



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

## UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

### *Integrated Water Resources Management at basin level: benefits of this nexus approach to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*

March 22nd, 2023 –6:30pm - 7:45pm, United Nations Headquarters  
(Conference Room 2)

Organized by: International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)  
and France (Ministry for the ecological transition and territorial  
cohesion and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs)

#### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

This session highlights the crucial role of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to accelerate the achievement of the sustainable development goals. IWRM is indeed a major tool to preserve and manage water resources, by allowing cross-sectoral integration, conciliating water uses and facilitating data sharing. The event showcases the Dakar Action Plan for River, Lake and Aquifer Basins adopted at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar in March 2022. It also highlights the role of Integrated Water Resources Management to address climate change and present it as a useful tool to faster accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5. Our societies need to adapt to be able to cope with the increased occurrence of extreme events. This event illustrates that integrated water management at basin level offers an effective and indispensable solution to achieve all water-related SDGs, that brings together all stakeholders, conciliating their water uses, while taking into account the new environmental context and its constraints, and fostering investment at the local level where the benefits will be optimum.

**Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the [Water Action Agenda database](#))**

The « Dakar Action Plan for basins of lakes, rivers and aquifers » is an initiative from Senegal, Morocco, Switzerland, the International Network of Basin Organizations, UNECE, OMVS and OMVG. It provides the technical definition of the principles for actions and commitments needed. It mobilizes the main stakeholders of basin management (basin organisations and committees, ministries, donors, water users' associations, etc.) and calls for acceleration of the achievement of the SDGs by strengthening cooperation, planning, the legal and institutional framework of basin organisations, and the search for innovative financing. <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/dakar-action-plan-basins-lakes-rivers-and-aquifers>

### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

- How is IWRM contributing to implement SDGs, through cross-sectoral integration?
  - The Brazilian experiences in Water Policies
  - Commitments from basin organizations for the 2030 Agenda
  - Complex climate and development challenges and solutions
- How can IWRM and RBO foster climate adaptation?
  - Access to climate finance for projects of adaptation at basin level
  - Presentations of basin organizations (transboundary basins of the Niger and Gambia rivers, domestic basin of the Adour-Garonne river)
  - IWRM as a solution for adaptation through restoration, protection
  - Breaking silos

### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

1. Assign a political priority to basin management and recognize the role and effectiveness of basin organization for Water security, peace, sustainable development
2. Strengthen financing, legal and institutional frameworks of basin organizations (both national and transboundary) should be recognized as a political priority to improve implementation of IWRM and achieve SDGs
3. Improve access to climate finance for projects of adaptation to climate change at basin level by financing incubation
4. Advance cooperation with a common understanding of the key challenges through basin organizations providing expertise and a platform for cooperation and dialogue in water management
5. Strengthening data sharing practices and shared Water Information Systems.
6. Strengthening dissemination of practices and tools for water users participation and awareness raising.