mobilisation, report on our actions and share the progress made, particularly in view of the United Nations Water Conference scheduled for 22-24 March 2023 in New York, we will, in the coming weeks, be sending out our exemplary operational projects for acceleration and success by 2030.

We are committed to promoting the signing of the Dakar Action Plan for water basins.

To join us



<https://bit.ly/3rONZ4v>