



## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DESCRIPTION (PROGRAM) FORM

### 10<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

#### HLP Session Code and Title:

- HLP7->**HLP6** Hydro-diplomacy and peace

#### HLP Session Co-Coordinator (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

- **Mohamed CB Diatta, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Senegal,** [cbcdiatta@gmail.com](mailto:cbcdiatta@gmail.com)
- **Oriana Romano, OECD,** [Oriana.ROMANO@oecd.org](mailto:Oriana.ROMANO@oecd.org)
- **Danielle Gaillard, SIWI,** [danielle.gaillard@siwi.org](mailto:danielle.gaillard@siwi.org)
- **Benedito Braga, Honorary President of WWC** [benbraga@hotmail.com](mailto:benbraga@hotmail.com)
- **Sergio I. Campos G, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB),** [scampos@iadb.org](mailto:scampos@iadb.org)
- **Pierre-Alain Roche, France,** [roche.pierre-alain@neuf.fr](mailto:roche.pierre-alain@neuf.fr)

#### HLP Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes:

Water is an essential resource for economic and social development, environmental sustainability, poverty and famine eradication, health, economic transformation and for human capital development. It is also at the heart of shared stakes and challenges between stakeholders, territories, countries and between various institutions.

Currently, 153 countries share 286 shared transboundary river and lake basins and 592 shared transboundary aquifer systems. Across the globe, climate change places additional pressures both on the quantity and quality of the world's water resources, as well as on water and wastewater infrastructure. Transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers are particularly vulnerable due to fragmented governance systems, a growing population, increasing water demand, unsustainable consumption patterns and cumulative environmental impacts

There is clear evidence that water cooperation between communities, sectors and countries can deliver a package of shared economic, social and environmental benefits, as well as promote peace and regional integration. Water can be an important driver for peace and cooperation at all levels. Water can also bring communities, sectors and countries together and act as a driver of peace by providing livelihood and development opportunities – opportunities that are in contrast to largely lose-lose scenario that result from conflict. The 2023 UN Water Conference has been a “watershed moment”, propelling progress towards SDG6.

Thus, collaboration on water management between stakeholders at all levels (global, regional, multilateral, bilateral, North-South, South-South, North-North, national, local, transboundary and basin wide levels) is a guarantee of sustainable water resource management.

Cooperation around water resources is a strategic issue at global level. However, even if efforts have been made in this field, we have to admit that there is still considerable progress to be taken, as policies are not yet sufficiently transformed into actions. It is true that many successes have been achieved at local and regional level, but there are needs to accelerate the scaling up of those progress, notably to the climate change context.

Cooperation and hydro-diplomacy therefore seem relevant as political and diplomatic approaches to complex water issues and their links to broader concerns of peace, sustainable development and resilience. These approaches are highly relevant to the mediation of peace and shared prosperity.

For this reason, it is essential to promote hydro-diplomacy, cooperative action and multi-stakeholder engagement on water-related issues in order to strengthen initiatives and action by national, regional and international institutions to prevent water-related conflicts.

In this respect, HLP7 will address these crucial water challenges and will take a prospective look on the key role of "Cooperation and Hydro-diplomacy" in peace-building, resilience and sustainable development for a stable and prosperous world. It will examine key commitments and recommendations for concrete actions to accelerate progress, and present concrete initiatives led by different organizations, as well as how they are being taken forward within the international water agenda and within the framework of multilateralism.

### **Panel structure**

- **Keynote speaker:** Cooperation and Hydro-diplomacy: tools for strengthening water security, building peace, development for shared prosperity.
- **Orientation of exchanges and debates**
  1. Sharing experiences in water cooperation
  1. Tools and approaches of hydro-diplomacy serving peace, development and resilience for shared prosperity.

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	ESTIMATED TIMING
	Potential Moderators :	1. Barbara Pompili, Chair of the OECD WGI and Special Envoy for water, France	
	introduction	1. HE. Danilo Türk, Former President of the Republic of Slovenia	
	Keynotes speech: a long way for water and peace - taking stock of previous works	2. Henk OVINK, Executive Director Global Commission on the Economics of Water	OK
	Rountable	Senegal : Serigne Mbaye Thiaye, Minister of Water and Sanitation (OK)	
		UN : Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary of UNECE	OK
		Switzerland : Olivier Zehnder Ambassador of Switzerland to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and ASEAN	OK
		Finland : Antti Rautavaara Special Envoy for Water Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland	OK
		Central Asia: Dale Juma, Minister, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.	TBC
		Latin America : tbd by B. Braga	
		Mediterranean : Nizar Baraka, Minister for Equipment and Water, Morocco	TBC
		Hungary : HE. János Áder, former President of the Republic of Hungary	TBC
		MENA : Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt	TBC
		NGO : Irene Sander Head of the Nexus Regional Dialogues (NRD) Programme. Water, Peace and Security Initiative (WPSI) Water-Peace Nexus, USA	TBC
		Indonesia	TBC
	Private sector : Michelle Breslauer Senior Manager, Governance & Peace, UN Global compact	TBC	
	Concluding remarks	Loïc Fauchon, President World Water Council.	