



Issam Fares Institute for Public
Policy and International Affairs
معهد عصام فارس للسياسات
العامة والشؤون الدولية



4th Cairo Water Week, 24-28 October 2021

Water, Population and Global Change: Challenges and Opportunities

24th - 28th of October 2021, Cairo – Egypt

Session on 25th October 2021: 16:30-18:00 Cairo Time

Technical Session:

The Global Observatory on Water and Peace: A Global Platform for Water Cooperation

Conveners:

Geneva Water Hub, Issam Faris Institute/American University of Beirut, Organization of American States, International Secretariat for Water, University of Cairo

Meeting Link:

<https://cairowaterweek.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufuiqrTMjGdwgCdlu4RctK4RrzwiB64MY>

Brief description

One of the main recommendations of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace (the Panel) in its 2017 Report “A Matter of Survival” is to set up the Global Observatory for Water and Peace (the GOWP); an inclusive platform that ensures linking partners working on water cooperation to fill in the critical gaps of the global water architecture.

By bridging and promoting existing skills, the GOWP will improve the limited capacity of international actors to act collectively and effectively at the political and diplomatic levels and the search for a global home of hydro-diplomacy.

The GOWP is the continuation of the analytic work initiated by the Panel, which will be reflected by an annual analytic report that it will be producing. It has the same approach and global reflection that marked the Panel and the co-convening countries that established it.

The Global Observatory for Water and Peace is a global platform, based in Geneva International, an international hub for peace and diplomacy. It is a network made up of entities bringing together on the one hand the analytical skills to understand the complex issues of water, and on the other hand the diplomatic qualities to bring together stakeholders to address sensitive issues and collectively think about practical solutions by creating discreet “Safe Space”.



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This session aims to inform the public about the mandate and the partners to the Global Observatory on Water and Peace, and to share some of the contributions to the First Annual Analytic report, with reflections from key international and regional organisations working on the water-peace nexus, and the role of the Observatory and the value of the analytic report. It also aims to welcome the joining of the new partner- University of Cairo

Final Agenda

- I. Welcoming and setting the scene for Water as a Matter of Survival, Dr. Danilo Türk (3 min)

Brief presentation of the Global Observatory on Water and Peace – Ms. Caroline Pellaton, Operations Manager, Geneva Water Hub (4 min)

- II. Moderated round-table on of themes tackled by partners in the first annual analytic report of the GOWP–(35min)

Moderator: Dr. Hesham Bakhit, Professor, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, new partner to the GOWP (2min)

- Presentation by Mr. Alvaro Umana Quesada, GOWP coordinator for the Americas (4 min)
- Presentation by the Issam Fares Institute/American University of Beirut- Dr. Nadim Farajallah, Director, Climate Change and Environment Program, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs , American University of Beirut (4 min)
- Presentation by the International Secretariat for Water- Ms. Hasmik Barseghyan, Board member and President of the European Youth Parliament for Water (4 min)
- Presentation by the GWH - Ms. Natasha Carmi; Lead Water Specialist (4 min)
- Presentation by Mr. Mohamed Fawzi BEDREDINE, Regional Coordinator, OMVS (4 min)

Q & A Discussion (10 minutes)



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III. Moderated round-table regional and international organisations representatives– (30min)

Moderator: One of the partners of the GOWP – Dr. Nadim Farajallah

- Dr. Guy Bonvin, Swiss Special Envoy for Water in Central Asia, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Mr. Max Campos, Senior Consultant, former Manager, Water Program of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- Mr. Anders Jasgerskog, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist/Transboundary Waters Focal Point, World Bank
- Mr. Rawhi Afaghani, Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, Programme Advisor, Regional Hub/ Amman, UNDP
- Mr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo is the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

Discussion – 10 min

IV. Take away messages and closing- 3min- GWH