



SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 28th of February 2024.

**The session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Session Code and Title:

T5B1: Bridge building through transboundary water finance

(Note: this is a proposed change from the original name 'Funding: Doing more with the same (or less)')

Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

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Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

CONTEXT

Financing for water is pivotal for the Water Action Agenda and for the Sustainable Development Goals. Historically, water bodies had the potential of being a source of conflict. Due to its transboundary and multisectoral nature, the sustainable management of water resources requires the creation of transboundary and multisectoral cooperation frameworks. Such policy, legal and institutional cooperation frameworks can help reduce conflicts and contribute to peace. However, traditionally major providers of water-related services lack access to financial resources.

Meanwhile, it is not only sovereign states but also local governments and basin organizations (e.g. River Basin Organizations) who are the main provider of water-related services and therefore accountable for their integrated and sustainable management. But these entities are usually limited in their ability, including their access to financing, to successfully fulfill their mandate. Appropriate funding and financing are currently lacking.

In a context of strong budgetary pressure on governments, the mobilization of private capital is necessary. Promoting access to public and private capital for these non-sovereign entities while strengthening their institutional capacities is also crucial. The current financial ecosystem also needs to be transformed and better reflect the realities of our global challenges, including the global water crisis and climate change, which do not know national or sectoral boundaries. This is a topic to which we need to give more attention, to which we need to bring different perspectives and for which we need to encourage multistakeholder partnerships.

It is therefore important to discuss the challenges and opportunities when it comes to financing for water management and how innovative financing mechanisms and cross-sectoral partnerships can address these challenges and create new impact investment opportunities. Through the Global Blue Peace Financing Program, UNCDF, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and other partners commit to develop and implement innovative financing solutions to unlock public and private capital for better access to water-related services for all, as well as for sustainable development and water cooperation, creating a

peacebuilding impact on societies. The Blue Peace Financing Program aims at creating a new market in the sustainable finance field, that can cover the investment needs for the 286 transboundary basins globally, while giving riparian countries a financial incentive for cooperation around those basins.

OBJECTIVES

- The session aims at discussing the challenges and opportunities when it comes to financing for water management and how transboundary cooperation and cross-sectoral partnerships can address these challenges and create new impact investment opportunities.
- The main objective of this session will be to demonstrate how water can become a connector and “bridge builder” between sectors, including public and private as well as development and finance sectors, but also between nations and communities.
- The event aims to showcase concrete case studies including the Blue Peace Financing which is an innovative financing mechanism that aims at promoting water as an instrument to create and/or strengthen transboundary, multisectoral and inter-generational cooperation frameworks and transform them into investment platforms.

OUTCOMES

- Vision, Mission and Objectives of the Global Blue Peace Financing Program are well understood.
- Blue Peace Financing is presented as a concrete example and game-changer when it comes to financing for water.
- Investors and donors show their interest and commit to support River basins organizations and other non-sovereign entities.
- Innovative investment opportunities for (impact) investors are presented.
- The finance sector see water as a cross-cutting, transboundary (regional) and multisectoral impact investment opportunity.

Detailed Session plan :

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
1 min	Moderator/opening	Fakri Karim/Alex	Confirmed
7 min	Keynote Speech (Water Diplomacy)	Switzerland	Tbc.
7 min	Blue peace Finance Initiative	UNCDF & partners	Tbc.
7 min	Funding opportunities of Basin Development Strategy	Mekong River Commission	Tbc.
7 min	Challenges, Development of the Master Plan through the Blue Peace Financing Initiative	High-Commissioner of Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG)	Tbc.
7 min	Tanga Water Bond issuance	Government of Tanzania/UNCDF	Tbc.
7 min	Payments for Ecosystems Services in Solomon Islands	Gov. Solomon Islands/ADB: Robert Iromalefo, Solomon Islands Water Authority's National Catchment Management Officer	Tbc.
7 min	Scorecard to measure the enabling environment for water finance	OECD/ADB	Tbc.
40 min	Q & A and conclusions		