

## Video Transcript

### Commitments by Namibia (Maria Amakali)

Transboundary cooperation is driven by the need to share water and to explore other benefits that can be derived from the river. Namibia is a country whose perennial rivers lie at the borders shared with neighbouring countries.

Although transboundary cooperation is lacking in most countries, Namibia is one of the countries which have all of her transboundary basin areas covered by operational arrangements, and fully aware that cooperation between member states in the management and development of shared watercourses could significantly contribute towards mutual benefit, equitable and reasonable allocation, peace and security.

In advancing transboundary water cooperation Namibia, supports her River Basin Commissions Secretariats, through financial and technical support and promotes the development of basin wide IWRM Plans.

Still, one transboundary basin area is covered by operational arrangements. Therefore, one of our commitment is to make sure that all the transboundary basins are fully operational, in line with SDG indicator 6.5.2.

Namibia, voluntary commit to the transformation of the Kunene Permanent Joint Technical Committee (PJTC), shared with Angola, to be in line with the 2000 SADC Revised Protocol on shared watercourses, which provides for the establishment of Watercourses Institutions. Having been established under the 1969 Agreement, it lacks among others the provision for establishment of Secretariat and the development of IWRM Plan. As directed by the PJTC Council, Namibia will lead the transformation of the PJTC to a fully-fledged Kunene Watercourse Commission (KuneneCom) with a Secretariat and an office in one of the member states.

A well instituted Commission and with a Secretariat will strengthening water governance, encourage dialogues around management of shared water issues, build trust and facilitate joint management of shared water resources.

The beneficiaries of this initiative are the inhabitants of Angola and Namibia, in the Kunene and Cuvelai Basins who are highly depended on Kunene River waters, for their livelihoods, sanitation and hygiene.

Angola and Namibia remains committed to the process with Namibia having been identified as the lead. Seed funding has been sourced through GIZ for the rapid assessment to come up with the preliminary IWRM Plan. More funds for detailed basin study are coming from the UNDP/GEF. Member states will contribute to sharing of information and providing oversight throughout the process.