



European Union

Water and Beyond

EU transformative approaches
for international partnerships



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PARTNERSHIP

Session 4 - The water-climate nexus: how to address the cascading crises

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Session 4 - The water-climate nexus: how to address the cascading crises

Pillar 1: EU International Partnership Priorities on 'Green Deal alliances'

15:20 - 16:50

321 participants signed up for this session

Introduction

Facilitators: Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

EU perspective on water and climate change interlinkages and introduction to the European Green Deal, keynote by Pär Holmgren, Member of the European Parliament – Group of the Greens (Sweden), Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

We have to pay attention to this nexus you mention, between climate change, health, and gender because of the compounding risks presented by the different crises. We know that the effect of climate change already impacts vulnerable communities in different countries. And it is getting worse. Despite having contributed to the causes of climate change. They experience impacts such as floods and droughts. The introduction of saltwater also increases exposure to diseases of all kinds. Access to clean water represents a critical aspect of both preparedness and resilience.

Out of global climate finance, only 5% is allocated to climate change and only 1% goes to protecting clean water for vulnerable communities. In some of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, less than 1 euro per person is spent every year on making water services climate resilient and 1/3 of the world population lives in water stress areas. Projections show that by 2025, already in 4 years, for now, 1.8 billion people will live in countries facing water scarcity. Climate change will be critical to the resilience of clean water and sanitary systems.

It is important to apply gender perspective when we develop our strategies and policies and allocate resources. Rebalancing climate finance to target the very poor communities will make changes in resilience. We really need now an increased investment in WASH. It is encouraging that the EU Green Deal is one of the 5 key priorities and that water is mentioned alongside with focus on the cyclical economy; investment in WASH means investment in cyclical economy as well as support for water management.

As the EU is preparing Team Europe initiatives with an important focus on the green transition, it's essential that they also ensure investment in clean water. The World Meteorological Organization already stated that there is a risk of at least 25% of reaching 1.5° above pre-industrial level in the coming 4 years, so that means that we need to increase our ambition a lot, both when it comes to adaptation and navigation.

Comment from the moderator: thanks for highlighting that it is always the vulnerable communities that suffer most and that we need to be inclusive when we talk about climate change policy needs.

- [How to mainstream water and transboundary cooperation into climate policies on the global and national levels, keynote by Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands](#)

The linkages between climate and water are huge and scare a lot of organizations away, because they do not like complexity, they look for easy solutions. But those solutions drove us to the actual situation. Indeed, it is the most vulnerable that are touched by the crisis. Crisis may be worsened by climate change and water scarcity, in the context of migration, conflict, vulnerabilities in relation with gender, youth and so forth. And on top of this climate change there is a glass effect that is magnifying this situation. 90% of all these disasters are water-related and 80% of costs are affected by water quality and human health. So, it is essential to have enough safe water at hand.

Why should water be at the heart of climate action? It is a matter of adapting, but also a matter of irrigation.

Various reports are shown regarding climate change, but the panelist highlights the report titled "climate change and land" from the IPCC.

The report has 2 main pillars, the first states that most of our investments go to policies that are stimulating our economies but also amplifying climate change and the second pillar shows how investing in and developing our economies and cities made us more vulnerable. This vulnerability is exposing us to risks to human health, economy, environment, biodiversity, and security.

The current situation is different from before. Currently public and private sectors are ready to invest in the economy but only in sectors where jobs can be saved, and take risks for projects that are easy to implement. Those dollars can be spent only once.

I call this a "stupid infrastructure", where there is a single focus investment that only ticks one single box and not the full SDG agenda. We need to reinvest the future of the 2020 agenda in a holistic way, to rethink the future of the Paris agreement. To do that, we have to start to reinvent the future: investing in water to mitigate risks and create value. Investing in water may actually not return a value from a single point perspective. We should rethink the way we see it: water minister, not health minister not a health industry.

We have to take a long-term approach when looking at the SDGs. That means inclusion: this is a time for science and solidarity. Science, by understanding and not only the motto of the UN and the motto of "leaving no one behind", it is also about best governance and transboundary issues. Because we know that transboundary issues are critically important. 60% of the water in the world is transboundary.

There is a need for international collaboration: UNC, UN, EU reach out to others to build capacity around the world. The Climate Summit in Holland is looking for that and out of these conversations and programs will arise projects. If we look at all those partnerships and

scale them up, in this collective effort, it should be an inspiration. We need to scale it up and duplicate those amazing examples with partnerships. I hope to see everybody to the Climate and Adaptation Summit 2021 and invite you to look at the website and subscribe online:

www.cas2021.co

→ Conclusion: we have to invest in water management and combine science and solidarity in the current situation.

Pool questions:

How can we better integrate water into climate-related policies and projects?

- By preparing climate-related plans (NDCs, NAPs, etc.) in intersectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination: 55%
- By supporting CC adaptation with transboundary basin mechanisms: 25%
- By allocating proper financing through regular consultations between climate, water, health and finance ministries: 15%
- By assessing water need for climate irrigation and adaptation targets and actions: 5%

How can water better be integrated into EU international partnerships (including the Green Deal framework) and the current programming cycle?

- More programmes promoting an integrated approach to water resources management: 48%
- More basin investment plans/transboundary climate strategies: 22%
- More programmes supporting access to WASH, in particular in communities most affected by CC: 19%
- Climate proofing of all water-related projects: 11%
- More national adaptation strategies for the water sector: 0%

The moderator makes some comments regarding the answers from the pool:

- Regarding the programs promoting an integrated approach to water resources management, water is already part of the Green Deal framework of SDG priorities.
- As far as climate proofing investments of all water-related projects are concerned, as Mr. Ovink has said, we should work on partnerships and consider investing in water.

Panel discussion

- **Elena Višnar Malinová, Head of Unit - Adaptation to climate change, cities, international cooperation, Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), European Commission**

Water and the rise of water natural disasters are the indications of how well prepared or not we are. There are many stories about the relationship between water and climate change, some examples are the stories of Dutch and German farmers taking their tractors to the street because of the regulations or transit problems in Germany because of the low water level and so many other examples.

The way to the mainstream is the other way around; to provide guiding and tools that we can deploy already today, to create a stable structure of water management. And indeed in European water directives, we already provide guidance on river-based water management. Expertise is exchanged on the impact of climate change and it is considered in fact risk management. Union Civil protection mechanisms are always ready to help in case of floods.

There is the EU energy label and eco-design legislation. We launch an engagement with people business called “Climate Pact” on climate and environmental actions and we expect a lot of actions where water will be at the heart of. In a month, the EU will present a new adaptation strategy for the climate so the new EU adaptation strategy will be adapted to a more climate-friendly strategy, since we cannot be late and we need to adapt to a more hostile environment.

I put the Climate Risk Assessment at the forefront because it should become a common good practices principle. Any decision by companies, business individuals that should affect the Climate Risk should be ready for that. We also use the “Do No Harm” principle that is angled in the assessment of the recovery plan to make sure that the climate projects do not compromise the environmental goals, because we can imagine a country’s wish to construct big dams and huge irrigations systems that affect the water quality of these countries.

In our common agriculture policy, at least 40% of funds will be dedicated to climate and this is where water and climate constraints meet again. EU steps up partnership with other countries as a part of the adaptation, planning, and process of making policies. We work internationally, for instance, we joined the call of the UK and Egypt with the African adaptation initiative and we will also be part of the Climate Adaptation summit next week. We will mobilize more than 700 million euros per year to help Africa build its great wall in the Sahara. We try to work and help with all these coalitions and partnerships in Europe and all over the world.

- **Hasin Jahan, Country Director, WaterAid Bangladesh**

Bangladesh ranks number 9 for the most vulnerable country according to the climate change index (German watch). Over 35 million people across 47,201 square km of the coastal belt of the country are facing the impacts of climate change. Significant sea-level rise has been measured in Bangladesh, with 4 mm per year at Hiron Point in the west, 6 mm per year at Char Changa in the center of the country, and 8 mm per year at Cox’s Bazar in the southeast. Sea level rise has been one of the factors that led to an increase in soil salinity in Bangladesh, from 1.5 million hectares under mild salinity in 1973 to 3 million in 2007 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UK)

Current climate trends:

- Significant increase in the frequency of the extreme events;
- Decrease of the cool and dry seasons;
- Higher temperatures and erratic rainfall leading to wetlands drying up and ecosystems degrading;
- Substantial sea level rise;
- Increase in soil salinity.

When it comes to the impacts of climate change, women are the most vulnerable:

- The availability of drinking water scares in the coastal belt; women travel for long hours to collect safe water far from their homesteads;
- Girls drop out of school in order to help their mothers in fetching water;
- Use of saline water for bathing which often causes skin and other diseases like eclampsia, hypertension, etc.;
- They have to walk 4-5 kilometers to help their mother collecting water;
- Climate adaptive approaches and technologies for WASH.

Participatory WASH Vulnerability Analysis:

We have introduced a participatory assessment in terms of the vulnerabilities of the communities, water, development needs, including sanitation & hygiene (WASH), and potential resources availability. Based on that, the communities prepare their own development plan and distribute responsibilities among themselves to take the initiatives forward. The approach creates a sense of ownership towards adaptive and resilient development process in the communities.

Community contributed for construction in cash:

- Rainwater harvesting system at institutions level: installing RWH systems in schools to be used for sanitation & handwashing purposes where groundwater is scarce;
- Pond Sand Filter (PSF) is a locally adaptive popular technology used to filter water from pond by slow sand filtration method for domestic water demand;
- Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants/ Reverse osmosis is a sophisticated proven technology which produces drinkable water from saline water using filtration through a membrane. Each plant covers more than 1,000 users. This high-cost solution has been taken to the communities in the form of 'water businesses by women entrepreneur groups. The model shows the prospect of replicability. Women empowerment is the key to this approach.

Sanitation and climate change:

- Frequent disasters destroy low-cost toilets in communities;
- Raised toilet seat and disaster resilient toilets: toilets with a high plinth or a plinth of above-average height above flood level offer better sustainability against damages during disasters;
- Menstrual hygiene practices: around 50% of adolescents and 65% of women use old cloth during menstruation in rural areas of Bangladesh. Repeated washing of the cloth with saline water makes the cloth rough and using the same cloth causes itching around the genital area - Locally made low-cost napkins made by women entrepreneurs are promoted - Advocacy initiatives are in progress to make availability of pads at schools;
- WaterAid support towards community resiliency and national advocacy: together with WASH actors, tracking government financing in the WASH sector since 2011 and advocating through national media for increased allocation in climate-vulnerable areas;
- Focusing on local level advocacy initiatives for ensuring that the government subsidies reach the right people (Leave No One Behind);

- Jointly with ICCCAD, WaterAid is undertaking a climate policy landscape analysis to understand the gaps between climate and WASH policies and investment planning and it is expected that critically important recommendations will come up for investment and national level planning from the study.

You understand how climate change is affecting the water relationship. We are undertaking the climate policy to understand the gap between the climate change policy and WASH and critical findings will come as recommendations to see how it can be changed at local level.

Comment from the moderator: interesting perspective from the ground and demonstration of some of the links between sanitation and climate change and the impact it has on the field for the population. Some examples can be taken in as an experience.

- **Antonio Cañas Calderón, Chief of the Technical Cabinet, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador**

This year we are having an update of our most important policies of development and climate change, we are considering this new set of policies that we will be developing. We are considering all the comments heard here to improve this process of Building Climate resilience.

Relevant facts as from his slide:

- El Salvador, Central America: breaking historical records • Two hurricanes, category 4 & 5, in 2 weeks: Eta & Iota • Two tropical storms in 1 week: Amanda & Cristobal • COVID-19 pandemic, more to come according to science • Ocean warming: Advances in Atmospheric Sciences, J. Abraham et al. January 2021 • The world's oceans reached their hottest level in recorded history in 2020 • By uptaking ~90% of anthropogenic heat and ~30% of the carbon emissions, the ocean buffers global warming (IPCC, 2019) • Severe implications on marine biodiversity, changing marine species migratory patterns, associated cascading impacts, impacting the biological systems of the planet as well as human society. • Global biodiversity loss: "Insects are suffering 'death by a thousand cuts'" Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences- Jan 12. 2021. Insect population has fallen down 25% since 1990, Journal of Science April 2020.

We thought that we already knew the climate change impacts but the reality shows other things: two hurricanes impacted the country over a period of two weeks and this situation has never been seen before. The country was not ready for this. With the covid pandemic crisis, the climate change disaster did not help with the current situation. We need to prepare for an even stronger and new impact of climate change.

We need to understand the implication of more than 90% of greenhouse gas emissions that are being taken up by our oceans and the disturbance of the hydrological ecosystem will impact the region (Central America) and everything that is dependent on water. We also need to be willing to accept the implications of the loss of biodiversity. That's no wonder that new pandemics are forecasting for the future because we are killing a part of our ecology.

From his slide:

- The pace and intensity of change accelerating • Rivers 90% below average flow in summer (dry season) • Insufficient BAU strategies and policies • Need to do more with available

resources • 2021-2030 Water centered climate and development policies • Restoring/protecting freshwater critical ecosystems • Reporting water goals across sectorial NDCs (water footprint, minimizing land-use change) • Sectorial development policies & projects guided on GHG emissions and water-related climate impacts modelling, reporting wastewater footprint, cumulative impacts on aquatic ecosystem and land-use change.

There are several risks coming from climate change (they are arriving like in a cascade): loss of biodiversity, and ecosystems so we are transiting to another normality (if any normality is waiting for us in the future). So we need to do different things, to adopt extraordinary measures in order to change this situation. Water is going to be the link between all those risks and water is going to be the key factor of the climate change impact that we are experiencing.

In this sense, we are adopting a different approach for the new set of policy measures on climate change where we are taking water as the backbone of this new policy, and our main objective to protect fresh water and critical ecosystems. We are requesting all sectors to record their water impact and water footprint and to minimize the risk for freshwater.

- From his slide:

Extreme weather events: economic and social loss & damage • Slow onset events, mostly water-related irreversible loss & damage, ultimate information for GST

It is also important to have a clear measure of how well we are performing in dealing with the reality of climate change. In order to have measurable actions, we should analyze the advantages and disadvantages of our performance regarding climate change and take into account the reverse effect our performance is having in the ecosystems.

- From his slide:

AFOLU 2040 Initiative • Regional climate change goals through an innovative approach combining agriculture, forests, biodiversity, and ecosystem restoration actions • Regional NDCs enhancing ambition project. • GCF Readiness, 5 from 8 SICA countries.

In the region, we have developed regional strategies that will be addressed to national base solutions. Regarding climate change, one of the facts we are facing is the protection of transboundary ecosystems. With these policies, we will find ways to collaborate on our goal of protecting our region.

Comment from the moderator: thank you for making the link on water and natural disasters and thanks for showing that the pandemic is making the actual situation much more difficult'.

Before going to the last speakers, she brings a question from the chat:

Samusodza 04:13 PM

How can we ensure that indigenous knowledge systems and practices are incorporated in climate change mitigation and adaptation programming?

Mr. Antonio Cañas Calderón answer: we have developed some policies to address social and environmental issues, we have indigenous (native) communities that are the ones who suggested the issues to address (problems to be solved). They also proposed their approach to nature and they share the knowledge they have on nature.

Mrs. Hasin Jahan: Indigenes' knowledge is very important, we need to mix them with scientists and for that, we need to know their experience and we consider their experience and from them build our approach.

Mr. Henk Ovink: I could not agree more and UNESCO did a good report of real inclusion and partnership of expertise of those aspects of life that are critical and important to continue. Otherwise, we are continuing to reply to the mistakes of the past. Indigenous knowledge and their values in our society are not outside but inside. The values, how to create them? as it comes from the values in society: from inside and not outside.

We have to put the indigenous at the center in the way we present a better solution forward.

Thank you for the other questions in the chat, that will be answered later or by email

- **Didier Zinsou, Director of the Niger Basin Observatory, Niger**

Presentation of the moderator: First organization that receives the funds for the Climate funds. This Observatory has made a lot of progress in Climate change. Can you explain us your experience? How do you deal with the issue of climate change in your country?

I would like to tell you about the process that led us to the investment plan in climate in Niger. The presentation will be based on 4 points:

1. development Processes of the elaboration of the plan;
2. the financing of the plan;
3. the component;
4. and the role of the NBO.

The authority of the Niger Basin was created in order to replace the Niger River Commission that was created in 1964. We are talking about more than 5 million kilometers of the river.

Let's look at the process that leads to the investment plan of the Basin of Niger.

- April 2015: launch of the initiative following the ministerial round table on the future of the Niger River. Niger participates in the spring meetings of the World Bank and the IMF in Washington.
- Based on existing planning documents: operational plan (2016-2024 under development finalization) and the National Adaptation Action Programs (NAPA).
- August 2015: national consultations made it possible to identify the contributions of the countries.
- September 2012: regional consultation to retain priority actions on the basis of criteria.
- September 29-30, 2015: adoption of the PIC by the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.
- November 5, 2015: approval of the PO/ PIC by the Session of the Council of Ministers of the ABN.

- January 8, 2016: adoption of the PO/ PIC by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ABN. So, this is the process that led to the development of the Plan.

Let's move to the financing of the plan.

- Appointment of H.E Madame Cissé Mariam Kaïdama, as ambassador of the ICP for the advocacy and mobilization of Financial Partners and Techniques;
- Presentation of the PIC at COP 21 in Paris on December 2, 2015, allowing to record announcements from the World Bank (450 million USD) and the AfDB (250 million USD) and the intentions of other donors to participate funding;
- Commitment of member states countries to finance the PIC up to 10% and beneficiaries of the actions up to 5%.

This plan in an integrated plan the PIDACC and the Advocacy missions of the Ambassador of the PIC presented to financial and technical partners (ADB, IDB, BOAD, BIDC, EU, ECOWAS, UEMOA, AFD, BMZ, CEMAC) in preparation for the Round Table on the financing of PIDACC/ BN at an indicative cost of USD 274 million;

From his slide:

- holding of a Round Table on June 1, 2016 in Abuja on the financing of PIDACC/ BN resulting in USD 215 million announcements (AfDB, GEF, KfW, Member States and beneficiaries);
- continuation of advocacy by the AfDB, with the EU and the Green Fund climate (FVC) who agreed to finance the PIDACC/ BN to respectively 18 million USD and 75.71 million USD;
- total amount mobilized for PIDACC/ BN of 308.948 million USD (breakdown by funding source below).

The plan was presented in Paris and this enables us to reserve advances for several donors in order to contribute to this plan with the contribution of 10% for some member countries of the EU. There is a real political will of the states in order to cooperate. They want to harmonize the plan to avoid conflicts, in order to promote the best practices and involve all stakeholders in the preparation of the plan and the implementation of projects and programs. This is the way we developed our plan in the region.

- **Iryna Sawchuk, Deputy Minister on European Integration, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ukraine**

In Ukraine, the climate change impact on water is present as well. Here are some facts from her slide:

Precipitation is reduced and redistributed unevenly in temporal and spatial scales. The agricultural sector, especially in the south, suffers from loss of yields caused by soil drought and lack of water resources. During winter in 2020 there was almost no snow, which led to an increased number and severity of landscape and forest fires with economic costs of more than 0.7 billion euros. The flood-related risks increased too: 263 communities have been impacted in 2020 with economic losses of more than 200 million euros.

- Less precipitation in summer
- Last year in winter there was no snow
- The agriculture sector suffers a lot of loss of water resources and she explains how they have received a lot of letters from the farmers asking them to do something against the situation and for help.
- Economic impact for flows because the quantity of rain in Ukraine came with a lot of economic consequences. Over the last year, the impact on the economy related to climate change consequences was calculated to 1 billion euros.

Integration of water policy issues and climate change policy:

- Climate targets are being updated to requirements of the Paris Agreement (2nd NDC). The National framework strategy on climate change adaptation is in development. Basic provisions of the Water Framework Directive (development of river basin management plans, monitoring water, updating information on water balance, etc.) are in the process and contribute to climate change adaptation; implementation of directive on flood risk management, reform of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine -enabling investments in irrigation systems, ongoing comprehensive research with World Bank on long term climate change projections and impacts in Ukraine.
- Update of climate policies and update about the reduction of emissions and mitigation of climate change. They also started to develop climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- It is also sectoral processes to the coordination places an important flow
- They are working on the implementation of the EU Directive and resources in EU criteria; this is a part of a major strategy policy. They are trying to achieve much better approaches. They hope that all this will contribute to the adaptation of climate change on water sector.
- When it comes to state agency of water resources, I do not know how it works in other countries, but in Ukraine, the Water agency owns all the irrigations and it disables investment on irrigation but the scarcity of water resources for different need.
- There is an ongoing comprehensive study to integrate policies and even achieve better results than the projections and include water in the different sectors.
- One of the best experiences is probably working on climate adaptation to climate change is this one.

From her slide:

Flagship Initiative:

Adaptation of the Dniester River Basin development and implementation of the strategic framework for adaptation to climate change in the Dniester River Basin is the joint work of experts and organizations from Moldova and Ukraine including the Dniester Commission as well as international experts and organizations – UNDP/ GEF, UNECE, and OSCE.

<https://dniestercommission.com/en/publications/climate-change/>

Some of the aspects of challenges of Ukraine (From her slide):

Challenges on main focus areas:

- Analytical and fieldwork on development of River basin management plans and on the implementation of the EU directive on flood risk management, modernization of the instrumental approaches for the monitoring of water quantity and quality as well as treatment of water-related information, development of national and regional financial mechanisms to enable public and private financing.
- The implementation is a time consumer exercise.
- The same applies for the implementation of the EU directives which requires a lot of analytical and fieldwork that are not fully implemented in Ukraine and we would like to find collaboration to do it.
- Integration of climate change progressions into the decision-making on a day by day basis. We are interested to see other countries' experiences and to learn about them.
- Climate adaptation will deliver the best integration of the issue.

Many areas of getting a good environmental state of water resources require technology and investment on one side and the other side requires putting high prices on water resources and that creates a political discussion about who will use those resources so this discussion is quite critical. So financial issues in the water sector are also critical and require a lot of attention.

Comment from the moderator: thanks for the example of Ukraine and for mentioning the national as well as the regional transboundary aspect of climate in your country.

Questions from the chat:

- Alexander Zinke 04:20 PM

In your countries, are the funds allocated for water and CC mitigation at risk due to the costs for managing the COVID pandemic. or is there a positive investment link between water and health?

- Yael Mason à Conférenciers et participants (4:20 PM)

A question to Antonio Canas: Thank you so much for describing the situation in El Salvador. What are the strategies your country is taking to address climate change adaptation

The team at WaterSciencePolicy à Conférenciers et participants (4:33 PM)

Will there be minutes/op-eds based on the talks?

- Yael Mason à Conférenciers et participants (4:43 PM)

We heard very interesting plans and their financing and implementation to address climate change adaptation. Could the speakers relate to climate change mitigation in the relevant

countries (El Salvador, Ukraine, Bangladesh and the countries which are part of the Niger river basin) ?

Reply from Mr. Antonio Cañas Calderón: regarding the adaptation strategy, the core of our strategy is the landscape and ecosystem restoration program. Almost 70% of the land is dedicated to agriculture. Addressing the vulnerability of this sector made it the principal goal on climate change. Nation base solutions are a principle that Salvador is promoting and leading the adoption of the UN legal framework for this adaptation activity. Also, by increasing the efficiency of the water resources.

→ Reaction on the funds issue related to the pandemic situation :

- Reactions: in Ukraine many plans were cancelled because of the pandemic crisis. But it allows us to use the funds for water. In terms of mitigation, in general yes they were also reduced because of the COVID.
- The overview of the EU: we have now security a “recovery” plan funds at least 37% of the recovery plan after the pandemic and its related to water. A new economy future in Europe will be related to Green Transition, but in the present we know that indeed it is a tendency of cancelation of some environmental projects and the funds are transferred to pandemic related situations.
- Mr. Ovink answers: there is a political, international and national (sans s et will?) to do better in midterm and long term goals. These funds have to go to the Green Deal, but they come home there is an urgent need to go to national needs. So, the long-term goals are changed, they go easily what is already going on, so there is a real challenge that the pipeline is small

→ Sonia: conclusions

Conclusions

- **Conclusions by Tina Mlinaric, Advocacy Adviser on the water and climate campaign, WaterAid**

From the moderator: we've heard a lot of evidence. What is your reaction?

We are experiencing climate change for water, we know that water is a source of stress so it is necessary to address water change in climate change. It is very clear that decision-makers and politicians need to recognize that climate change is felt first by the vulnerable population.

In these 4 days of our conversations on “Water and Beyond” all these facts are mentioned. We know that water and climate change are closely related.

We have seen that only 5% of that money does go to water, it is not enough.

What is really needed first? That water is addressed as a national plan on the national level and not working on how to react to climate.

Sectors need to talk more to each other.

For sure, the only way is by integration. That requires better water management policies.

How to make this water available :

- Adaptation should we made

- We know some of the impacts but there are some unexpected impacts
- This new EU program exercise aimed is to recognize that water is a key pilot in this exercise.
- It is not only the role of the Commission but of the member states

When it comes to the pandemic, it is interesting to think in a holistic approach. Science, solidarity, partnerships, political willingness, capacity, and resources should be integrated.

More Comments in the chat:

- Sonja Koeppel (UNECE Water Convention) à Conférenciers et participants (4:11 PM)

Please pose your questions into the Q and A or chat

- Yael Mason à Conférenciers et participants (4:20 PM)

A question to Anthonio Canas: Thank you so much for describing the situation in El Salvador. What are the strategies your country is taking to address climate change adaptation

- The team at WaterSciencePolicy à Conférenciers et participants (4:33 PM)

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- Yael Mason à Conférenciers et participants (4:43 PM)

We heard very interesting plans and their financing and implementation to address climate change adaptation. Could the speakers relate to climate change mitigation in the relevant countries (El Salvador, Ukraine, Bangladesh and the countries which are part of the Niger river basin) ?

Question for the Pool:

- In one short sentence: what else is needed to take this topic forward?
- Good governance
- Benchmarking?
- decision makers should take action including allocation of funds to climate change mitigation as well as climate change adaptation. Climate change adaptation should be done according to a coherent, systemic, harmonized integrated approach based on a national, regional, communal and gender gap analysis as in Bangladesh
- science, solidarity, partnerships, political willingness, capacity and resources
- Sectors need to talk more to each other.
- transparency, regional cooperation, cooperation in multilateral fora.
- Communicate about facts and direct and wider benefits from investing in water.
- making deliberate efforts to promote participation of local indigenous communities in climate change response programming
- Climate finance needs to go to WASH as a key tool for climate adaptation, if people don't have access to WASH, they can't cope with climate change impacts.

→ Technical explanations for the networking session and closing of the session.