

UN Water Conference Interactive Dialogue 2

Lead Discussant – Dr Dinara Ziganshina

Moderator: How can we showcase concrete benefits of transboundary cooperation to support decision makers and mainstream the nexus thinking in their day-to-day work and mandates?

Dr Dinara Ziganshina: Thank you for this very specific question.

Recently, in preparation to a new IKI project funded by Germany, we together with colleagues from OECD and UNECE had an extensive consultation process with key stakeholders from Central Asia. Through this process, stakeholders provided us with a number of calls for action, which I will be happy to share with you.

- CA countries are increasingly aware of the importance of cooperation on the Nexus, but they need to **see concrete benefits of cooperation and tools to foster it as well as understand the “business case” for cooperation** across Water, Energy, Food, Land, Climate and Ecosystems with a country and between countries.
- To facilitate and enhance cross-sectoral cooperation we need more **compelling evidence base on benefits** to secure political support and inform decision-making.
- **We also need practical tools and instruments** to support decision makers and mainstream/operationalize the nexus thinking in their day-to-day work and mandates, including development planning at **various levels**.
- There is demand for **more pilot projects** to demonstrate the benefits of cooperation on the Nexus and design **workable financing mechanisms** to promote Nexus investments and engage with the private sector
- There is also need to **combine all this with targeted capacity development, research and political and technical dialogue** to drive the progress
- Finally, learning from the best practices across the globe it is essential to build on **local knowledge and home-grown institutions and platforms** such as ICWC and IFAS that celebrate 30 years anniversary this year on March 26.

To sum up my answer in two words: **We need Intelligence and Culture**. Culture in its broadest sense is cultivated behaviour. In international arena, it is the art of communication and cooperation through the language of international law and diplomacy. We need cultivate our own water-secured and peaceful future.

This resonates perfectly with an inspiring speech given this morning by the president of the UNGA Csaba Kőrösi who spoke in all UN languages striving to wake us up and act.