



PGA Stakeholder Consultation for the UN 2023 Water Conference

24 October 2022

Roundtable 4: Financing - 16h15-17h40 (EDT)

Statement by Dr. Mara Tignino on behalf of the Geneva Water Hub

Thank you, Madam, Chair, for giving me the floor,

Dear colleagues,

My first comment on behalf of the Geneva Water Hub is that when we discuss fundings we should make clear to our interlocutors that making financial commitments **to build or implement effective transboundary water cooperation is crucial**. This will ensure not only SDG6 but *all* the SDGs, including SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. As part of the Blue Peace Movement, the [Geneva Water Hub](#) advocates a new model of investment.

The [Blue Peace Model of Financing for Water](#) should be scaled up and make a clear link with the principles of international water law. It promotes the objective of a *peaceful and fair share of water resources*.

The Geneva Water Hub highlights three game changers:

- 1. Joint investment plans at transboundary and at the local level: the Blue Peace is based on the development of transboundary and multisectoral joint investment plans. These plans involve multiple sectors as well as multiple countries or municipalities. Through this transboundary and multisectoral approach, water becomes an 'entry point' to reduce conflicts and support peace.
- 2. *Blue Peace Bonds*, this requires a new financing structure blending public money and private capital. This blended capital, the Blue Peace Bond, improves the risk-return profile and provides more security to private investors in the long term.
- 3. We need a new form of cooperation between the development, humanitarian and peace actors in conflict affected areas. Investing in water



in these areas must not only be carried out by humanitarian agencies but also by development and peace actors in order to implement a broader agenda which does not only consist in drilling boreholes for humanitarian purposes but also contributes to the reduction of social and economic inequalities in the access to water in the medium and long-term.

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude by saying that if we really want to change the current status quo, we need to say clearly in the water action agenda that ***investing in water contributes directly to reduce the risks of present and future conflicts and build peace.***

Thank you, Madam Chair.