

# IWRM in the international framework

**SS 30 Years of Water management in Basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers**

**13 September 2023**

**XVIIIth IWRA World Water Congress, Beijing**

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# Outline

I. Introduction

II. Agenda 2030

III. IWRM in the SDGs

IV. Way forward

# Introduction

Worldwide Water crisis:

- Increased pressure on water resources:
  - For agriculture: to feed growing populations
  - To meet energy needs
  - Industrial needs
  - Growing cities

→ Unsustainable uses and management:  
Pollution, scarcity, threats on ecosystems

Exacerbated by CC impacts → extreme events



# Introduction

## **Reminder:**

2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, 4.2 billion lack access to safe sanitation, 2.3 billion live in water- stressed countries



# Introduction

What solution:

- Improving the way water is used and managed urgently needed
- Water governance has to respond to these serious problems:

**Water governance is the key to development and resilience**

# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets

## Implemented through

- Partnership and cooperation
- **the HRs**
- **the sustainable development principle**

➔ **Due consideration and implementation by States in their national frameworks**

➔ The goals are defined as integrated and indivisible

➔ *some goals are transversal*



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

Goal 6 : Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

➤ Includes 6 targets

- achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water
- achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all
- improve water quality and increase recycling and safe reuse globally
- increase water-use efficiency, and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater
- ***implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate***
- protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes





# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

Two process targets:

- 6a : expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes,
- 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities





# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

## SDG 6

☞ *Recognized as supporting many SDGs: ending poverty & hunger, ensuring health and disease prevention, education, gender equality, energy and climate change.*

☞ *Alarmingly off-track*



# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

**Initiative:** Global acceleration framework → involve all sectors of society to speed up progress by improving support to countries

5 accelerators:

- Optimized financing → *plans related to delivery of SDG 6 are fully funded.*
  - Improved data and information → *High-quality information on SDG 6 indicators is shared and easily accessible by any decision maker.*
  - Capacity development
  - Innovation → *Innovative practices and technologies for water and sanitation*
  - **Governance** 🖱️ *Cross-sector and transboundary collaboration, clear roles, stakeholder involvement and effective and inclusive institutions*
- ➔ *Efficient mandates for SDG 6 delivery in all sectors , strengthened institutions and effective intersectoral coordination mechanisms.*

# IWRM in the SDGs

Target 6.5: “by 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate” as measured by two complementary indicators:

- Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation

2<sup>nd</sup> Progress report (2021):

- **Rate of implementation of IWRM needs to double urgently**
- **Real and rapid progress is possible** : Clear signs of progress in some countries between 2017 and 2020
- ➔ though this still needs to accelerate

# IWRM in the SDGs

## 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

- **Transboundary waters:**  
**60 per cent of the world's freshwater flows**
- **153 countries have territory within at least one of the 286 transboundary river and lake basins and 468 transboundary aquifer systems**

2<sup>nd</sup> Progress report (2021):

**only 32 countries have 90 per cent or more of their transboundary basin area covered by operational arrangements, of which only 24 countries have all of their basin area covered.**

Operational arrangement : four criteria :

- There is a joint body or mechanism for transboundary cooperation in place.
- There are at least annual meetings between riparian countries.
- A joint or coordinated water management plan or joint objectives have been established.
- At least annual exchanges of data and information take place.

# Legal instruments

## IWL instruments

Convention on the law of non-navigational uses of international watercourses (21 mai 1997)

In force since 2014, 38 Parties

Draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers

*Topic of 6 UN GA resolutions*

Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes (1992, amended in 2013)

In force since 1996, 52 Parties

➔ today open to all UN members



# Way forward

## Key challenges:

### ➤ **Prioritize the development of basin and aquifer organizations:**

- clear mandates and strong links to relevant local government departments and agencies;
- technical capacity to monitor water resources and their use; and
- secured funding,

### ➤ **Legal frameworks:**

- Develop or update laws to reflect progressive, coordinated & integrated water resources management approaches,

### ➤ **TB level:**

- capitalizing on the global water conventions and draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers
- addressing data gaps, especially in relation to the coverage and dynamics of transboundary aquifers, as a trigger for sustained cooperation

## → **Strengthening and mobilizing political will**

# Way forward

## UN 2023 Water Conference

### ➤ Key objectives and recommendations

#### INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE 2: Water for Sustainable Development:

→ Integrated water resources management needs to be strengthened to address the whole hydrological cycle, and to achieve, by 2030, universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all. This means integrated planning and policy making across sectors with the necessary governance structures

#### INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE 4: Water cooperation

→ Strengthen transboundary cooperation for sustainable development and promoting peace

→ Strengthen basin organizations, and their efforts for inclusive and sustainable integrated management of water resources. Specific attention given to transboundary aquifers

→ Increase financing for transboundary cooperation



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023



# Way forward

## ➤ **The HRs**

The SDGs “seek to realize the human rights of all”



Reference in the Resolution : Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human right treaties, previous UN General Assembly resolutions related to development such as the Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit outcome or the Declaration on the Right to Development which are based on the respect of the human rights.

- Human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation mentioned explicitly
- Reference to the right to food

Thank you for your attention