

**Joint statement (UNCDF, SDC, OMVG, FCC) on financing transboundary water cooperation
for the UN 2026 Water Conference organizational session
New York, 3 March 2025**

Thank you, Mr. President, Your Excellencies, dear colleagues.

On behalf of the Blue Peace Financing Partners (comprised of the UN Capital Development Fund - UNCDF, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – SDC, the Freetown City Council - FCC and the Gambia River Basin Development Organization -OMVG), I would like to thank the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and the co-hosts, the Republic of Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, as well as UN-DESA and UN-Water for organizing this important preparatory meeting.

The rise of conflicts worldwide, violations of international law and political divisions are putting immense pressure on multilateralism, making international cooperation harder, yet more necessary than ever. Collective action to address the triple planetary crisis – climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss- and to prevent conflicts across the globe must be harnessed to shape a sustainable future. And as we all know, public finance and ODA will not be enough to achieve the SDGs. But in the face of these challenges, there is hope.

Multistakeholder cooperation and innovative financing for water will be one of the critical gamechangers. Blended finance has emerged as a powerful tool to bridge the gap left by traditional international mechanisms. Now more than ever, blended finance is the key to ensuring that we don't just talk about change—we make it happen.

As a hybrid development finance institution, with a unique capital mandate with the UN System, UNCDF can act as a financing enabler and “derisker,” helping to crowd-in private capital and unlock investments in higher-risk countries and for last-mile challenges. In partnership with other development partners, UNCDF aims to deliver scalable blended finance solutions that pave the way for commercial finance, driving systemic change and helping accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

We welcome the 6 interactive dialogues, and we would like to emphasize that financing as a cross-cutting topic should be integrated in all the 6 interactive dialogues.

We at UNCDF, we believe that **Financing for Water** requires commitments and actions in **creating innovative blended finance mechanisms to attract private investment**. In this sense, we **encourage the 2026 UN Water Conference to focus on addressing the barriers to cooperation and securing sustainable financing solutions for transboundary water initiatives**.

While the 2023 UN Water Conference has catalyzed political attention and action. This is indeed an occasion to drive momentum for further concrete action.

UNCDF, together with its Blue Peace Financing Partners, is committed in contributing to the **2026 UN Water process and we hope the conference will provide an opportunity to build bridges** between the water and finance communities, between those who need access to water-related services and those who provide it, between different sectors and “water-users”, between countries and generations.

We look forward to working closely with other stakeholder and partners on this important journey ahead.

Thank you, Mr. President.