

23rd Meeting of the Group of Friends on Water and Peace

*International Geneva's Contribution to the 2026 UN Water Conference: Advancing Water for Peace
Across the Six Interactive Dialogues*



The **23rd Meeting of the Group of Friends on Water and Peace** will focus on how International Geneva can contribute to the outcomes of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, to be held in the United Arab Emirates in December 2026 and co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates.

As the international community enters the final years of the [Water Action Decade \(2018–2028\)](#) and accelerates efforts towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, the [2026 UN Water Conference](#) represents a critical opportunity to strengthen political momentum, mobilize action, and advance integrated approaches to water governance. At a time of growing water stress, climate impacts, humanitarian crises, and geopolitical tensions, water must be recognized not only as a development and environmental priority, but also as an enabler of peace, resilience, human dignity, and cooperation.

To support this objective, the [Geneva Water Hub](#), in partnership with [TRENDS Research & Advisory](#) and the [Pôle Eau Dakar](#), has prepared a **policy brief examining the six Interactive Dialogues of the 2026 UN Water Conference through a “peace” lens**. The brief identifies opportunities to integrate peace-responsive, human rights-based, and nexus-oriented approaches across the Conference agenda and highlights how water can contribute to cooperation, prevention, resilience, peacebuilding, and social cohesion.

The meeting will provide an **opportunity to present the policy brief to Member States and Geneva-based stakeholders and to gather reflections on how International Geneva can contribute to the Conference's outcomes**. Representatives from the peacebuilding, humanitarian, and human rights communities will be invited to offer perspectives on the recommendations contained in the brief and on the added value that Geneva's unique ecosystem can bring to global water governance discussions and the integration of peace in them.

The meeting will also provide an **opportunity for the co-chairs of the six Interactive Dialogues of the 2026 UN Water Conference to provide reflections and updates** on how the recommendations contained in the policy brief may inform the Conference deliberations.

Guiding Questions:

- What perspectives and expertise can International Geneva contribute to the 2026 UN Water Conference?

- How can peace-responsive approaches strengthen the outcomes of the six Interactive Dialogues of the Conference?
- How can humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, and human rights actors work together to advance more coherent and inclusive approaches to water governance?
- How can the 2026 UN Water Conference strengthen the role of water as an enabler of cooperation, resilience, human dignity, and peace?
- What recommendations from International Geneva should be conveyed to the co-hosts of the Conference and reflected in its outcomes?

Agenda

23rd Meeting of the Group of Friends on Water and Peace

Date: 30 October 2026

Time: 11.00 – 12.30 (90 minutes, followed by a cocktail reception)

Location: Club de la Presse, [Chem. de l'Impératrice 18, 1292 Pregny-Chambésy](#)

Opening Remarks (15 min)

- **H.E. Ms. Božena Forštnarič BOROJE**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN Office and other int. org. in Geneva and Chair of the Group of Friends on Water and Peace
- Opening Remarks by the Co-Hosts of the 2026 UN Water Conference: Dr. **Mohammed Diatta**, Senegal's Sherpa for the 2026 UN Water Conference, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Republic of Senegal; Ms. **Shaima Gargash**, Director of Energy and Sustainability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates (tbc)



Presentation (10 min)

Policy Brief: "Flowing towards Peace: Recommendations ahead of the UN 2026 Water Conference"

- Prof. **Mark Zeitoun**, Director General, Geneva Water Hub



Panel Reflections (20 min)

Geneva Reflections on Water for Peace and the Policy Brief

- Mr. **Pradeep Wagle**, Acting Chief of the Development, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Branch, OHCHR – Human rights perspective
- Ms. **Seraina Eldada**, Project Manager, Mediation and Peace Support Department, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- Mr. **Javier Cordoba**, Head of the Water and Habitat Unit, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



Interactive Discussion (35 min)

Member States and Co-Chairs' Reflections on the Six Interactive Dialogues of the 2026 UN Water Conference

Participants are invited to reflect on the policy brief and its recommendations in relation to the six Interactive Dialogues of the UN 2026 Water Conference. Statements from the co-chairs of the Interactive Dialogues are encouraged.



Closing Remarks (5 min)

• **H.E. Ms. Božena Forštnarič BOROJE**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN Office and other int. org. in Geneva and Chair of the Group of Friends on Water and Peace



Cocktail Reception