

An innovative envoy for peace:



# The GLOBAL OBSERVATORY for WATER and PEACE

# ● BACKGROUND

In his remarks to the General Assembly on taking oath to office, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres said “Humanitarian response, sustainable development and sustaining peace are three sides of the same triangle”. We believe that water is at the core of this triangle.

The world is facing the drama of water: water stress and water-related disasters are among the main consequences of global warming and have severe humanitarian consequences. They often cause population movements and tensions resulting in violent conflict and threats to international peace and security.

Water plays a role that oscillates on the spectrum between peace and conflict: water can be a powerful driver of violent conflict, albeit generally not as a single or main cause of war. On the other hand, water is also a vital shared and irreplaceable resource and can be a strong instrument of peace.

It is with this vision that, a group of fifteen co-convening countries launched in 2015 the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace (the Panel) with the mandate of:

- Developing a set of proposals aimed at strengthening the global framework to prevent and resolve water-related conflicts;
- Facilitating the use of water as an important factor of building peace;
- Enhancing the relevance of water issues in national and global policymaking.



# ● GLOBAL OBSERVATORY FOR WATER AND PEACE

One of the main recommendations of the Panel in its 2017 Report “A Matter of Survival” is setting up the Global Observatory for Water and Peace (the Observatory), An inclusive network 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 Observatory 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 Observatory is the continuation of the analytic work initiated by the Panel. It has the same approach and global reflection that marked the Panel and the co-convening countries that established it.

Prof Danilo Türk, chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, opening address for the launch of the Report, Geneva, 14 September 2017.



# ● FUNCTIONS

According to the Geneva Water Hub, Secretariat of the Panel, hydro-diplomacy, also known as water diplomacy, is a strategic tool for reconciling conflicting interests including and beyond water, based on the increasing global recognition of the water-peace nexus.

The Global Observatory for Water and Peace has the following capacities:

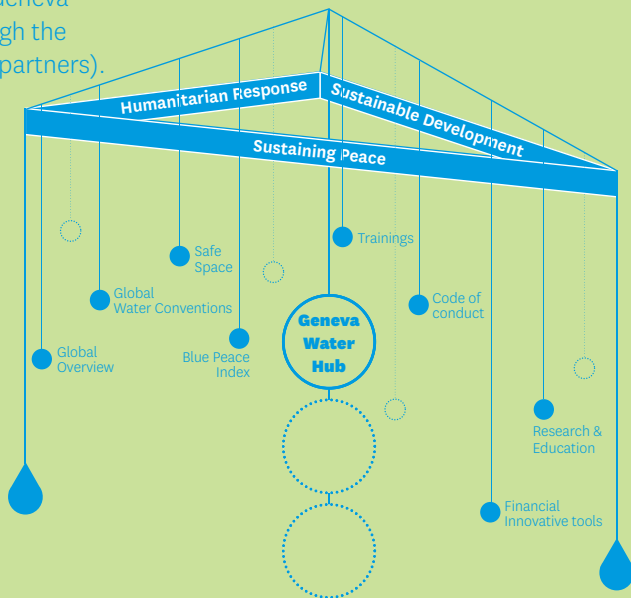
- To conduct data and research supported analysis, and provide an annual overview of global efforts in terms of water, peace and security;
- To create a “safespace” for pre-negotiation consultations at an early stage of project development, or to proactively address major water, peace and security issues;
- To encourage the production and use of innovative approaches and tools to better understand and meet water, peace and security challenges.



# ● HOW IT DELIVERS

The Global Observatory for Water and Peace is a global platform, based in Geneva International, an international hub for peace and diplomacy. It is an inclusive network that unites and aligns regional and local partners, credible and neutral institutions committed to the agenda of water, peace and security. The Observatory achieves impact on the ground by strengthening the nexus, from global levels (federating the Geneva International) to local levels (through the Observatory network and regional partners).

The Observatory was launched during the Arab Water Week at the Dead Sea, Jordan in March 2019. Regional partnerships are currently underway. It is an open platform open to all agencies and entities concerned by the challenges of the water, peace and security nexus, and that bring into action the untapped potential of water in peacebuilding.



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