What to say to a climate negotiator about water

Climate change impacts water resources first and foremost by intensifying the frequency of natural disasters and water-related crises, increasingly affecting the most vulnerable. At the same time, addressing water issues is essential for achieving the NDCs and for avoiding project failure, maladaptation, and increased water, energy or food insecurity.

National, sub-national and local governments and transboundary agencies need to enhance their integration and harmonization at every stage of the process to translate national policies and plans into local implementation, closest to where water is effectively managed. Enabling local communities, including women, youth and farmer groups to fund, implement and scale their solutions is crucial.

Transformative and gender-sensitive water management strategies can enhance the synergies between NDCs, national development plans and the SDGs.

Water-wise climate financing is a good investment for all, providing significant economic and social returns by avoiding damages incurred in the long run, as well as generating employment and contributing to societal resilience.

Cooperation and communication can be strengthened between ministries responsible for water, climate change and finance through better regulations, improved governance, strengthened institutions and reinforced coordination efforts.

There is a need to facilitate access to funding for water infrastructure and to raise awareness for innovative financing tools that will contribute to building climate resilience. This depends in part on developing capacities to build robust science-based “climate rationales.”