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CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Team Europe Initiative: Joining forces for Transboundary Water Management in Africa

23.03.2023, 18:30, Trusteeship Room, UNHQ

Organized by: Belgium

Partners: European Union (DG for International Partnerships), Government of Austria (Ministry of European and International Affairs), Government of Czech Republic (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Government of Denmark (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Government of France (Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs), Government of Germany (German Agency for International, Cooperation), Government of Slovenia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Government of Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Transboundary Water Management in Africa provides a framework for coordinated action between EU Member States and EU institutions, including the European Investment Bank to work with their African partners at continental, regional, and national levels. The TEI's main objective is to enhance transboundary water management to support development and regional integration. On 23 March 2023, the TEI was officially launched by the Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment, Energy and Tourism of Flanders-Belgium, along with the State Secretary of Ecology of France, Berangère Couillard, the Minister of Water and Sanitation of Senegal, Serigne Mbaye Thiam, and the Minister of Water Resources of Nigeria, Suleiman Hussein Adamu. The active participation of the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union, Josefa Sacko, the President of the African Ministers' Council on Water, Hani Sewilam, and the Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, Ambroise Fayolle, confirmed the high level of commitment of African and European partners to the initiative.

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

The preliminary contributions to the TEI on Transboundary Water Management in Africa announced at the UN 2023 Water Conference represent a total amount of EUR 404,53 million (EUR 180 million from the EU and EU 224, 53 million from EU Member States) .

Reference: Commitment #6 under Water for peace and security: strengthening water governance, cooperation and protection during armed conflict

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7443-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

The EU commits to improve transboundary cooperation across water basins, including aquifers, to strengthen regional integration, and make water a key driver for sustainable development, green transition, and peace through:

- committing over €380 million under NDICI-Global Europe, contributing to Global Gateway on transboundary water management actions, working with countries, basin organisations and regional bodies. Together with its Member States and EIB, Team Europe has launched two new flagship initiatives on transboundary water management in Africa and Central Asia. Together, Team Europe is making over €1.1 billion available for transboundary water cooperation working on improved governance, knowledge, and investments with at least 47 countries, in 18 major transboundary water basins

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

The discussions addressed ways to:

- Improve continental policies and knowledge regarding water resources management, and their coherence across scales.
- Enable cooperation and peer learning among transboundary basin bodies.
- Improve transboundary IWRM and WEFEE nexus approaches for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation.
- Increase investments of transboundary relevance enabling economic development and regional integration.
- Create space for African bodies to advise continental, regional, and basin organisations on transboundary water management actions.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Harmonize policy and strategies development, including coherence across scales and linking transboundary water to key African political frames (African Union, Regional Economic Communities, National Development Strategies, etc) and thematic strategies (Agenda 2063, Africa Water Vision 2025, etc).
- Improve knowledge, analytical tools and information systems to sustainably manage water resources and adaptation to climate change.
- Strengthen transboundary water management and Lake and River Basin Organisation's governance and institutional organisation, including statutory bodies, policy for decision-making, human resources, capacity development, partnership relations with other sectors and regional bodies.
- Consolidate independent and sustainable financing for Lake and River Basin Organisations by harnessing various means of funding.
- Support knowledge and project preparation for investments of transboundary relevance designed for joint benefits.