IR Special Session
“From the 7th to the 8th World Water Forum, Three years of Implementation Roadmap”

IR 4.3 Cooperation for Reducing Conflict & Improving Transboundary Water Management

International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Secretary General, INBO

March 21st, 2018
Overall IR4.3 progress from 2015 to now

- Transboundary water cooperation in the SDGs (target 6.5 and indicator 6.5.2)
- Water as one priority of the Global Climate Action Agenda – COP UNFCCC
- “Paris Pact” for adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins
- Global network of transboundary basins working on climate change
- 1992 UNECE Water Convention became global & Chad became first Party outside the pan-European region (2017)
- Four projects of adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins incubated by the GAfWaC: Sava, Senegal, Congo and Chu-Talas

Innovative solutions:
- spatial monitoring of the Congo river basin,
- redistributive financial mechanisms for climate change adaptation in different transboundary context - EcoCuencas project: between EU and Ecuador– Peru - Brazil and Colombia.
Promote transboundary water management at basin level that delivers optimal solutions & benefits when based on:

* Strong political will in all the riparian countries
* conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water at basin level
* monitoring networks and Water Information Systems (WIS)
* basin management plans with medium and long-term objectives (Vision)
* programs of Measures with multiyear priority investments
* mobilization of specific financial resources (incl. via “polluter-pays” / user-pays application)
* participatory basin management – Basin councils – Citizens involvement: (administrations, local authorities, economical sectors, users, NGOs, etc.)
* Nature Based Solutions
Support the creation and development of transboundary basin Authorities, Commissions or Organizations:

* Capacity building program via technical & institutional assistance
* Experience sharing between basin organizations, incl. via twinning agreements
* Clear statutes and sufficient financial and human means

“The key is a clear political agreement and support!”
Promote transboundary water management at basin level putting forward its pragmatic interests:

- Confidence building,
- Transparency
- Cost-effectiveness,
- Benefit sharing:
  - pooling knowledge, data and resources from the entire basin,
  - facilitating dialogue between riparian countries & stakeholders
  - enlarging the planning space for better locating measures & sharing benefits and costs

“Sharing all the benefits and not only water” 😊
Policy recommendations for the High level political forum 2018

Promote international law on transboundary water management, incl.:

* UNECE Water Convention 1992
* UN Watercourses Convention 1997
* UNILC’s Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers

But also the EU Water Framework Directive and AMCOW policy

Promote its key principles:

* Basin management at transboundary, national and costal levels
* No significant harm,
* Equitable and reasonable use,
* Cooperation