



Water and Adaptation to climate change: the Spanish approach
November 14th, 2022 – Spanish Pavillion
27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC
(COP 27)

CONCEPT NOTE

As highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Mediterranean region is particularly sensitive to the impacts of climate change. There is a high probability of a decline in water resources, more pronounced in the arid and semi-arid areas of our country, precisely in those river basins which are already affected by the main water management challenges and the poorest quality of their water masses.

Reliant on connected Spanish Circular Economy, Biodiversity, and Adaptation to Climate Change Policies, Spain's Water Strategy complies with its overarching EU policies (European Green Deal, Biodiversity Strategy) and are aligned with UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On such grounds, Article 19.2 of Spain's Climate Change and Energy Transition Act 7/2021, of May 20th, commits to develop a Water Strategy for Ecological Transition up to 2030.

Its objectives are:

- Establish the principles and actions that must be considered in the planning and management of water in our country.
- Adapt the existing water management system to the impacts of climate change and increase the resilience of the system, addressing its main environmental, social and economic challenges in this new scenario, without whose assistance it would be impossible to guarantee in the future both the well-being of the population, as well as the sustainability of the production and energy system.

Moreover, Spain's already existing extensive endowment of infrastructures in our country leaves little margin for new infrastructures to provide the water management system with adequate resilience. Thus, the strategy opts to address demand management, efficient use of the resource, the use of non-conventional resources, such as reuse and desalination, and in the environmental recovery of water bodies.



DRAFT AGENDA

18:00 Keynote speech

- **Water and Adaptation to climate change: the Spanish experience**
Mr. Teodoro Estrela, Director General of Water – Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge representative | MITERD (virtual address)

18:20 Round table

Moderator

- *Ms. Ana Pintó Fernández, Technical Advisor, Office for Climate Change Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain*

Panellists

- *Mr. José Díaz-Caneja. Elected Director for the European region – International Desalination Agency (IDA) and CEO of Acciona*
- *Mr. Darío Soto Abril. Chief Executive Officer – Global Water Partnership (GWP)*
- *Mr. Eric Tardieu. Secretary – International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)*
- *Ms. Veronica Girardi. Environmental Affairs Officer - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

Questions to be addressed

- *How water regulation can promote cross-border and regional cooperation to enhance adaptation to Climate Change?. Is harmonization at regional level an option?*
- *How to link investment project funding with climate change citizen's awareness and local management?*
- *How capacity development is an asset in water adaptation to Climate Change?*
- *Where are the main funding bottlenecks regarding Climate Change adaptation projects?*
- *What are the main hurdles to incorporate non-conventional resources (desalination, reuse) into water planning?*
- *How cross-border cooperation regarding groundwater can adapt to Climate Change?*
- *What is the role of regional cooperation to foster adaptation to Climate Change?*
- *What do you think COP 27 will contribute to UN's Water Conference?*