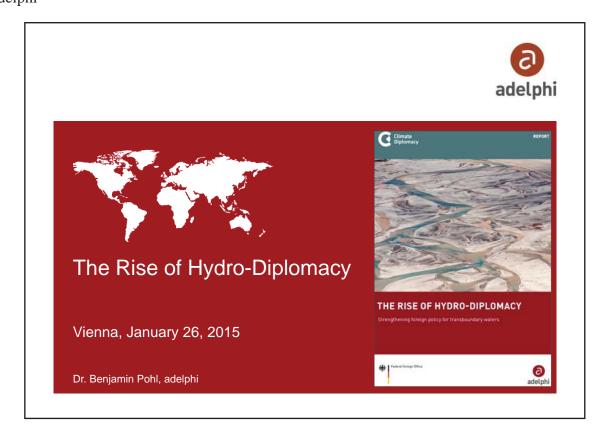
ENGLISH only



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 <u>reverse existing strategies</u>: not keep basin politics out – but better reflect & harness political realities in basins

3

(I) Opportunities for cooperation



- Report calls for preventive action: persuade policymakers 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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1. Facilitating agency



- <u>no</u> 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

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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

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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

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