



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Global Facility for Transboundary Waters Cooperation
March 24, 2023 | 12:30 – 2.00 PM

Organized by: World Bank, UNECE, Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, EcoPeace Middle East

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The event was a consultation on a proposed Global Facility for Transboundary Waters Cooperation. Given the magnitude of pressure on transboundary waters, more and more coordinated global action and support are needed to leverage strengths and synergies of multiple stakeholders. Cooperative transboundary water management does not only a regional public good but is key for economic development and growth as well as a prerequisite for achieving other key global public goods such conflict prevention, climate resilience and biodiversity preservation.

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

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The event discussed how the World Bank and its partners could play a larger role in promoting and supporting countries in their pursuit of transboundary water cooperation, and to update their transboundary water offerings to meet current and emerging needs of countries.
- It highlighted how pressing development challenges, including climate change, conflicts and biodiversity degradation as well as the need for sustainable long-term growth will be increasingly dependent on transboundary resources and as such it is imperative to increase focus on them – noting that as surface basins are closing there is also a need to increase focus on transboundary groundwater management.

- A range of perspectives was represented, including the importance of working with a range of stakeholders, including regional organizations – such as RBOs, civil society, academia but also technical, social and political expertise as well as the UN system and the Multilateral Development Banks.
- The event discussed how partners, building on their respective comparative advantages, can work more closely together in the pursuit of cooperative transboundary water management.
- It was noted how the proposed facility complements other key efforts by partners as well and can help amplify those efforts.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Given the Bank's convening role, multi-sector technical expertise, and ability to design innovative financing, the proposed Global Facility for Transboundary Water Cooperation was welcomed, and the event endorsed the overall idea and recommended to advance its development.
- Underlining the importance of the proposed facility stakeholders noted the importance of further standardizing the approaches in an inclusive manner.
- In advancing the proposed facility, the participants of the event also recommended to continue the partnership, in various ways and forms, with a wide range of stakeholders.