

## 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

### Summary of session 3A3 Financing our future: share funding mechanisms for managing shared water resources

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme (coordinated by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) under the guidance of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and in collaboration with the UNEP-DHI Centre and UNDP Cap-Net), organised a session on Financing for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal. The motivation and the need for this session resulted from the latest global reporting round on SDG indicator 6.5.1, which assesses the degree of IWRM implementation at all levels. Out of the four dimensions of IWRM, financing was lagging furthest behind towards achieving the target of SDG 6.5 by 2030.

The session was opened by keynote speaker Lis Mullin Bernhardt, Programme Officer for Freshwater at UNEP. In her inspiring talk, the importance of investing in coordination and integration of all water-related sectors was emphasised; not doing so limits progress towards achieving targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the session, some of the root causes of the insufficient funding for IWRM were identified and exemplified as a lack of awareness and prioritisation in budgeting, poor coordination between water-related initiatives, and inadequate legal frameworks and institutional capacity to support budget allocation and raising revenue.

During the session, moderated by Danielle Gaillard-Picher, Global Coordinator, Water & Climate Processes at GWP, concerns were raised around countries that reported not having any revenue raising mechanisms, or that experience gaps within revenue raising mechanisms, raising the question of how to effectively and innovatively put in place such mechanisms. In the session, several examples of such share funding mechanism for managing shared water resources were highlighted by speakers Jorge Werneck (ADASA), Mustapha Congo (Permanent Secretary of IWRM, Burkina Faso), and Miguel Polo (Ministry of the Ecological Transition of Spain). The presenters highlighted that such mechanisms do exist and can be politically viable, socially acceptable and financially effective.

### The key takeaways from the session are:

1. There is a diversity of successful financial schemes for IWRM (Polluter Pays, Payment for Ecosystem Services, The Financial Water Contribution) and there is potential for sharing them more broadly as examples.
2. There is no silver bullet, or single source, to cover for all financial needs of IWRM. It will more likely be a mixture of different mechanisms.
3. Embedding innovative shared funding schemes in permanent policy mechanisms can lead to greater financial stability and can leverage other, more diverse funding schemes.

