

Topic Concept Note Template

Thematic Process, 11th World Water Forum

- **Theme Number: 4**
- **Theme Title: *Water Diplomacy***
- **Topic Number: 4C**
- **Topic Title: New Instruments for Water Sustainability Policy Consensus: Empowering actors from local to transboundary levels to co-develop water policies via inclusive, multi-scale cooperation**
- **Topic Coordinator: *Japan Water Forum NoWNET Secretariat***

I. Topic Overview

Rationale and Context

Water sustainability can no longer be achieved through isolated sectoral interventions or single-level governance approaches. Effective responses require integrated but tailored, basin-wide perspectives that recognize the interconnections among forests, rivers, agriculture, cities, lakes, and coastal zones, as well as the cumulative impacts of human activities on water quantity, water quality, and aquatic ecosystems. Individual measures only deliver lasting benefits when they are coherently aligned and mutually reinforcing within the broader water cycle of each basin.

Given the interconnected and cross-sectoral nature of water, It is essential to emphasize integrated perspectives. In this context, water diplomacy can play a critical role in facilitating cooperation, aligning interests, and accelerating shared responsibility across boundaries.

However, translating such integrated approaches into practice remains challenging. In many countries and regions, water policies lose effectiveness during implementation due to conflicting interests and weak stakeholder coordination, even when consensus is reached during policy formulation. Engaging diverse actors, including those with competing interests, and aligning policy goals with on-the-ground action remain shared challenges in basin management and water cooperation at the national and transboundary level. Institutional fragmentation across ministries and agencies further exacerbates these challenges, underscoring the need to treat water policy implementation as a collaborative social process rather than solely an administrative task.

Global, Regional, and Local Relevance

Across the globe, water-related challenges are becoming increasingly complex and interlinked. At the global level, climate change is intensifying floods and droughts, accelerating ecosystem degradation, and amplifying transboundary water risks. Across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe, and Latin

America, river basins and aquifers face growing tensions from competing water uses, uneven institutional capacities, and fragmented governance frameworks. Locally, communities experience differentiated impacts shaped by geography, socio-economic conditions, and access to decision-making processes.

These challenges underscore the need for **inclusive, multi-scale cooperation**, where local knowledge, national policy frameworks, and transboundary mechanisms are connected through effective policy consensus-building processes.

Against this backdrop, effective water policy depends not only on agreement at the formulation stage but on conflict management, trust-building, and clear roles during implementation.

Responding to Present Water Challenges

Addressing the water challenges currently faced requires going beyond the introduction of technical and institutional solutions alone and calls for closer attention to how implementation processes themselves are designed and managed with the involvement of diverse stakeholders.

This topic responds directly to emerging and persistent water challenges, including:

1. Increasing frequency and severity of climate-induced water disasters;
2. Lack of youth, women, and marginalized groups involvement in water policy making processes at the country level.
3. Mismatches between administrative boundaries and hydrological realities;
4. Limited trust, data, information, and knowledge sharing, and coordination among upstream and downstream actors, and across borders.
5. Intensifying competition and trade-offs among water uses (agriculture, urban, industrial, and ecosystems)

Examples from different regions demonstrate that basin-level management platforms, participatory policy instruments, and science–policy interfaces can help bridge these gaps—when tailored based on the specificities of each basin and supported by appropriate institutional, technical, and financial instruments. Existing instruments may be limited in meeting the diverse needs and conditions of different regions, basins, and contexts. There is an obvious need for applicable and adaptable instruments that can address specific cases. This topic addresses existing challenges by creating a platform to identify needs and discuss innovative, functional, and practical instruments tailored to water sustainability.

Alignment with SDGs

The topic strongly aligns with **SDG 6**, particularly targets on integrated water resources management and transboundary cooperation. It also contributes to:

- **SDG 2** (water-smart and resilient food and energy systems),
- **SDG 11** (resilient and inclusive cities),

- **SDG 13** (climate adaptation and resilience),
- **SDG 14 and 15** (protection of freshwater, coastal, and terrestrial ecosystems),
- **SDG 17** (partnerships for implementation).

Cross-cutting Dimensions

The topic integrates multiple cross-cutting dimensions essential for transformative water governance:

- **Climate resilience:** embedding adaptation and risk-informed decision-making into basin-level policies;
- **Gender and youth inclusion:** ensuring meaningful participation of women, youth, and other marginalized groups in policy co-development;
- **Digital innovation:** leveraging data platforms, water accounting, decision-support systems, and open science to support transparent consensus-building;
- **Partnerships:** fostering collaboration across sectors, scales, and borders;
- **Financing:** enabling investment through aligned incentives, blended finance, and climate finance mechanisms that support cooperative water action.

Objectives of the Topic

The topic aims to advance action-oriented and initiative-driven outcomes through the following objectives:

Technical Objectives

- Promote the use of integrated tools and instruments (e.g. water accounting, basin diagnostics, decision-support systems, early warning, and risk assessment tools) to inform policy dialogue and consensus-building across scales.
- Strengthen science–policy interfaces that connect local data and knowledge with national and transboundary decision-making.

Policy and Institutional Objectives

- Support the design and application of inclusive governance instruments that enable coordinated action among multiple actors within and across river basins.
- Enhance policy coherence and implementation consistency across sectors (water, agriculture, energy, urban development, environment) and administrative boundaries. Foster and strengthen trust-building mechanisms in transboundary cooperation through dialogue for joint policy formulation and decision-making based on scientific facts, knowledge, information, and relevant data

Capacity-building and Knowledge Objectives

- Build hands-on capacities of public institutions, local stakeholders, civil society, and the private sectors to engage effectively in multi-scale policy processes.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and peer learning across regions through case studies, communities of practice, and regional platforms.
- Empower youth and emerging leaders as agents of innovation and consensus-building in water governance and promote intergenerational collaboration.

II. Key Issues, Opportunities, and Scope

Key Challenges

- Demand exceeding available water resources
- Fragmented governance, weak coordination, and execution capability across sectors, administrative levels, and national borders
- Data gaps, lack of relevant, timely, and consistent data, limited data-sharing, and unequal access to digital tools and knowledge
- Insufficient financing mechanisms for integrated, basin-scale cooperation
- Institutional and regulatory barriers to participatory and adaptive policymaking
- Escalating climate-related risks and uncertainties affecting water availability and quality
- Limited integration of climate and other environmental risk into water policies
- Absence or poor enforcement of consensus cooperative agreements

Opportunities and Strategic Importance

- Growing recognition of basin-based and transboundary approaches within global water and climate agendas
- Advances in digital technologies enabling transparent, evidence-based policy dialogue
- Increased demand for inclusive governance models that integrate local voices into national and regional decisions
- Availability of climate and sustainability finance that can incentivize cooperative water action
- Recognizing the need for context-specific water diplomacy and mediation tools and initiatives
- Potential to scale up successful local and regional practices through regional and global platforms

Proposed Priorities of the Topic / Guiding Questions

- How can our proposing new policy instruments at each stage, from formulation to implementation and evaluation, facilitate inclusive and effective consensus-building across local, national, and transboundary levels?
- Which governance and institutional arrangements are practical and implementable in enabling integrated water cycle management at the basin scale, considering the interconnections among water quantity, water quality, and ecosystems?
- How can digital innovation support trust, transparency, and shared understanding among diverse actors? What are the risks and limits?
- What mechanisms can ensure meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in water policy co-development?
- Beyond short-term project responses, how should public investment, climate, and sustainability financing be aligned and mobilized to support long-term, cooperative water sustainability outcomes?
- How can successful experience in basin-level and transboundary cooperation be adapted, scaled up in other regions while adapting to differences in data accuracy, culture, and capacity—through a process of learning and continuous improvement?
- Learning from past examples—what worked well, and what did not?

Proposed Sessions of the Topic

Session 1: New Approaches to Policy Consensus and Implementation for Water Sustainability: Inclusive Collaborative Approaches.

Ensuring water sustainability requires not only integrated policy approaches that account for the entire river basin, but also innovative implementation strategies that translate consensus into concrete action. Against the backdrop of multi-level cooperation at local, national, and transboundary basin scales, this session focuses on new collaborative approaches to implementing water policies. New water mediation initiatives, for example, can be effective in facilitating dialogue, creating consensus, and (re-)building trust among diverse sets of actors. By sharing leading national experiences in basin management, participatory policymaking, and science–policy interfaces, the session will distill practical insights on managing challenges while enhancing policy coherence and effectiveness, and identify pathways for next actions toward water sustainability.

Guiding Questions

- What conditions are necessary to translate policy consensus into effective implementation in integrated water resources management at the basin level?
- How can stakeholder participation, and explicitly recognizing conflicts of interest institutionalized within the policy implementation process, be encouraged?
- How can effective implementation instruments be designed by combining regulation, incentives, and information disclosure?
- What governance and financial mechanisms can be implemented to sustain multi-level collaboration across local, national, and transboundary scales?

Session 2: From Data Centers to River Basins: Circular Water Systems as New Instruments for Water Policy Consensus in the AI Era

An AI-driven society depends on rapidly expanding digital infrastructure, particularly data centers that demand large and growing amounts of water and energy. In water-stressed regions, water use for cooling is already intensifying competition with local communities and ecosystems.

These challenges go beyond technical efficiency. They must be addressed through an integrated water management lens, where water, energy, land use, industrial development, and environmental protection are considered together. At the same time, the expansion of semiconductor manufacturing and mineral resource development to support AI systems is creating new risks, including pollution of rivers and groundwater that cannot be ignored.

This session will explore how water reuse and circular water systems can serve as core instruments for sustainable water management in the AI era. Focusing on policy and governance, it will examine how such systems can be socially implemented, how consensus can be built among diverse stakeholders, and how responsibilities and benefits can be shared.

The session aims to highlight practical, scalable approaches to redesigning the sustainability of an AI-driven society through integrated and circular water management.

Guiding Questions

- How does AI-driven infrastructure—including data centers and mineral development—affect water security in stressed river basins, and how should these risks be managed?

- To what extent can water reuse and circular systems reduce water competition, pollution, and energy impacts in AI-related infrastructure?
- How can integrating circular water systems reshape policies and overcome silos across water, energy, industry, and digital sectors?
- What governance mechanisms enable consensus among data centers, communities, and other water users at local and transboundary levels?
- What policy instruments and financing approaches are needed to scale circular water solutions while protecting water environments?

Session 3: From Regional Forums to Global Action – Structured Learning Platforms as New Instruments for Transboundary Water Policy Consensus

Global progress on transboundary water cooperation depends not only on shared principles, but on the systematic exchange of *practice-based experience* grounded in basin-specific realities. While global forums provide vision and political momentum, effective cooperation often emerges from regional processes where technical expertise, institutional context, and political economy considerations can be addressed in depth.

This session introduces **regionally hosted forums on transboundary water cooperation** as a **new instrument for water diplomacy and policy consensus-building**. Drawing on experiences from Central Asia and other regions, the session explores how structured regional dialogue platforms—anchored in existing basin and regional processes—can generate actionable insights, strengthen trust among riparian actors, and feed evidence-based learning into global policy frameworks such as the World Water Forum and UN Water Conferences.

Led by **IWMI**, the session will highlight how recurring, technically oriented regional forums—linked through a common learning architecture—can bridge local and basin-level cooperation with global agenda-setting, without duplicating formal negotiation processes. Particular attention will be given to how such platforms support long-term cooperation through continuity, capacity development, and cumulative learning across regions.

Guiding Questions

- How can regionally hosted forums function as effective **instruments of water diplomacy**, complementing formal intergovernmental and political processes rather than replacing them?
- What design features (governance, facilitation, thematic focus, continuity) are required for regional forums to generate **policy-relevant consensus** and trust among transboundary actors?
- How can basin- and region-specific lessons be **systematically synthesized and transferred** to global water policy processes while respecting regional ownership and diversity?

- In what ways can regional dialogue platforms strengthen **science–policy interfaces**, including the role of data, digital tools, and comparative basin analysis?
- How can capacity-building components—particularly for **young professionals and emerging leaders**—be embedded as a legacy element of transboundary cooperation platforms?

Proposed Deliverables

- **Policy Brief: Regional Forums as Instruments for Transboundary Water Cooperation**
A concise policy brief outlining the rationale, design principles, and added value of regionally hosted forums for advancing transboundary water cooperation, including lessons from Central Asia and comparable regions, and recommendations for integration into global water governance processes.
- **Framework for Linking Regional Dialogue Platforms to Global Water Agendas**
A practical framework describing how regional forums can feed structured learning, evidence, and policy insights into global platforms such as the World Water Forum and UN Water Conferences, including mechanisms for synthesis, continuity, and follow-up across regions.

Session 4 (option for cross-cutting session): Citizen Co-Creation Approaches to Groundwater Management: Building Policy Consensus on Monitoring, Abstraction Regulation, and Pollution Prevention

Groundwater is an indispensable resource that underpins domestic use, agriculture, and industry. At the same time, risks associated with over-abstraction and contamination are often difficult to detect and are being exacerbated by climate change. Competing demands, from irrigation needs to ecological flows, can create tension or conflict between water users. This session views groundwater management as an integral part of basin-wide water cycles and focuses on building policy consensus through co-creation with citizens. By sharing leading examples of participatory monitoring, consensus-based abstraction regulation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration for pollution prevention, the session will distill practical approaches that link scientific knowledge with social consensus, thereby contributing to sustainable groundwater governance and future action.

Guiding Questions

- How can citizen science and digital technologies enhance the reliability and transparency of groundwater monitoring?
- What is needed to make groundwater abstraction regulation effective through consensus-building with users and local communities, rather than through purely top-down controls?

- How can citizens, the private sector, and public authorities share roles and responsibilities to prevent groundwater pollution arising from agricultural, industrial, and urban activities?
- When coordinating groundwater management at basin and transboundary levels, at what stages and in what ways should citizen participation be positioned?

III. Expected Outcomes and Deliverables

Policy and Strategic Outcomes (*e.g., recommendations, guidance notes, frameworks*)

The discussions and outputs of 4C will deliver **practical policy recommendations, guidance notes, and frameworks** that help governments, international organizations, and communities translate policy consensus into **coordinated, inclusive, and climate-resilient implementation** across local, national, and transboundary levels. Key outcomes include:

- Policy recommendations for **basin-wide, integrated water governance** aligned with hydrological realities.
- Guidance on **inclusive and participatory water policymaking**, ensuring meaningful engagement of women, youth, and marginalized groups.
- Shared lessons on **trust-building, transparency, and third-party facilitation** in basin and transboundary cooperation.
- Guidance on integrating **climate adaptation and risk-informed planning** into basin-level water policies.
- Introduce best practices for water mediation and conflict resolution to build consensus and re-build trust among water users (and uses)
- Policy guidance on strengthening **science–policy interfaces** and synthesizing lessons from basin and transboundary experience in the world.
- Discuss the core principles of co-creative water governance that integrate citizen participation in monitoring, abstraction regulation, and pollution prevention.
- Present a phased and adaptive approach to policy consensus-building applicable at both basin and transboundary scales.
- Articulate action-oriented policy messages on water management aligned with SDG 6, particularly on IWRM and transboundary cooperation.

Technical and Knowledge Deliverables (*e.g., tools, methodologies, data platforms, case studies, synthesis notes*)

1. Comparative Case Studies on Basin-Wide Water Governance

Comparative case studies examining basin-wide water governance across national and transboundary contexts, highlighting effective institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and implementation challenges.

2. Inclusive Policy Process Case Studies

Case studies demonstrating pathways from consultation to **meaningful co-decision and implementation**, with particular attention to women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups.

3. **Methodology for Inclusive, Multi-Actor Water Policy Processes**

A step-by-step methodology for designing and implementing inclusive, multi-actor water policy processes across formulation, implementation, and monitoring stages.

4. **Science–Policy Interface Case Studies and Framework**

Case studies on translating scientific data, modelling, and local knowledge into policy decisions, complemented by a framework linking scientific evidence, local knowledge, and decision-support tools to enable **evidence-based and adaptive policymaking**.

5. **Transboundary Cooperation Case Studies**

Curated case studies of successful and unsuccessful basin and transboundary cooperation, including comparative cases on cooperation, conflict management, and cross-border information and data-sharing, to distill lessons on what works and what does not.

6. **Water Diplomacy and Trust-Building Synthesis Note**

A synthesis note on trust-building examples, such as water mediation initiatives, to support cooperative implementation and transboundary dialogue. (collaboration and synergies with topic 4D session 3: *Navigating Trade-offs and Rebuilding Trust - Facilitating Dialogue on Contested Water Issues*)

7. **Thematic Synthesis Notes for Policymakers**

Targeted synthesis notes on climate risks, upstream–downstream coordination, inclusion, and sectoral trade-offs, providing actionable insights for policy design and implementation.

8. **“What Worked / What Didn’t” Case Compendium**

A compendium of short analytical cases highlighting successes, failures, and unintended consequences in water governance.

9 **Inclusive Governance Synthesis Note**

A synthesis note on institutionalizing inclusive participation across the entire water policy cycle, from agenda-setting to monitoring and learning.

10 **Climate-Responsive Water Policy Synthesis Note**

A synthesis of approaches to embedding climate adaptation and risk-informed planning into basin-level water policies to strengthen climate resilience.

11 **Citizen Co-Creation Approaches to Groundwater Management**

- Share practical cases and lessons learned from participatory groundwater monitoring that leverages citizen science and digital technologies.
- Compile practical, technical, and data-use approaches to support the assessment of groundwater abstraction, water levels, and water quality, as well as groundwater pollution risk management.

Together, these deliverables translate integrated water governance principles into **practical methodologies, case-based evidence, and synthesis products** that support **inclusive, evidence-based, and climate-resilient water policy implementation** across local, national, and transboundary scales.

Partnerships and Financing Outcomes (*e.g., partnerships with development banks, private sector engagement, new financing models*)

The discussions and associated technical and knowledge deliverables from the 4C Team are expected to generate the following **partnership and financing outcomes**, supporting the transition from integrated water policy principles to coordinated, bankable, and inclusive implementation.

1. Strengthened Strategic Partnerships for Basin-Level Action

Mobilize strengthened strategic partnerships among national governments, UN agencies, local authorities, basin institutions, and the private sector to close the gap between policy and implementation, deploying practical public–private partnership models and concrete, case-based evidence to scale basin-level investments in water efficiency, wastewater reuse, flood risk management, and ecosystem restoration across agriculture, industry, urban development, and energy sectors.

2. Synthesis Outputs to Guide Partners and Financiers

- **Synthesis notes on financing integrated and transboundary water governance**, highlighting what financing approaches have worked, where they failed, and why.
- A **“what worked / what didn’t” financing compendium**, linking governance arrangements, partnership models, and financing outcomes.

3 Partnerships and Financing Outcomes through Citizen Co-Creation Approaches to water Management

- Promote the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships for water management, linking government authorities, research institutions, civil society, and the private sector.
- Clarify directions for financing mechanisms and incentive structures to sustainably support citizen-participatory groundwater management.

Together, these partnerships and financing outcomes will help shift water investments from **isolated, sector-specific projects** toward **coordinated, basin-scale, climate-resilient programs**, supported by trusted partnerships, inclusive processes, and financing models that enable sustained cooperation across local, national, and transboundary levels.

Actions and Initiatives for Implementation (*e.g., pilot projects, basin-level initiatives, MoUs, innovation challenges, network coalitions*)

Building on the shared understanding, case-based evidence, and policy dialogue generated through the discussion, the following actions and initiatives can be launched to translate integrated water governance principles into concrete, on-the-ground implementation:

1. “What Worked / What Didn’t” Case Compendium

Develop a case compendium documenting both successes and failures in basin and transboundary water policy implementation, providing practical lessons and helping prevent the repetition of common mistakes.

2. Communities of Practice and Regional Learning Networks

- Establish regional and transboundary communities of practice connecting policymakers, basin authorities, researchers, and practitioners.
- Facilitate structured peer-to-peer learning exchanges across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe, and Latin America, grounded in real implementation experience.
- Use case studies and “what worked / what didn’t” analyses as core learning resources.

3. Synthesis-to-Action Mechanism

- Create a mechanism to translate discussion outputs—case studies, synthesis notes, and lessons learned—into action briefs, implementation guidance, and pilot project proposals.
- Establish continuous feedback loops from pilots to policy dialogue, enabling adaptive learning and iterative improvement.

4. Basin Dialogue Platforms

Support dialogue platforms at basin and transboundary levels to support building trust among stakeholders and resolve implementation challenges.

Communication and Visibility (*e.g., key messages, public communication opportunities, contributions to Forum declaration*)

Building on the discussion through our sessions, documentation, and deliverables, 4C members will generate strong communication and visibility outcomes that amplify key messages, support policy influence, and catalyze follow-up action across global, regional, and local platforms.

1. Core Policy Messages

4C members will articulate and disseminate a set of clear, action-oriented messages, including:

- Water sustainability requires **basin-wide, multi-sectoral, and multi-level cooperation**, not isolated interventions.
- **Policy consensus must extend beyond formulation to implementation**, supported by trust-building, conflict management, and clear institutional roles.
- **science–policy interfaces** are critical enablers of effective basin and transboundary cooperation.

- **Meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups** strengthens legitimacy, implementation, and long-term sustainability.
- Climate risks—floods, droughts, and ecosystem degradation—must be addressed as **interconnected basin-scale challenges**.

2. Contributions to Forum and High-Level Declarations

- Provide **concrete language and policy inputs** for Forum declarations, outcome statements, or chair’s summaries on integrated water governance and transboundary cooperation.
- Highlight implementation-focused suggestions, including inclusive governance, adaptive policy cycles, and cooperative basin mechanisms aligned with SDG 6 and SDG 17.

3. Public Communication Opportunities

- Development of **session highlights and key takeaways** for dissemination through Forum websites, newsletters, and partner communication channels.
- Use of **case-based narratives** (“what worked / what didn’t”) to communicate practical lessons in an accessible and credible manner.
- Engagement with **media briefings and follow-up webinars** to extend the reach of session outcomes beyond the Forum.

4. Visibility Through Knowledge Products

- Position synthesis notes, case compendia, and guidance frameworks as **flagship outputs** of the sessions, referenced in policy dialogues and regional platforms.
- Ensure branding and visibility through co-publication with 4C partner organizations, development banks, and regional networks.

5. Sustained Visibility and Follow-Up

- Leverage communities of practice and regional learning networks to **keep session messages visible over time**, not only at the event.

IV. Monitoring and Post-Forum Action

1. Contributing to the Long-Term Legacy of the World Water Forum

The outcomes of our focused topics will strengthen the World Water Forum’s legacy by shifting attention from **policy aspiration to implementation practice**.

- Establish the Forum as a platform not only for vision-setting, but for **learning what works—and what fails—in real-world water governance**.
- Institutionalize **case-based, evidence-driven learning** (including failures) as a core Forum value, reinforcing credibility with practitioners and policymakers.

- Embed **inclusive, basin-scale, and transboundary implementation approaches** as enduring principles across future Forum processes.
- Position the Forum as a convener of **multi-level cooperation**, linking local action to national, regional, and global water agendas.

2. Enabling Follow-Up Initiatives Toward the 12th World Water Forum

The topic outputs provide a clear foundation for structured follow-up toward the 12th World Water Forum.

- Use the **“What Worked / What Didn’t” Case Compendium** as a living resource, updated between Forums and showcased at the 12th Forum.
- Encourage the basin network organizations in the world to advance **pilot basin and transboundary initiatives** launched through the synthesis-to-action mechanism, with progress reported at the next Forum.
- Maintain and expand **communities of practice and regional learning networks** as inter-Forum platforms for peer learning and collaboration.
- Feed lessons from dialogue platforms into **agenda-setting for the 12th Forum**, ensuring continuity rather than fragmentation.

3. Contributions to Global Agendas and Multilateral Processes

The topic’s outcomes and deliverables are directly relevant to multiple global and regional agendas.

- Provide **substantive inputs to UN processes**, including SDG 6 reviews, interactive dialogues of the UN Water Conference, and post-2030 discussions on water governance.
- Support **transboundary basin networks and river basin organizations** in the world with concrete guidance on trust-building, data-sharing,
- Contribute to discussions on **post-SDG frameworks** by offering implementation-ready models for inclusive, cooperative water governance.
- Align water diplomacy messages with broader agendas on **peacebuilding, resilience, and regional cooperation**.

4. Sustaining Partnerships, Knowledge-Sharing, and Monitoring Mechanisms

The topic is designed to generate momentum beyond the Forum through durable institutional and knowledge arrangements.

- Anchor **long-term partnerships** among governments, basin organizations, UN agencies, development banks, civil society, and the private sector.
- Use the **basin-level monitoring and feedback model** to support continuous learning, accountability, and adaptive policy improvement.
- Provide **open-access knowledge products** (case studies, synthesis notes, methodologies) as shared reference points for practitioners.

V. Proposed Cross-Process Dialogue Areas

Propose 2–3 dialogue ideas that could be developed jointly with other topics within the Theme or other Themes during the Forum preparation cycle.

- Dialogue with 1A (Groundwater and Surface Water), particularly in terms of groundwater
- Dialogue with 1B (Water-related Disasters)
- Dialogue with 1C (Integrated Water Resource Management)
- Dialogue with 4B (Strengthening Political Will and Coordination)
- Dialogue with 4D (Towards Holistic Water Advocacy and Public Awareness Programs), particularly session 3 *Navigating Trade-offs and Rebuilding Trust - Facilitating Dialogue on Contested Water Issues*

Propose 1–2 dialogue ideas that could be developed jointly with other processes (Ministerial, Parliamentary, Local and Regional Authorities, Basin Authorities) during the Forum preparation cycle.

Working closely with the Coordinators of the Political Process—particularly those leading the Ministerial Dialogue and the Basin Authority engagement—we will be able to promote the Ministerial Dialogue on “New Instruments for Action” during the preparatory phase. We will present a concise menu of practical policy instruments that ministers can reference, adapt, and endorse to strengthen implementation.

The discussion will also provide substantive input to the Ministerial Declaration and related political messages, helping ensure coherence between technical deliberations and high-level policy commitments.

Through this collaboration, the Ministerial Dialogue is expected to:

- Benefit from evidence-based and practice-informed inputs drawn from technical experts and practitioners.
- Strengthen political leadership with a focus on implementation, coordination, and delivery.
- Contribute to a legacy of policy instruments that support water sustainability and consensus-building, grounded in diverse regional and basin-level experience.

Propose 1-2 regions where this topic should be particularly discussed (collaboration with the regional process).

The above proposal can also be discussed and implemented through the Asia-Pacific Regional Process.