



Predsednica Republike Slovenije

NATAŠA PIRC MUSAR

**Speech of the President of the Republic of Slovenia
Nataša Pirc Musar
at the reception of African Ministers' Council on Water**

New York, 22 March 2023

Check against delivery.

Dear Minister Sewilam,

Dear Ministers,

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am happy to see that the strong partnership between the EU and AMCOW will manifest itself through tangible cooperation on transboundary water management.

Slovenia has very good experience in this field and is willing to share it with our African partners through the Team Europe Initiative.

We are also ready to offer our expertise on the topic of the accession process to the UNECE Water Convention. Slovenia will chair the convention from 2024 to 2027, and I am inviting all of you to the meeting of the state parties in October next year in Slovenia.

It gives me great pleasure to address this gathering together with the Egyptian Minister of Water and Irrigation. Putting water on the agenda of the COP27 is a great achievement that should be repeated in other relevant intergovernmental processes.

The EU and AMCOW also share the support for the proposal to appoint a UN Special Envoy for Water.

We need a strong voice to keep water visible on our agendas, motivate coherent action and funding, and keep track of the follow-up process to the conference.

I would love to see a strong African woman take this position.