



The slide features a dark red background. On the left, a white world map is centered. Below it, the title "The Rise of Hydro-Diplomacy" is written in white. Underneath the title, the date "Vienna, January 26, 2015" is displayed. At the bottom left, the speaker's name "Dr. Benjamin Pohl, adelphi" is listed. On the right side, there is a smaller image of a report cover. The cover has a teal header with "Climate Diplomacy" and "REPORT". The main image on the cover is an aerial view of a river delta. Below the image, the title "THE RISE OF HYDRO-DIPLOMACY" is written in white, followed by the subtitle "Strengthening foreign policy for transboundary waters". At the bottom of the cover, the logos for the "Federal Foreign Office" and "adelphi" are visible. In the top right corner of the slide, the "adelphi" logo is displayed.

(I) Two Observations



1. (Growing) importance of (transboundary) water
2. Opportunities for water cooperation not always discussed in the most appropriate frameworks

(I) Opportunities for cooperation



Opportunities for water cooperation are not always discussed in the right places:

- Need to cooperate & benefits of cooperation can create political space for addressing contentious issues
- But technical and development cooperation does not automatically translate into political collaboration

→ We have to **reverse existing strategies**: not keep basin politics out – but better reflect & harness political realities in basins

3

(I) Opportunities for cooperation



- **Report calls for preventive action:** persuade policy-makers beyond water community that transboundary water issues are worth their time and attention
- Foreign policy makers preoccupied with ongoing crises
- But preventive action means more mileage on investments and higher peace dividends

4

(II) Three challenges



- **1. Facilitating agency**
 - **2. Improving coordination**
 - **3. Enabling actors & developing institutional capacities**
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5

1. Facilitating agency



- *no* new bureaucracy or international institution, but agency in the sense of political will / responsibility; tasks would include:
- **Improving the analytical basis** for bilateral and multilateral confidence-building, e.g. joint risk assessments / water monitoring
- **Preventive engagement**, e.g. unbiased fact finding
- **Addressing transboundary water issues in traditional foreign policy settings** (RBOs often cannot cope)

→ orchestrate **when and how political intervention is beneficial**

6

2. Improving coordination



A. Between different governments, international organizations and development partners:

- Mutual cognizance; connecting key actors, initiatives and expertise

B. Within governments and across sectoral divides:

- Create space for combining low politics of technical cooperation with high politics of regional development and integration
- Foreign policy can help by:
 - Advocating for / defending multilateral compromises domestically
 - Using political leverage & access

7

3. Enabling actors / developing institutional capacities



- Capacity-building:
 - Within national water institutions (strengthen capacities & confidence)
 - On link with conflict resolution (incl. foreign ministries & development partners)
- Funding:
 - In particular for 'soft', diplomatic aspects, e.g. early warning & intra-basin confidence building processes
- Institution-building:
 - Support at national, basin, and global level
 - 'End game' is to build appropriate & resilient institutions – not necessarily comprehensive

8

Thank you.

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