

INVITATION

Water as a Driving Force for Peace and Stability

World Water Day 2024

Friday, 22 March 2024, 13:15 - 14:45

UNHQ in New York, CR 7



World Water Day 2024 is dedicated to leveraging water for peace.

Following the official launch of the UN World Water Development Report at UNESCO in Paris, this event intends to look at how water can serve as a vehicle for peace and cooperation by fostering dialogue, trust, and collaboration among different water users, in particular across national boundaries. Through concrete examples, the event will show how various countries sharing water resources may participate in dialogues, agree on water management and define institutional arrangements to maximize the benefits derived from water resources.

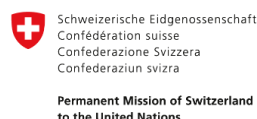
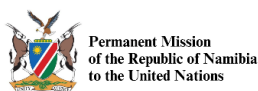
The event will also look into post-conflict situations, where water cooperation plays a pivotal role in rebuilding trust and fostering long-term stability, offering a tangible foundation for collaboration and mutual understanding. The event will also be an opportunity to look at the role of women in water diplomacy, and the need to increase their representation to tackle the world's water crisis and achieve lasting peace.

Background

Transboundary waters account for 60 per cent of the world's freshwater flows. More than 3 billion people depend on them.

Cooperation over transboundary surface and groundwater is therefore not only essential to sustainable economic development but also to climate action, the prevention of natural hazards and the promotion of peace.

Indeed, when water is scarce or polluted, or when people struggle for access, tensions can arise. By cooperating on water, countries achieve a better balance between competing needs and thereby help stabilize situations that could otherwise quickly spiral out of control.



While there exists a number of principles, norms and institutions that provide the basis of international water cooperation, monitoring of indicator 6.5.2 shows that only 24 of 153 countries that share transboundary river, lake or aquifer basins have all their transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements.

The principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of watercourses and the obligation not to cause significant harm constitute the core around which appropriate international regimes can be developed. The right to safe drinking water and sanitation is recognized as a moral imperative of our time and as a human right that only cooperation can guarantee in the long term.



The event is organized by the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition.

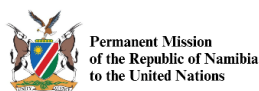
A multistakeholder partnership that has set itself the objective of highlighting the critical importance of cooperating over shared water resources at a time when climate change impacts and increasing needs threaten water supplies and quality.



**Transboundary
Water Cooperation
Coalition**

The Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition is a diverse, multi-stakeholder coalition of actors made up of the following countries: Chile, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Kazakhstan,

Morocco, Namibia, The Netherlands, Panama, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Uganda; the European Union; as well as the following organizations: ESCWA, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Organization of American States (OAS), UNCDF, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, World Bank, Centro Regional para la Gestión de Aguas Subterráneas en América Latina y el Caribe (CeReGAS), EcoPeace Middle East, Geneva Water Hub, Global Water Partnership (GWP), International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), IUCN, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), University of Kinshasa, Water Diplomacy Center/Jordan University of Science and Technology.



Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Namibia
to the United Nations



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations



**Transboundary
Water Cooperation
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Program

Time	Program
13:15 – 13:25	Opening
	Welcome by the Moderator and opening remarks by Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl , Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations
13:25– 13:45	Panel I: Concrete actions and success stories
	Ambassador Neville Gertze , Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations Ms Awa Dabo , Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office in the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Mr Jaap Slootmaker , Vice-Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
13:45 – 13:55	UN World Water Development Report 2024 “Water for Prosperity and Peace”
	Presentation by Mr Rick Connor , Editor-in-Chief of the UN World Water Development Report 2024
13:55 – 14:20	Panel II: Tools for Improved Cooperation
	Ms Elizabeth Koch , Process Support Team Lead, Women in Water Diplomacy Network on the network's Strategy "A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security" Mr Alejandro Iza , Director of the IUCN Environmental Law Centre on the BRIDGE: Building River Dialogue and Governance project Ms Flavia Carneiro da Cunha Oliveira , Deputy Superintendent of Programs and Projects, ANA Brazil on the Amazon River Basin
14:20 – 14:45	Q&A Session & Closing
	Short interventions from the floor Closing remarks by Ambassador Samuel Žbogar , Representative of Slovenia to the UN Security Council

Moderator: **Mr Kerry Schneider**, Shared Water Partnership Program Manager, Stockholm International Water Institute