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## **UN 2023 Water Conference – Side Event**

Organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia

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### ***Committing to advance transboundary water cooperation worldwide for sustainable development, climate action, stability and peace***

*18:30 – 19:45, 23 March 2023,  
ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York*

#### **Context**

Transboundary waters account for 60 per cent of the world's freshwater flows. More than 3 billion people depend on them. Cooperation on shared resources is therefore essential to promote sustainable economic development, human and environmental health, biodiversity, climate action and resilience, disaster risk reduction, and peace. Unfortunately, cooperation in most transboundary basins is not fit to deal with future challenges and progress is too slow.

To sustain and advance cooperation, the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition, a diverse, multi-stakeholder coalition of actors from around the world with a wide range of functions and capacities, was formed. In preparation to the Conference, the Coalition has provided a catalysing framework for the submission of voluntary commitments on transboundary water cooperation as part of the Water Action Agenda.

The side event will highlight commitments by countries and organizations, including basin organizations, aiming to advance transboundary water cooperation.

#### **Programme**

**18:30-18:35    Opening**

*H.E. Mr. Uroš Brežan, Minister of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning,  
Republic of Slovenia*

**18:35-18:40    Presentation of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition**

*Mr. Christian Frutiger, Assistant Director General,  
Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)*

**Panel discussions moderated by** Mr. Sergio Campos, Division Chief, Water and Sanitation Division, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

18:40-19:10 **Panel discussion on advancing transboundary water cooperation through legal and institutional means, and data, information, knowledge and technical support**

- *H.E. Mr. Sam Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment, Republic of Uganda*
- *H.E. Ms. Bérangère Couillard, Secretary of State in charge of Ecology, Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, France*
- *H.E. Ms. Ximena Carolina Fuentes, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Chile*
- *Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission*
- *Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Chief of Transboundary Cooperation, United Nations Economic Commission for Economic Cooperation (UNECE)*
- *Mr. Phetsamone Khanophet, Director of Environmental Management Division, Mekong River Commission (MRC)*
- *Mr. Mark Zeitoun, Director General, Geneva Water Hub*

19:10-19:40 **Panel discussion on advancing transboundary water cooperation through capacity development and funding and financing**

- *H.E. Ms. Johanna Sumvuori, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Finland*
- *Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director, Water Global Practice, World Bank*
- *Ms. Marie-Thérèse Itongo, Secretary General, International Commission for the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS)*
- *Mr. Mourad Wahba, Officer in Charge, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)*
- *Mr. Eric Tardieu, Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)*
- *Mr. Eddy Moors, Rector, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education*

19:40-19:45 **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Xing Qu, Deputy Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)