

## Intervention by Portugal

### *Interactive Dialogue 4:*

***Water for cooperation: transboundary and international water cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and water across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.5 and 6.b and Goals 16 and 17)***

***23 March 2023, UNHQ Conference Room 4 (15:00-18:00)***

Distinguished Co-Chairs,  
Dear Moderator, Panelists,  
Excellencies,

According to UN-Water, 153 countries have territory within at least one of the 286 Transboundary River and lake basins. However, only 32 countries have 90% or more of their transboundary basin area covered by operational arrangements.

We believe this reality must change, given the growing and accelerating trend of extreme events of droughts and floods that require greater transboundary cooperation.

The existence of legal agreements between parties sharing river basins and transboundary aquifers, strengthening the cooperation on planning and management, is essential to address the growing demographic pressure on water, without degrading ecosystems, within the framework of a sustainable development, contributing to peace, security and stability, thus preventing potential regional conflicts.

Portugal firmly believes that all efforts towards the promotion of transboundary water cooperation deserve support, even considering that the international legal framework in force, namely the UN Water Conventions of Helsinki and New York, as well as the 2030 Agenda, already provide a benchmark in this direction.

Portugal, a predominantly downstream country, shares a set of hydrographic basins with Spain that represent around 45% of the Iberian Peninsula. To manage these shared water resources, the two countries have been implementing legal agreements for more than 150 years.

Currently, we have a single operational bilateral agreement (Albufeira Convention), that covers all shared river basins.

The 25 years of the Albufeira Convention have been a milestone for the relations between the two countries. We are available to share this experience with other regions of the globe.

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, we would like to underscore that the principle of multilateralism in transboundary cooperation is key for achieving SDG 6.

Portugal remains committed to this principle and will pursue all efforts to keep this issue on the water international agenda.

Thank you for your attention.