Round Table on Data for Water, Peace and Security

Monday, 20 March 2017
World Meteorological Organization, Room Kruzel, 2nd Floor

Round Table Objectives

Data and monitoring are key for both the SDGs and for water, peace and security.

The Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace was launched on 16 November 2015 in Geneva and will develop a set of proposals aiming at strengthening the global water data architecture to prevent and resolve water-related conflicts, and facilitate the use of water as an important factor of building peace. It will also enhance the relevance of water issues in national and global policy making.

In this framework, the Geneva Water Hub is the Panel's Secretariat and contributes to the Panel's work by providing substantial inputs through its different components (Networking Platform / Education & Knowledge / Think Tank).

This Round Table echoes the working program of the Panel dedicated to issues related to water and transboundary / intersectoral conflicts. Its purpose is to advance the knowledge regarding this topic and to define recommendations at the policy level.

The Geneva Water Hub (Secretariat of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace[1]) and the UNESCO Chair on Hydropolitics at the University of Geneva are jointly organizing a think tank moment on "*DATA FOR WATER, PEACE AND SECURITY*" in partnership with WMO's newly established HydroHub (Global Hydrometry Support Facility).

A wide range of initiatives worldwide deal with the production, exchange and interpretation of data. National and International Organizations, NGOs, the private sector and researchers provide numerous initiatives in building data sets and targeting a better understanding of hydrosystems and the modalities of how to use water resources. However, water monitoring globally experiences substantial weaknesses: lack of sustainability of many national hydrological measurement networks, weak knowledge on groundwater (80% of the worldwide water reserves) and on water quality.

Reliable data and information to capture environmental, social, economical and political situations, is key for sustainable water management and water security, especially in transboundary catchments. While a better understanding of environment conditions is crucial, socio-political dimensions and economic growth also need to be taken into consideration when developing monitoring systems, in order to ensure the linkages between water, peace and security.

This Round Table will address the role of water data, explore some existing water data initiatives, identify existing gaps and challenges to find synergies with peace and security policy development. A novel joint understanding of the big picture for conflict prevention/resolution will be discussed. Based on the discussions, the Round Table will suggest a set of recommendations for the Panel to take forward, for which appropriate messaging will also be identified.

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[1] The Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace is a collective initiative of a group of countries committed to global water issues. *www.genevawaterhub.org/projects/global-high-level-panel-water-peace-secretariat*

Agenda

9.00-09.35	**Introduction and scope of the meeting**
	09.00-09.20: Opening, Mr. François Münger, Director of the Geneva Water Hub and Mr. Dominique Bérod, Chief of WMO basic systems in hydrology division
	09.20-09.35: Communication in the context of conflicts, Mr. Otto Simonett, Zoï Environment Network
09.35-10.20	**Session 1: Water data as a tool for peace and security**
	09:35-09.50: Spatial data: Pascal Peduzzi (GRID / University of Geneva)
	09.50-10.05: Hydropolitics data: Christian Bréthaut (GWH / UNESCO Chair on hydropolitics)
	10.05-10.20: Moderated round table discussion
10.20-10.40	**Coffee Break**
10.40-12.15	**Session 2: Overview of existing water data initiatives**
	10.40-10.55: GEMI (TBC)
	10.55-11.10: HydroHub (Ms. Sophia Sandström)
	11.10-11.25: World Bank (Mr. Daniel Kull) (TBC)
	11.25-11.40: Synthesis and Q&A
	11.40-12.15: Moderated round table discussion
12.15 – 13.30	**Lunch break (WMO Attic Restaurant, non hosted)**
13.30 - 15.45	**Session 3: Filling the gaps: how to overcome the challenges?**

Participants will break into 3-4 groups and discuss the themes suggested below. Each group will designate a rapporteur to capture the three main points that emerge from the discussion.
Themes to discuss include:
- **Innovation and Technology**: How can innovations/technology be leveraged to address the challenges identified?
- **Financing**: How can we ensure efficient and sustainable funding? What financing mechanisms can be used?
- **Communication**: How do we get water data at the top of the national agenda? How do we translate the technical outcomes in a digestible way to policy and decision makers? How should the water data message be formulated? Who needs to be part of the discussion? Who could help?

15.45-16.00	**Coffee Break**
16.00 – 17.00	**Session 4: Recommendations to the Panel**
	The main points that emerged from Session 3 will be projected for participants to discuss and prioritize. Based on this, key recommendations to the Panel will be formulated.