

Global processes and contribution of the network of basins

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Activities on climate change under the Water Convention in 2016-2018

- Lead Parties: Switzerland, the Netherlands
- Pilot projects: moving towards implementation, scaling up, mainstreaming and ensure sustainability of projects: Continuation of ongoing pilots + possibly new ones
- Continuation and expansion of the global network of basins coordinated with INBO
- Exchange of experience: 2 Global workshops + 2 meetings of global network + specific exchanges within network e.g. focused on adaptation-mitigation linkages, scenarios, water scarcity, financing
- Contribution to global processes on water and climate such as under UNFCCC and UNISDR, including Paris Pact



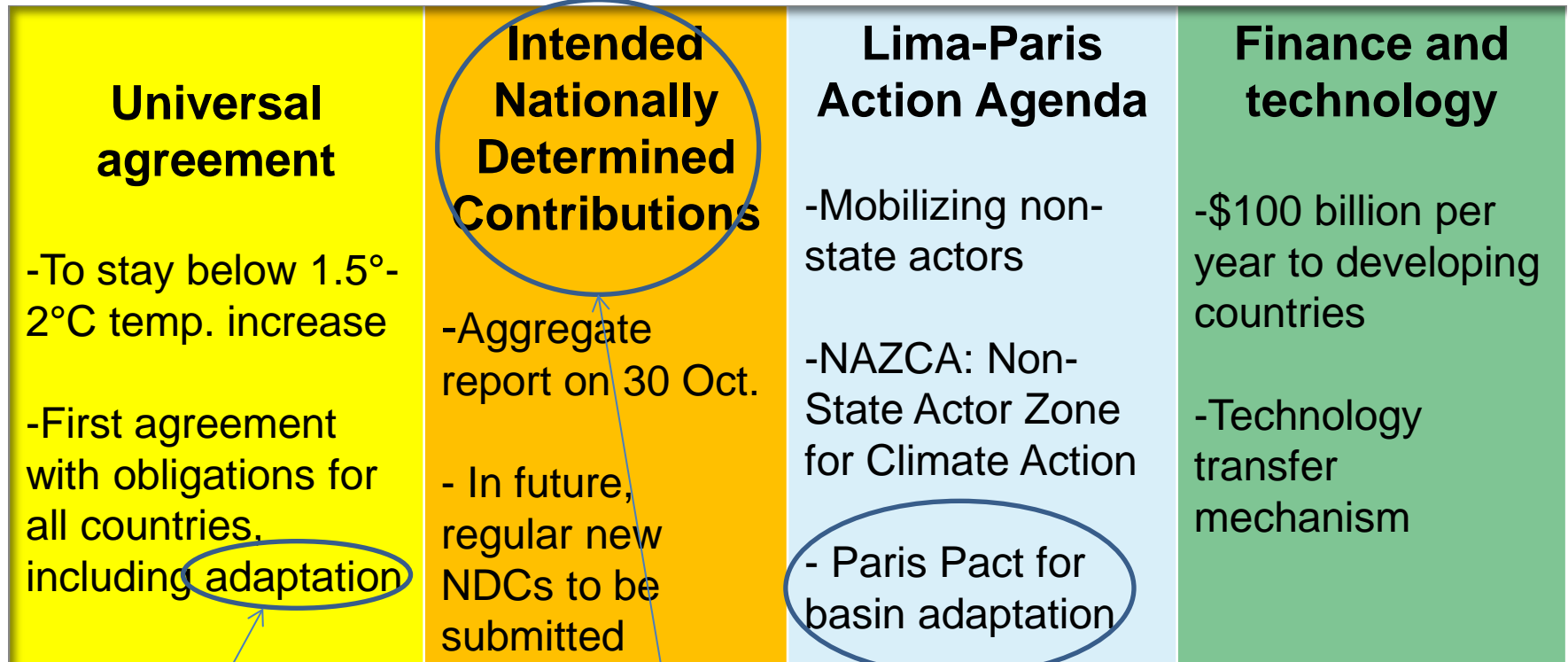
Links with SDGs

- SDG 6 on water, including target 6.5 on transboundary cooperation: *By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.* **Network supports the transboundary cooperation in adaptation**
- Target 6.4: *By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.* **Network supports this, e.g. by focusing on droughts and water scarcity at this meeting.**
- Target 11.5 within the goal on cities: *By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global GDP caused by disasters, including **water-related disasters.*** **Several network basins focus on droughts and floods. Convention requires prevention of unilateral measures**
- Goal 13: *Take urgent action to address climate change and its impacts.* **Network raises adaptive capacity of basins**

Indicator for SDG target 6.5

- Indicator 6.5.2 adopted by UN Statistical Commission: *Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.*
- Methodology developed by UNESCO and UNECE as custodian agencies
- Involves: 1) calculating the **surface area of each transboundary basin** (surface water and groundwater) and the **total sum** within a country; 2) verifying which transboundary basins are **covered by a cooperation arrangement**; 3) checking which of the arrangements are **operational**
- Operationality of agreements: based on the main principles of customary international law, including Water Convention:
 - Existence of a joint body, joint mechanism, commission (e.g RBO)
 - Regular Communications between riparian countries (e.g. regular meetings)
 - Existence of joint/ coordinated water management plan, or joint objectives
 - Exchange of data and information between riparians.→ Most of these criteria are crucial for climate change adaptation
- Joint bodies can, as appropriate, support countries with information and help in coordination of reporting between riparian countries; provide evidence for operational cooperation → **Important role of basins in reaching the target 6.5.**
- Reporting under the Convention will contribute to monitoring

Link with outcomes of COP21: 4 pillars



Support countries/ basins with regards to water and transboundary/ regional aspects

Can support countries in their implementation and in particular raise transboundary aspects

Contributed to its development, mobilized signatures and will supports its implementation/ monitoring

Paris agreement – elements where we can contribute

- Regional cooperation to be strengthened:

45. *Requests* Parties to strengthen regional cooperation on adaptation where appropriate
Parties recognize that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all with local, subnational, national, regional and international dimensions, and that it is a key component of and makes a contribution to the long-term global

- Basin network contributes to this
- Water is not explicitly mentioned in Paris agreement, but ecosystems are:

Noting the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and noting the importance for some of the concept of “climate justice”, when taking action to address climate change,

- Ecosystem-based adaptation is one of the priorities of the network

Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction

- The Sendai framework:
 - Requests an increase international cooperation, including transboundary cooperation;
 - Counts on treaty bodies to support its implementation and the integration of disaster risk management in all national practices;
 - Water management, river basins, ecosystem management feature prominently.
- Contribution of the global network of basins:
 - Support the application of the very positive experience and practices in trans-boundary cooperation on water issues, incl. to other sectors;
 - Development of a Words into Action on “water/river basins management and transboundary cooperation” to illustrate application of integrated disaster risk management in water and transboundary cooperation
 - Sharing of good practices among countries