



INTENSIFIED ACTION

Second progress report on the follow-up activities and implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Global High - Level Panel on Water and Peace
“A Matter of Survival”

This Report is part of the Blue Peace Movement.
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At the heart of

Blue Peace

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACWUA	Arab Countries Water Utilities Association	IAI	Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
ASI	Aluminium Stewardship Initiative	ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
BASM	Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin	IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
BPI	Blue Peace Index	IRMA	Responsible Mining Assurance
CDP	Carbon Disclosure Project	ISW	International Secretariat for Water
COVID-19	CoronaVirus Infectious Disease 2019	MENA	Middle East and North Africa region
ETHZ	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich	MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
EU	European Union	OEA	Organization of American States
GCSP	Geneva Center for Security Policy	OMVG	Gambia River Development Organization (Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Gambie)
GHLP-WP	Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace	OMVS	Senegal River Basin Development Organization (Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Senegal)
GOWP	Global Observatory for Water and Peace	RBOs	River Basin Organizations
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative		
GWP	Global Water Partnership		
HydroSOS	WMO Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System		

RJC	Responsible Jewellery Council	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN SG	United Nations Secretary General	UNIGE	University of Geneva
UN Watercourses Convention	Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses	UN-Water	United Nations Water
UN	United Nations	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund	WEF	World Economic Forum
UNECE Water Convention	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes	WHO	World Health Organization
		WMO	World Meteorological Organization
		WWDI	World Water Data Initiative

FOREWORD

In mid-February 2020, in Mboumba, during the “Festival à Sahel Ouvert” on the banks of the Senegal River, local and international filmmakers produced a short metaphorical film on water and peace, in collaboration with the local population and the support of the Geneva Water Hub: a fish caught by a fisherman throws up plastics, and pollution from the river and the forest, reveals the impacts of unsustainable development.

This festival was one of the last missions of the Geneva Water Hub before the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought the Earth to a temporary stop, in a surreal manner.

As we are writing this Report, we find ourselves going through a crisis that will plunge the global economy into a deep recession of uncertain duration; an

economy, which according to the World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report, was already confronted with a “synchronized slowdown”.

We are faced with a pandemic that has socio-economic, ecological and political aspects beyond the sanitary one. This pandemic occupies a global landscape where geopolitical turbulences were already pushing us towards an unsettled world of great unilateral power rivalries. Furthermore, during the pre-COVID-19 phase, the world was already heavily marked with local armed conflicts resulting from global issues, and alarmingly urgent environmental issues. This is a key moment for governments, businesses and social leaders, as well as multilateral agencies, to urgently join forces, work together and address such a critical set of shared risks.

This crisis brought back to the forefront, the crucial role of health personnel positioned at the front lines of the COVID-19 response. However, it has also highlighted the interlinkages between efficient health responses and the proper functioning of essential services, such as access to drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, food security, and energy. The guarantee of these services requires a good level of water management, and in some cases, it even requires the use of hydro-politics as a framework for peace.

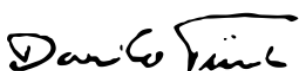
The 2017 Report of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace (GHLP-WP) “A Matter of Survival” highlighted the high potential of water to be a source of

cooperation and peace even though it can, in certain situations, also induce conflicts.

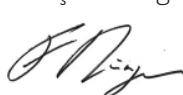
This Report entitled “Intensified Action”, published in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, is the second annual follow-up report of the Geneva Water Hub. It reflects the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations made in all seven chapters of the GHLP-WP Report.

Pertinent results were obtained due to ***intensified action*** after the ***determined steps*** described in the first Geneva Water Hub Report. Among other things, the Symphony for Water and Peace was upgraded with cinema, video, philosophy support material along with the voice of the people.

Dr. Danilo Türk



François Münger



Dr. Christian Bréthaut



INTRODUCTION

This Report is the second, annual follow-up report produced by the Geneva Water Hub, Secretariat of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace (GHLP-WP), since the launch of the latter's Report "A Matter of Survival" and its set of recommendations, in September 2017. It adopts the same approach of the first follow-up report (March 2019) entitled "Determined Steps". It reflects the progress achieved and actions carried out by the Geneva Water Hub and its partners towards the implementation of the recommendations proposed by the Panel two and a half years ago. It covers the period from April 2019 through April 2020. In October 2019, a meeting of the members of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace was held during the Budapest

Water Summit. The Panel members conducted a thorough review of on-going work and outlined several directions for further progress. These are reflected in the subsequent pages of this Report.

At the time of writing, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have an impact on the activities discussed in the present Report. The impact is expected to be both direct and indirect. Water scarcity makes many countries increasingly vulnerable from a sanitary point of view, as the virus continues to spread. Basic hygiene is indeed a prerequisite to limit the spreading of the virus, and water is an essential ingredient for this. Moreover, indirect effects of the pandemic are likely to be severe and long lasting. Water availability and water

infrastructures are vital for the survival and development of societies, their agricultural activities, energy generation, and urban development. Wherever water availability and infrastructures are negatively impacted by disruptions ensuing the pandemic's economic consequences, cumulative effects will be disastrous.

It would therefore be irresponsible to ignore these dangers. Every effort will have to be made to maintain and strengthen the efforts for good water resources management, adequate maintenance and development of water infrastructures, and enhancement of transboundary water cooperation. The ***Intensified Action*** advocated for in the present Report is thus a necessary move in this context.



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GENERAL: FROM RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACTION, NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Since the launch of the Report “A Matter of Survival” two and a half years ago, efforts have been directed towards the transformation of recommendations made therein into actions. A number of actors, such as the co-convening countries, the Group of Friends on Water and Peace, NGOs, universities, private sector industries, parliamentarians, UN agencies including UNECE, UN-Water, UNCDF and others have been key partners to the process.

An important part of related activities was in-line with the ongoing work on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 6 (“Ensure water availability and sanitation for all”), and SDG 16 (“Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies”). According to the “SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018” prepared by UN-Water, the implementation of this Goal is “seriously off track”. This raises important questions about the politics and policies relating to water, and in particular those relating to transboundary water cooperation and water as an instrument of peace. Similarly, and according to *The Report of the Secretary General: “The Special Edition of the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report”*, advances in

meeting SDG 16 “are uneven and continue to deprive millions of their security, rights and opportunities and undermine the delivery of public services and broader economic development.” Both SDGs related to water and peace, require renewed efforts.

In simple straightforward words, serious and coordinated work is needed to achieve these two SDGs and all the others for the benefit of mankind. The world needs to focus on most off-track targets and mobilize forces to meet them. International cooperation and joint efforts related to water, its use and management are critically important, and yet their levels of coordination remain inadequate. Additional attention and actions are therefore urgent if we want to address the general attitude towards water issues, as well as specific challenges addressed by the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, through its set of recommendations in its Report “A Matter of Survival” of 2017.

In 2019 the Geneva Water Hub (acting both as the Secretariat of the GHLP-WP and the focal entity for the implementation

of the Panel’s recommendations) worked on priorities identified already in 2018. A large part of the efforts was devoted to the creation of the Global Observatory on Water and Peace (GOWP), a network of nodes and partners representing organizations committed to the advancement of the water-peace discourse. The Geneva Water Hub successfully concluded its work on the “Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure” during and after armed conflicts and made significant progress in developing innovative financial mechanisms for transboundary water cooperation. In addition, it developed new partnerships and forms of cooperation with a variety of entities ranging from the International Peace Institute in New York to the European Council. It continued its engagements with partners in Russia, Turkey, Jordan, and Senegal among others. The Geneva Water Hub worked closely with the UN and its specialized bodies and organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, as well as the UN Security Council. The Geneva Water Hub also made valuable

contributions to a number of international discussions on the issues of water at various international events.

The Geneva Water Hub has been actively working towards setting an agenda whereby water is used as a vehicle for peace and, the water-peace discourse is better understood and recognized. This is being done through dialogues with parliamentarians and partners, in Russia and Morocco. Thorough dialogues have taken place in preparation of missions in these countries. They were however slowed down and the missions postponed due to the breakout of COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, discussions and exchanges with members of the Group of Friends on Water and Peace have enriched the reflections. They provided support to the process, as well as a platform for discussions around the main tools developed in line with the GHLP-WP recommendations.

The progress and actions achieved in the implementation of the GHLP-WP recommendations of 2017, are detailed below.



2

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter 1 - The Drama of Water

The Panel recommended the UN General Assembly to convene a Global conference on International Water Cooperation with the aim of formulating a strategic framework for global water cooperation and a program of action defining specific priorities for the five-year period following the Global Conference.

Current international discussions around the SDGs and, in particular around SDG 6 show not only the persistence of problems but also the current weaknesses and limitations of multilateralism. This, in turn, affects discussions related to planned UN meetings on water, expected in 2021 and 2023. The need for a major global conference on water is increasingly recognized.

The UN General Assembly decided in its Resolution 73/226 adopted on 20 December 2018, to convene a mid-term review of the UN Water Action Decade in 2023, by holding a three-day high level conference in New York under the auspices of the UN General Assembly. It would be the first time since Mar del

Plata (1977) that a major UN conference on water is held. It is therefore necessary to mobilize actors at all levels and catalyse their interactions during the preparatory process, which is already under way.

The role of the UN Secretary General (UN SG) will be central in this process. His Report and the recommendations he will make will be used as the main basis for the preparation of the above-mentioned high level conference. In the synthesis of the Report of the UN SG, a wide variety of sources will be used, including the work of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace and its follow-up works. The Geneva Water Hub is ready to assist in preparing technical papers and support documentation to be used by the Secretary General for the mid-term review of the SDGs in March 2023. The operational modalities are still being reviewed by the Secretary General.

The work of the GHLP-WP and the meetings held by Dr. Danilo Türk at the UN, have already assisted in catalyzing the preparatory process. In addition, the Geneva Water Hub has provided support to the Secretariat of, and Parties to, the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and has shared with them expertise in capacity building.

In addition, the upcoming World Water Forum which will take place in Dakar in 2021, will provide an excellent opportunity to further feed into the process. President Macky Sall and other Heads of States will indeed address recommendations to the UN Secretary General and the General Assembly. The Geneva Water Hub is already engaged in this process with Senegal, and has participated in the 9th World Water Forum Kick-off Meeting, organized in Dakar (Senegal) on 20 and 21 June 2019. The Geneva Water Hub will continue to work with global actors to strengthen the process and enrich the reflection - particularly - with its partner the Pôle Eau Dakar, for the Dakar World Water Forum in 2021. The GHLP-WP will also be part of this group of influence.

Finally, given the importance of including representatives of local populations in water dialogues within the UN, the Geneva Water Hub will direct its efforts to further engage the youth in such processes, highlight their actions and value their involvement. In fact, the Geneva Water Hub is already engaged with both the youth, and local communities in the Sahel Region, among other places, and in cooperation with partners including the International Secretariat for Water (ISW), the Pôle Eau Dakar and other key actors.

Chapter 2 - Into the Abyss: Water in Armed Conflicts

The Panel recommended to strengthen the respect for and implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in relation to water and clarify that IHL principles, such as the principles of distinction and proportionality must be applied both in international and in non-international armed conflicts.

A major step forward was taken in 2019. Following the recommendations of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, the Geneva Water Hub, in collaboration with other academic partners, international and non-governmental organizations, prepared the “Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure” during and after armed conflicts. This document provides the first ever systematic compendium of all existing principles and rules regarding the protection of water in the conduct of hostilities and post-conflict situations, relying on international humanitarian law, human rights law, international water law and international environmental law platform. The compendium covers water, and water related infrastructures, during armed and post armed conflicts phases, and contributes to the agenda for the protection of civilian populations. In addition, it helped identify gaps in the legal protection of water related infrastructures such as electrical infrastructures.

This legal document is destined to States and non-state actors. In March 2019, it was launched in Washington DC, at a working meeting at the World Bank and, subsequently, at the International Peace Institute in New York. These discussions helped fine-tune the document and develop close cooperation with UNICEF, which in turn is also leading on the publication of a series entitled “Water under Fire”. These publications aim to improve the protection of civilians, in particular children, who are most affected by the violations of international norms protecting water infrastructures and water resources during armed conflicts.

On 10 December 2019, the Geneva Water Hub through its International Water Law Platform, UNICEF, the Netherlands Red Cross and, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, organized a special-event on the “Protection of Water during Armed Conflicts” during the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. This was a visible contribution to the 70th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and an effort to strengthen International Humanitarian Law.

The Geneva Water Hub also collaborated with UNICEF during the Geneva Peace Week, within the framework of an event entitled “Water under Fire: Building Peace through Water Services in Protracted Crisis”. Both institutions had presented the Geneva

List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure at the Residency of the Swiss Ambassador in Stockholm where the Swiss and Dutch Special Envoys on Water were present together with speakers from, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Afghanistan and Jordan.

Good progress has been made in bringing together all elements of protection of water resources and infrastructure during armed conflicts and in the immediate post conflict situations. It was a challenge and a real achievement to produce a document addressing the subtle area of international regulations and policymaking and, at the same time, to obtain broad recognition for its systematic nature and content. Further work is needed to make it a relevant source for policy making.

The next step will be to capitalize on the work done to date and bring it to the attention of the UN Security Council with a view to influence its decision making process. Partnership with UNICEF and with UN Member States who have already expressed readiness to engage (a remarkable example is the Kingdom of the Netherlands) will be of particular importance in the next stage.

The Geneva Water Hub is also reaching out to security organizations and conferences. It has particularly taken part in the Paris Peace Forum and the 6th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa in

November 2019. The Geneva Water Hub will continue to reinforce the role of water in the peace agenda framework.

Facts and realities on the ground are key to the elaboration of concrete arrangements and the protection of water during armed conflicts. The Geneva Water Hub aims at genuinely informing policy making at the global level by using such data. During the next phase of development, the work on the Geneva List of Principles for the Protection of Water Infrastructure will tackle the related monitoring and compliance mechanisms. It will therefore partner with humanitarian and UN organizations such as ICRC and UNICEF, in particular, whose engagement will be of great importance.

Finally, the Geneva List of Principles should be used as a training material for military personnel, both within national systems and, in international operations. Discussions are ongoing with the Sanremo Institute of International Humanitarian Law and, collaboration is underway with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights as well as the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). In addition, the Geneva Water Hub who is a founding member of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association hosted by the Environmental Law Institute in Washington DC, is actively engaged in its Interest Group on Water. Through this endeavour, it will work on reinforcing the role of water in post-conflict situations and peacebuilding activities.

Chapter 3 - An Ounce of Prevention: International Water Law and Transboundary Water Cooperation

The Panel recommended to encourage the use of the UNECE Water Convention's cooperation mechanisms, in particular resort by countries and civil society to the Convention's Implementation Committee. It also stated that states should adhere to the principles of International Water Law and promote their full implementation.

During the past months, important steps were achieved in the direction of a concerted and sustainable management of the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin, shared by four riparian countries (Senegal, Mauritania, Gambia and Guinea Bissau). The Platform for International Water Law of the Geneva Water Hub, is engaged in a very fruitful partnership with UNECE. In February 2019, a safe space meeting was organized on the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin, with delegates of the Riparian countries and representatives of the two the transboundary basin agencies of the Senegal River (OMVS) and the Gambia River (OMVG), to explore the relevance of transboundary cooperation in this aquifer basin. This initiative was inspired by the experience accumulated and shared during the commemoration of the 40 years' anniversary of transboundary governance of the Geneva Aquifer, shared by France and

Switzerland. The process was facilitated by the Geneva Water Hub and the Secretariat of the UNECE Water Convention. This safe space has paved the way for the countries to advance on a joint action plan, that is in development.

On 6 April 2020, President Macky Sall of Senegal and President Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania highlighted in a joint press release, the strategic importance of shared groundwater. The two Heads of State welcomed the first steps aiming at achieving concerted and sustainable management of the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (BASM) and bringing together Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. They urged their governments to continue their work, in collaboration with other parties, with a view to achieving the agreed objectives.

The two UN Water Conventions (the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention and 1992 UNECE Water Convention) are complementary to each other. In 2019, events have been jointly organized in Senegal, to promote the Conventions at the regional and national level. Although Chad and Senegal signed the UNECE Water Convention, there are many countries in Africa which have not yet done so. Seeing the need to strengthen advocacy around the 1992 UNECE Water Convention and the



1997 UN Watercourses Convention, two meetings were co-organized in Geneva on 3 and 4 December, by the Geneva Water Hub and the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat, focusing on the prevention of water disputes and on ensuring the proper implementation of international water law.

These meetings confirmed the crucial role that the UN Watercourses Convention and the UNECE Water Convention play in strengthening cooperation at the regional and basin levels. It is also time now to define to what extent it is needed to address the navigational uses of transboundary waterways, such as for example on the Congo River. Finally, the protection of aquifers needs to be strengthened as well. Very little has been done in this regard so far; there are only seven agreements worldwide in relation to transboundary groundwater resources. Given its institutional framework, the UNECE Water Convention holds a great potential for the future; and the Geneva Water Hub will give particular priority to encourage countries in the process of adoption of this instrument.

More generally, experience has shown that although there is an overall willingness to discuss water cooperation in general terms, it is much more difficult to define policies. In the last five World Water Forums, transboundary water cooperation is only mentioned in the adopted ministerial declaration of the last three, and following very challenging negotiations - however, there are not generally been significant progress to date. In that regard, the example of Senegal and its two transboundary agreements and basin organizations have an important role in the water related discussions. The Senegal River Basin Agreement is proof that when the political will exists, transboundary cooperation can succeed. Therefore, it is important to engage fully in the preparation of the World Water Forum in Dakar, especially since it will be the first World Water Forum specifically dedicated to water, peace and security and to transboundary water cooperation (the theme title is **Water Security for Peace and Development**). Participation of Heads of States and governments will give a particular leverage to this Forum.

Chapter 4 - Quantity and Quality: Strengthening of the Knowledge-Based and Data-Driven Decision Making and Cooperation for Security and Peace

The Panel recommended that the level of knowledge relating to water quality and quantity issues be improved at all levels. Knowledge on groundwater and aquifers, representing more than 90 percent of unfrozen global freshwater should be enhanced as a matter of priority. As a matter of long-term vision, the Panel advocates the establishment of a strong global data system and monitoring mechanism on the basis of existing work. Its task should be to monitor and analyze water quality issues globally and in transboundary basins and aquifers in particular, with a view to providing reliable information to the interested public on short notice.

Forty percent of the world population live in shared water basins. 153 countries share transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers that account for 60% of freshwater flows. At a time of increasing water stress, droughts and floods, this requires improved knowledge and information sharing.

Recommendations relating to the quality and quantity of water data were a key

aspect in both the High-Level Panel on Water and the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace. In 2018 and 2019, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organized several conferences on the subject. The Geneva Water Hub is now collaborating with the WMO and the Group of Friends on Water and Peace to create a coalition of countries in support of this effort.

Initiatives such as the Global Hydrometry Support Facility (WMO HydroHub), the WMO Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (WMO HydroSOS) and the World Water Data Initiative (WWDI) are important building blocks to help move the water data and peace agenda forward. At present, efforts should be focused on the WWDI, which was incubated under the leadership of the Government of Australia and spun off to the WMO in 2019, with the aim to improve policy and decision-making in water resources management. This initiative aims at building a common understanding of the issues as a common basis for discussion among countries. It will also aim at strengthening the links between operational hydrology and policy.

Particular attention should be paid to the problem of water borne diseases. Access to potable water is the single most effective way to diminish mortality and is the first

priority in situations of severe water stress, water disasters and armed conflicts. Therefore, issues related to health have to be given the highest priority in international efforts to improve monitoring of water quantity and quality, especially in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. This crisis is likely to have serious negative effects on the health situation in many countries where water scarcity is already a problem. Water is an essential prerequisite for personal hygiene and therefore also for countering the spread of the new corona virus. The economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic could have serious negative impact on water infrastructure and, consequently, on agriculture, energy generation, urban development and in other areas. The cumulative effect could be very harmful. These questions require focused attention in the year 2020 and beyond.

In order to understand the triggers for water cooperation, the Geneva Water Hub is currently implementing with UNIGE, ETHZ, Zoi and Oregon State University, a methodology combining different approaches, theoretical frameworks and techniques. It aims at monitoring international hydropolitical tensions, and identify key variables that could play a role in the production of tensions or cooperation. Anchored in a scientific

perspective, this proposal combines large-N datasets, in-depth processes analysis and science-based visualization tools for the comprehensive and systematic examination of hydropolitics. This diversity should improve the understanding of hydropolitical tensions and inform a wide range of audiences including, in particular, policy and decision makers, water management practitioners, scholars and the general public.

Quality controlled data and a common understanding of this data are essential to build trust and constructive dialogues for exchanges between countries. There is a clear need to create sufficient confidence and knowledge for countries to be able to discuss and negotiate water issues. The willingness to negotiate is not always enough. It is also important to have a reliable and common basis for discussion. At this point in time WMO carries a particular responsibility in the effort to develop an effective global system for water data. In addition, there is a number of other organizations and institutions within the UN, such as UNEP, UNECE, WHO, UNESCO and FAO, and the International Science Council who are active in this field. The International Science Council is launching an initiative on data called “Future Earth”: an international research program on global sustainability set up by the Council as part

of the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability. The initiative is based on open access data base and satellite-based data. One of the outcomes of the program is a model to predict water stress and resulting migration.

It is important to coordinate their work and develop synergies among them to establish an effective international system on data information and sharing, and thus help policy makers.

The question of data must be understood beyond the circle of specialists and should be a major theme in the preparation of the UN mid-term review of the Water Action Decade in 2023. As an immediate measure throughout this year and in 2021, this should include establishing a single and comprehensive **“UN Data Portal for Water”** which would provide access to all UN water data systems. Such a portal would greatly assist in developing the necessary observing systems, improving data coherence, and helping in the necessary training of experts and policy makers.

In this chapter of the Report “A Matter of Survival”, the GHLP-WP also highlighted the importance of drastically improving the management of groundwater aquifers, which represent more than 90% of the available freshwater reserves of the World. The work described in the previous section responds to that.

Chapter 5 - People’s Diplomacy, Inter-Sectoral Water Management and Decision Making

The Panel recommended that inter-sectoral water management, including management of transboundary water projects, enable participation, sharing of all relevant information and data exchange for all the stakeholders including local communities and civil society groups. An appropriate level of transparency and data sharing should be provided from the early stages of the project. The process should involve the relevant governmental departments and agencies, businesses, civil society organizations and the scientific community.

Giving a voice to people affected by water scarcity is essential for sound water management and peaceful development.

The Geneva Water Hub analysed existing instruments aimed at promoting good water practices in socially and environmentally-sensitive businesses in particular in the mining and metal industry; a sector difficult to influence. As such, and in line with the recommendations of GHLP-WP, the Geneva Water Hub developed and started to implement a strategy to incentivize the use of responsible water practices in large-scale mining operations. This was referred to as the “Code of Conduct” in the initial recommendations of the GHLP-WP.

Since the publication of the report “A Matter of Survival” in 2017, a constellation of new players emerged in the field of water stewardship in the mining sector. Most of them highlight the importance of water reporting and disclosure. There has been progress on transparency through numerous existing frameworks such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI, 2018), the CDP Water disclosure project (CDP, 2018) or the CEO Water Mandate. Multinational companies tried to elaborate their own standards as well. Yet, these initiatives are largely uncoordinated and have weak compliance mechanisms. Instruments remain non-binding, self-implemented and primarily designed to ensure comparability among companies using consistent industry metrics. Meanwhile, the UN developed general frameworks such as the UN Global Compact and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. While these instruments remain non-binding and without specific focus on water, they did push multinationals to develop corporate social and environmental policies. Moreover, the Human Rights Council also put in place an inter-governmental working group to develop a binding instrument on transnational corporations and human rights. The Platform for International Water Law of the Geneva Water Hub is following negotiations over this instrument. If these negotiations are successful, this tool will be a pioneer instrument to protect the rights of the victims of transnational corporations’ activities.

Evidence shows that multiple-issue standards applicable to large-scale mining, and including independent third-party certification mechanisms as a guarantee for compliance, may play a bigger role in avoiding conflict between water used by mining industries and local uses. All standards do not integrate a significant water component, and some are limited in their geographical scope. For example, the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) is a well-established Canadian standard that applies only in Canada, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, the Philippines, Botswana and Finland (the Finnish TSM includes a specific protocol for water management and treatment). On the other hand, there are commodity specific standards, which combine both high water content and a level of obligation scores (e.g. Responsible Jewellery Council, RJC; Aluminium Stewardship Initiative, ASI), but there is no water management system standard yet (the ISO/TC82/SC7 norm on “water management and treatment, with a focus on mine closure and reclamation” is in development). The Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) recently implemented a generic multi-commodity responsibility standard, which includes an important water dimension. This standard, widely regarded as the most comprehensive, is not widely endorsed. Similarly, the IFC Voluntary Code of Practice on Water Management has not generated general support.

However, despite a clear recognition that a new management response to water challenges is needed, the mining sector struggles to define its approach to better practices. A major barrier to change is the misunderstanding of benefits that could be derived from responsible standards' adoption by companies. The landscape of initiatives therefore remains fragmented while implementing a standard is a costly investment. There is also a need to clarify non-state actors responsibilities, and this will not be done with standards for certification.

The Geneva Water Hub decided to support a process relating to standard setting through discussions with investors and international mining companies. This process aims at facilitating the adoption of high-bar standards, showcasing the creation of financial value from the adoption of such standards. In order to achieve this, the Geneva Water Hub will use new demands from investors and the insurance sector as a leverage. These industries are concerned with potential

impacts of water-related risk on financial performance on one hand, and high costs resulting from water pollution or conflicts (operation delays, cancellation of licenses, reputation damages) on the other hand. Their concerns constitute real incentives for change in water practices and a certification becomes a viable quality assurance mechanism.

The Geneva Water Hub plans to hold a "Safe Space" discussion with investors, standard-setting bodies and mining companies in 2020 to reflect on how to engage the private sector in an effort to develop more generally accepted standards of water management in the mining and extraction industries. In so doing, the barriers to standard adoption can be identified, and the concept of economic profitability from the adoption of responsible water practices can be strengthened. This would in turn push asset managers to factor the water risk into their investment decisions and devote a greater proportion of funds to such certified companies.



Chapter 6 - Financial Innovation for Water Cooperation

The Panel recommended that the international community should create, in a sustained and significant way, financial and other incentives to promote transboundary water cooperation. In particular, new instruments such as the Blue Bonds and Blue Fund should be created to provide preferential and concessional finance to subsidize interests, insurance and related ancillary costs of large infrastructure projects for the countries that are willing to work together in a collaborative way to develop transboundary water projects.

Committed to promote water as a tool for transboundary and multi-sectoral cooperation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Geneva Water Hub, together with transboundary basin organizations, countries, municipalities and other partners from the public and private sectors, developed the Blue Peace Financing Initiative as a follow-up to this recommendation (Chapter 6) of the GHLP-WP.

The aim of the Blue Peace Financing Initiative is to encourage transboundary and multi-sectoral water cooperation by facilitating access to financial capital for multi-sectoral and joint investment plans. It suggests that water is the perfect entry point to develop new opportunities for impact investments contributing to all SDGs. From investors' perspective, multi-sectoral investment plans offer very interesting risk reduction properties. Such progress would in turn lead to more sustainable management of their shared resources, and then, to circular economies along with greater cooperation and peace in the region.

As of today, the Blue Peace Financing Initiative is working at two different levels:

1. At the regional level, with River Basin Organizations; and
2. At the sub-national level, with municipalities or local authorities in both developed and developing countries.

The Blue Peace Financing Initiative suggests a twinning partnership for municipalities, including both technical assistance and a financial agreement. The potential first two municipalities for pilot twinning

partnership in the context of the Blue Peace Financing Mechanism were identified and first exchanges have taken place. Both municipalities expressed their strong interest in exploring the potential of such a twinning partnership further.

The Blue Peace Initiative partners agreed with the OMVG to demonstrate how the new financing mechanism works at the level of RBOs. The approach is based on the development of transboundary, multi-sectoral joint investment plans, owned and managed by the basin agency under the direction of the Member States. The River Basin Organisation's (RBO) masterplan would be used to inform the joint investment plan, based on which the Blue Peace Bond would be issued. The Blue Peace Financing Mechanism is also a blended finance approach: the public sector, along with the support of technical and financial development partners, provides for the risk insurance and takes over an important part of risks' mitigation. Hence, it allows private investors to step in at lower risk. The purpose of the de-risking mechanism is to improve investments' risk-return profile, thus making it possible to attract additional private investors.

The Geneva Water Hub presented the process of the "Safe Space", in

cooperation with the Pôle Eau Dakar, and the OMVG within the context of the Blue Peace Financing Mechanism. The OMVG "Workshop" held on 8-9 October in Banjul is considered part of this "Safe Space" process for the OMVG as the first RBO to implement the new financing mechanism. The process can contribute to strengthening the leadership role of the OMVG and the West African region for transboundary water management and cooperation. The Banjul declaration and the strategic framework, which was developed during that event paved the way for the adoption of a resolution by the OMVG's Council of Ministers in December 2019. The Resolution was signed by the countries' respective Presidents. It allowed the OMVG together with its Blue Peace Financing Partners (SDC, UNCDF and Geneva Water Hub) to officially start with the operational phase of the Blue Peace Financing Mechanism in January 2020.

The Geneva Water Hub has presented this initiative at various events organised by its partners, for example during the a workshop on Water Governance and International Water Law (11-14 November, 2019, Entebbe, Uganda) organized jointly with the Global Water Partnership (GWP) aimed at fostering partnerships and capacity building for improved practices in transboundary water investments in Africa.

Chapter 7 - In Pursuit of Agency: New Mechanisms of Water Diplomacy

The Panel recommended the establishment of the Global Observatory for Water and Peace, an international facility of hydro-diplomacy with the aim of facilitating, promoting and energizing diplomatic efforts to leverage water for comprehensive peace. The Global Observatory for Water and Peace should focus specifically on facilitating cooperation in situations of potential tension in order to preempt its escalation through joint vision development, confidence building, and opening ways to its peaceful adjustment.

Over the last two years, the Geneva Water Hub held various bilateral discussions with key actors in the water sector to present the concept and the vision of the Global Observatory for Water and Peace (GOWP). The GOWP is a network of nodes of different natures which reflect the analysis and strategic foresight capability on water and peace in their “specific context”; this reflection is carried out in a creative dynamic exchange and contributes to creating a discreet “global space” (Safe Space) to progress on the key themes for their regional context, of a generic scope, or of global scope. The GOWP is both in line with the work of the GHLP-WP and as a recommendation of it. There are two

main types of nodes: (i) regional nodes (ii) societal nodes.

The Global Observatory for Water and Peace was officially launched during the 5th Arab Water Week organized by the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA) in partnership with the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) and the League of Arab States-Arab Ministerial Water Council (LAS-AMWC), and under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan Bin Talal. The theme of this Arab Week was “Towards Sustainable Development in Water and Sanitation”, and it was held between the 3rd and 5th March, 2019 at the Dead Sea, Jordan. The Geneva Water Hub actively participated as a partner, and organized a panel session as part of the Opening Ceremony on 3 March 2019, entitled “The Global Observatory on Water and Peace: An innovative instrument for sustainable development”.

The Geneva Water Hub has been looking at effectively bringing together partners committed to the promotion of the water and peace nexus, and this process is gaining momentum.

The first regional node of the GOWP in the West African region, the Pôle Eau Dakar was established by the Senegalese Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation. It was officially launched during the Kick-off meeting of the Forum of Dakar on 19 June 2019 in Dakar. Its mission is to focus on promoting concerted

development of skills and practices at the regional level.

During the celebrations of the World Water Day, organized by the Organization of American States (OAS) on 19 March 2019, to which Geneva Water Hub was invited, a cooperation agreement was signed by the Secretary General of the OAS Permanent Council and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). The agreement focuses on strengthening alliances with the academic community to facilitate decision-making at the political level. All present supported the OAS in its interest and willingness to contribute to the GOWP node for the Latin American States. They unanimously recognized its capacities to federate around water and peace issues, and promote and implement sustainable development agendas.

The development of regional partnerships in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) as well as Central Asia are underway. The development of GOWP nodes is closely related to specific interests and challenges that differ from one region to another.

The current mode of operation of the GOWP is flexible and open for new partnerships, given that the GOWP is an inclusive network of nodes and partners around the world in the field of water cooperation. Its aim is to fill the critical gaps of the global water architecture. The network is expected to further expand and include various kinds of

actors committed to the water and peace agenda. The December 2019 edition of the Water Diplomat*, included a Water Talk about the Global Observatory on Water and Peace. It communicated and explained its mandate, and its mode of operation.

In the development of the GOWP, the additional capacity to convene “Safe Space” has been applied: a discreet process bringing together identified stakeholders to address a given sensitive “water and peace nexus” issue. Water diplomacy is here understood as encompassing all these aspects and the concept of “Safe Space” discussions is a vital part of it. In 2018-2019 the Geneva Water Hub launched several “Safe Space” discussions.

The one pertaining to cooperation on the Senegal–Mauritanian Basin Aquifer was mentioned above. Another one, involving participants from a larger spectrum of stakeholders, focused on the water situation in the Sahel, and contributed to the development of 12 key recommendations. These “Safe Space” discussions organized by the Geneva Water Hub resulted in a number of recommendations, including but not limited to: (i) a better use of existing mechanisms of water cooperation in the region, (ii) a more active engagement of local non-state actors in developing protection of water resources, and (iii) specific actions that would reflect the concrete role of water in

* The Water Diplomat is a free online monthly news and intelligence resource specialised in hydropolitics. For more information consult www.waterdiplomat.org.

peacebuilding “Water Peace Action” on the ground. The involvement of local economic actors is critical. Further work needs to be done to engage them in ways that would reduce and, eventually eliminate the dominance of armed conflicts’ drivers.

The current situation in the Sahel, including armed conflicts and terrorism in the region, led to international reactions dominated largely by a military component. The vital strategic importance of water and basic services has not been addressed effectively as yet. However, they are of critical importance in the “security and development nexus”. Furthermore, the example of the Sahel is an important one from a general perspective.

Emerging water problems increased the interest of international actors in water diplomacy. An important example of such a growing interest are the new Conclusions on Water Diplomacy adopted by the

Council of the European Union in November 2018. On 12 November 2019, the European Union (EU) organized a conference on water diplomacy with a special emphasis on transboundary water cooperation. It aimed at making proposals to the newly established bodies of the EU who are expected to work on the implementation of the Council Conclusions. Professor Danilo Türk made the opening statement and presented the work of the Geneva Water Hub as a follow-up to the GHLP-WP recommendations. The Blue Peace Index was also presented as an important contribution to water diplomacy. The discussion touched upon all major aspects of the Panel’s recommendations and showed commitment of the EU to nurturing transboundary water cooperation.

However, while the conceptual discussion progressed, approaches the EU might take in a specific geographically defined areas, require further work.







3

NEW ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE REPORT AS A WHOLE

In section three of the 2019 “Determined Steps” Report, a number of cross-cutting themes were identified. This section reviews developments and progress achieved in these specific areas.

1. Education

Investing in knowledge and capacity, the Geneva Water Hub through its five year research and education function, has trained more than 28’000 students through various online, presential and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), i.e. MOOC in management and water policy, MOOC in international water law, MOOC in ecosystem services.

Twenty-eight institutions working on knowledge and capacity development in the field of water cooperation and diplomacy have joined the Universities Partnership for Water Cooperation and Diplomacy (UPWCD), launched by the Geneva Water Hub. The Partnership’s website was launched at www.upwcd.org. It aims at becoming a one-stop-shop on water cooperation and diplomacy. It integrates all relevant information and resources related to the theme. This includes: events, publications, databases, education material, events and joint research activities. In addition, a joint MOOC on water cooperation diplomacy is now in development.

2. Culture

During the past years, the cultural aspect is having an increasing role in the advocacy and advancement of the of Water and Peace nexus, led by the Geneva Water Hub.

The Symphony on Water and Peace is now a central piece and cultural signature of the Geneva Water Hub and its key partners engaged in the water and peace discourse. This symphony is a real success and its “making” an excellent illustration of the work of the GHLP-WP. It has become the *theme tune* of water and peace issues. In addition, groups engaged in water-related tensions / conflicts have expressed an interest in composing an additional movement to it (e.g. the Mohawks).

In August 2019, on the occasion of the presentation of the Geneva List of Principles on Protection of Water Infrastructure, during a dinner discussion on “Water, Armed Conflicts and Peace building” at the Residence of the Swiss Ambassador in Stockholm, a new interpretation of the Symphony for Water and Peace was made for the first time. This new version was played by two Swedish artists, Ms Åsa Larsson and Mr. Rasmus Diamant. As the Symphony for Water and Peace was composed progressively while the GHLP-WP convened in different continents, this new interpretation symbolized yet a new step

towards the implementation of the Panel’s recommendations. The Geneva Water Hub indeed trusts that art, and in particular music, is a powerful symbol and inspiration for every effort geared to make of water a source of cooperation and peace.

Recently, the “Festival à Sahel Ouvert” was celebrated in February 2020, on the banks of the Senegal River that was at the centre of the 1989 Senegalese-Mauritanian Conflict. The Symphony was performed by the Blue Peace Quintet with the participation of a local artist and the children’s choir of Mboumba to an audience of 15’000 participants. This musical art event brought together artists, leaders of fishermen, local authorities, local civil servants, philosophers, and local populations. Participants collectively highlighted the role of water in their respective cultures and religions, as well as its key function for peaceful sustainable development. In this sense, the Symphony has to be understood in its broad sense: it mobilizes arts, culture and philosophy, and carries the water and peace discourse forward. The “Festival à Sahel Ouvert” was also an opportunity for the Geneva Water Hub to acknowledge, value and support local voices (the local intelligence) contributing to the water and peace discourse.

3. Women

The role of women is not yet properly recognized in most international discussions on water. While women take care of water needs at the household level in water stressed parts of the world, their role in decision making regarding water projects is far from adequate. The role of women is not limited to WASH services, however it extends to all aspects of water governance, at various levels all the way from global to local. It is encouraging to note that a number of initiatives are already underway in this direction. In September 2019, the Geneva Water Hub participated in a conference organized, in Cairo, by the Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) and the American University of Cairo (AUC) entitled "Women as Engines of Economic Growth". The Geneva Water Hub presented its work on water diplomacy, during a panel discussion on women in public service and leadership: entitled "Towards gender parity

in parliament and women's inclusion in policymaking".

In addition, the Geneva Water Hub regularly ensures the participation of women, in all of its webinars, MOOCs, online courses, roundtables.

The Geneva Water Hub's interest in empowering women in water diplomacy, at different levels, is to be further developed in line with global and regional interests and possible partnerships.

Moreover, for the second year, the Geneva Water Hub supported the participation of two women from African countries in the workshop on "Water Governance and International Water Law" held in November 2019, in Entebbe. This constitutes yet another contribution to the enhancement of African women skills in transboundary water issues.

4. The Blue Peace Movement

The Blue Peace Movement is expanding globally and taking roots. Through a number of events, the Movement is addressing water problems of our era, jointly with the broadest representations of civil society, states, business and academic communities. Such collaborative efforts constitute a stepping-stone towards the realization of SDG 6 and SDG 16.

On 18 February 2020, a conference celebrated the Blue Peace Decade in London. It brought together the leading actors in the field of international water cooperation. While a complete report of the Conference was prepared separately, it is necessary to highlight the main proceedings.

The conference emphasized the need for intensified action in the field of international water cooperation, notwithstanding the obstacles that impede progress at this stage. The key among these obstacles is the waning commitment to multilateral cooperation generally, and multilateral water cooperation specifically. Therefore, the forthcoming World Water Forum, to be held in 2021 in Dakar-Senegal, will carry a particular significance to water cooperation and peace. Some of the aspects that were hitherto underdeveloped, such as the transboundary aquifer cooperation have to be put more centrally now.

The progress made through the dialogue between Senegal and Mauritania is important in this context. International financial institutions should be pressed harder to stimulate financing of transboundary water cooperation. The UN should be assisted to play a stronger role and to promote international water cooperation. Improvements in data collection and sharing is critical. Weakness of political will to conclude international treaties for water cooperation also constitutes an obstacle and should be addressed through various avenues. However, even where formal agreements among the countries sharing water resources are not possible, their cooperation should be encouraged and innovative forms of cooperation should be promoted. “Safe Space” meetings tested in practice by the Geneva Water Hub offer an attractive and efficient alternative to formal interactions and at the same time they pave the way to such formal processes. They are key tools for the success of future activities in the framework of the Blue Peace Movement.

In 2019, the use of the Blue Peace Index (BPI), developed by the Economic Intelligence Unit, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, in 5 transboundary basins, emphasized the importance of water cooperation, and drew on lessons learnt, as

well as potential policy solutions to further encourage and assist in the use of water as a vehicle of peace.

The BPI is another innovative tool that will be used, where relevant, to conduct the analysis on the water and peace nexus.

The Index examines the extent to which countries and basins are managing their shared water resources in a sustainable, equitable and collaborative manner. It helps understand challenges and opportunities to improve transboundary water cooperation and management of shared water resources.

Furthermore, the analytic capacities of the GOWP through its various regional and theme-specific nodes constitute a complement to other Blue Peace initiative with a real added value. This is particularly true for the Blue Peace Middle East. In this sense, the engagements for water resource management and equitable water sharing are instrumental for peace building. The Blue Peace Movement encompasses the various initiatives created within this vision and framework. The engagement of the Geneva Water Hub and the initiatives described in this report are all contributions to this Movement, that is meant to bridge the Global Peace Agenda and the Development Agenda-two vital agendas of the International Geneva.



4

SUGGESTED PRIORITIES IN 2020 - WAY FORWARD AND NEW AVENUES FOR PROGRESS

The following reflects priority areas where long-term effort is required.

1. **The operationalization of the Global Observatory on Water and Peace.** This priority will be pursued in collaboration with various regional and societal partners whose involvement and engagement will be key to success. The GOWP network development will -among other things- allow for the convening of “Safe Spaces” at local and regional levels. It will also facilitate the follow-up of the implementation of SDGs 6 and 16.

The Observatory’s first report, an analysis of the relevant advances and priorities to be given on the issue of water and peace, is built on the analytical framework and recommendations of the GLHP-WP. This collective production led by the Geneva Water Hub will be done in several stages and in particular interactions between the nodes under development. This report will be published in 2020.

2. **The dialogue between the water sector and the peace sector.** In line with its positioning on the interface between the water and peace agendas, the Geneva Water Hub has and will continue to take part in the peace and security related events. The Dakar Conference on Peace and Security as well as the Paris Peace Forum were and will be occasions to further develop this positioning.

The follow up and the development of the Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure, is an integral part of the dialogue between the Geneva Water Hub and partners with and peace actors.

In this perspective, the Geneva Water Hub actively participated in the first International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding held at Irvine University (California) in October 2019. It was invited to contribute to the 2020 Review on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture held in Geneva in February 2020. The Geneva Water Hub is also building a closer collaboration with Interpeace and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform in order to work on robust interlinkages between the water and peace agendas.

3. **The involvement of local population in the water dialogue.** The involvement of local population and culture in water dialogues and raising their voices and conveying their reflection in the regional and the UN arenas is yet another new challenge, which will be tackled more in depth by the Geneva Water Hub. During the “Festival à Sahel Ouvert”, the Geneva Water Hub supported its partners in the organization of a open debate with the mayor of Mboumba. The event brought together, among others, the philosopher Prof. Souleymane Bachir Diagne, the mayor of Mboumba, the head of the fishing community in the adjacent village, as well as local populations together. The Geneva Water Hub will further engage in similar activities with other local communities, as their voices will also be reflected in the first report of the GOWP.

4. **The involvement of the youth.** The youth constitute a strength whose potential remains underused. Their involvement is a necessary key for the achievement of the GHLP-WP recommendations. They are progressively actively engaging in many areas and most benefits should be derived for this dynamic involvement. Many young people are joining the Geneva Water Hub-ISW reflections, and inter-generational debates. Education and training are essential pathways towards a greater involvement of the youth in various activities.

Since last year, the Geneva Water Hub has been actively engaged with the youth through intergenerational dialogues. The most visible ones were those organized during the Stockholm Water Week, the Budapest Water Summit, and the Geneva Peace Week, in cooperation with the International Secretariat for Water and the Swiss Water Partnership. Two postponed missions to Morocco and the Russian Federation (due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic) included intergenerational dialogues and the participation of youth representatives.

5. **Access to water resources and land.** Access to water resources and land usually stabilizes populations and prevents migration and displacement. This access has become more challenging due to population growth, water scarcity, poor governance, climate change and resulting resources competition. These needs are not properly reflected in water management policies. Efforts should be made to address these difficulties through the water-food-energy nexus, the water-peace nexus, with 21st century hydrodiplomacy.
6. **Aquifer Preservation.** A number of meetings held by the Geneva Water Hub during the past year highlighted how little is done globally on the preservation of aquifers. The Geneva Water Hub is actively working on filling this gap and will continue to do so in the coming phases of work. The project on the Senegal- Mauritanian Aquifer Basin led in partnership with UNECE is an example of the Hub's engagement in this priority area.

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The Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace was launched on 16 November 2015 in Geneva by fifteen co-convening countries: Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Estonia, France, Ghana, Hungary, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Oman, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland. Each of those countries has nominated a panellist who has worked ad personam. The Panel has benefitted from the support of the Geneva Water Hub, who acts as its Secretariat.

The Report of the Panel “A Matter of Survival” contains the analysis and the recommendations adopted by the Panel after two years of work in order to prevent water-related conflicts and to make water an instrument of peace. It has the ambition to address the water challenges in an integrated and comprehensive manner, at multiple levels, whether it is by fostering new practices, new institutions, water diplomacy or strengthening international law, among others.

This report is the second document of a series that will be produced annually by the Geneva Water Hub to follow-up on the implementation status of the recommendations of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace.

The Geneva Water Hub

Secretariat of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace

