



Invitation to

The 17th meeting of the Group of Friends on Water and Peace

On Water and Peace and its link with the UN 2023 Water Conference

30 November 2022 from 15:00 to 17:00.

The location and meeting link are provided upon registration only.

Invitation à

La 17ème réunion du Groupe d'amis sur l'eau et la paix

Sur l'Eau et la Paix et ses liens avec la Conférence 2023

30 novembre 2022 de 15 :00 à 17 :00.

Le lieu ainsi que le lien de la rencontre sont fournis sur enregistrement uniquement.

Tentative agenda

1. Welcome address from the Slovenian Chairmanship and of the Geneva Water Hub
2. Messages of the Co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference (*tbc*)
3. The "Peace" aspects of Water and Peace: How to link with the UN 2023 Water Conference?
 - Claire McAllister, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
 - Scott Weber, Interpeace
 - Peter Grk, Bled Strategic Forum
 - Mark Zeitoun, Geneva Water Hub
4. Discussion and Q&A
5. Any Other Business
6. Conclusion

1. Mot de bienvenue de la Présidence slovène et du Geneva Water Hub
2. Messages des Co-hôtes de la Conférence 2023 des Nations Unies (*tbc*)
3. L'aspect « Paix » de l'Eau et la Paix : comment lier avec la Conférence 2023 des Nations Unies ?
 - Claire McAllister, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
 - Scott Weber, Interpeace
 - Peter Grk, Bled Strategic Forum
 - Mark Zeitoun, Geneva Water Hub
4. Discussion et question-réponse
5. Varia
6. Conclusion

The **UN Water Conference 2023** will mark a critical juncture for global water policy and is an opportunity that cannot be missed. Convened by the two co-hosts of the conference, the Netherlands and Tajikistan, the conference will be *a watershed moment*, a turning point in the water sector for the whole world. Political will and ambition are needed to ensure the UN Water Conference serves to transform water action. The conference can be the moment through which the world set a roadmap and timeline towards ensuring a sustainable use of water resources for peace.

Considering the Bled Strategic Forum and Interpeace Statement on the importance of addressing the nexus of Water and Peace could be a start on how to better include the question of water and peace in the conference. By acknowledge the interconnections and inter-dependencies of the global water system, and the potential of water cooperation as a catalyst for peace, and of peacebuilding actions will support access to safe, clean water for all.

Building on the report of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace Report “A Matter of Survival”, **cooperation over shared water resources can be an important factor in strengthening political stability and peace**. This is particularly important given that transboundary water basins account for about 60 percent of the world's freshwater resources, supplying 42 percent of the global population. Regarding intersectoral uses of water, the potential for intersectoral conflicts, including in fragile and conflict settings, should be addressed through inclusive, transversal and local partnerships, to fully understand water-related problems and to commonly find sustainable solutions.

The world is not on track to achieve SDG 6, and the UN 2023 Water Conference comes at a time when it is more urgent than ever to address water in all its complexity and look at it in a more holistic way. Water scarcity and pollution, mismanagement of water resources as well as the lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation is weakening already fragile states, increasing the risk of violent conflicts and sparking human displacement and migration. Addressing the links between the humanitarian, development, and peace actions, the so-called “**Triple Nexus**”, could support achieving the SDG 6 in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

A better inclusion of the linkages between SDG 6 and SDG 16, with due consideration to SDG 17 during the conference would support a more habitable, peaceful planet for future generations. Safeguarding sustainable access to adequate quantities and acceptable quality of water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socioeconomic development, and for preserving ecosystems will ultimately support a climate of peace and political stability.

Guiding questions:

- How can we increase the visibility of water and peace and the interlinkages between SDG 6 and SDG 16 within the UN 2023 Water Conference?
- We need to talk about the clear commitments for the 2023 conference, which can lead to follow up actions, also for the "water and peace" agenda. What does it takes to deliver them?
- What are the solutions that can be provided for ensuring water as a vector for peace while making use of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework?

