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CHEIKH ANTA DIOP
DE DAKAR



UNIVERSITÉ
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DE BRUXELLES



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

Université
de Montréal

CALL FOR PAPERS

For researchers and practitioners

International conference : “Water : a Driver of Peace in the Sahel”

From the 22nd to the 24th of September 2025

At Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Sénégal

*Organised with the support of the G3+ de la Francophonie and the Swiss Development
Cooperation Agency (SDC)*



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GENEVA

Context and objective

The Sahel region is affected by multiple crises, including climatic, security, social and economic ones. In addition to the lack of water supply infrastructure, there is the problem of its protection from armed attack. Groundwater is a key resource for climate resilience but remains poorly known and undervalued. However, as a vital and irreplaceable resource, water is also a powerful tool for cooperation at local, cross-sectoral and transboundary levels.


In this context, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (UCAD), Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Université de Montréal (UdeM) and Université de Genève (UNIGE) will organise a Conference at the UCAD from the 22nd to the 24th of September 2025 on the theme of “Water : a Driver of PeaceDriver of Peace in the Sahel”.

This planned event, will be jointly organised by the Pôle Eau Dakar, Geneva Water Hub and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It aims at exploring the role of water as a vector for inter-community social cohesion and peacebuilding in the Sahel. The conference will bring together Researchers, Practitioners and Decision-makers to discuss best practices, legal frameworks and policies for the inclusive and peaceful management of water resources in the Sahel and West Africa regions.

We warmly invite you to share your expertise and experience, aiming to contribute to water management for peace and development in the Sahel.

Types of contributions expected

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit proposals for papers to be presented at the conference before the **30th of June 2025**. We welcome two types of contributions :

1. **Academic contributions:** written proposals or posters in one of the following four areas :
 - Theme I: Groundwater governance and conjunctive management of surface and groundwaters.
 - Theme II: Freshwater and protection of local communities' rights.
 - Theme III: Inequalities and equity between urban and rural areas.
 - Theme IV: The use of water as a weapon of war and the impact of armed conflict on the access to water.
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2. Contributions focusing on experience in the field of Afro-centred hydro-diplomacy: these written proposals must highlight the strengths, constraints and possible futures of Afro-centred hydro-diplomacy building upon local knowledge and practices. [See guidelines](#).

Terms of submission

- Language: French or English.
- Submission via our form: [LINK FOR SUBMISSION](#)

A 300-word biographical note and a 500-word summary of the proposed paper are expected.

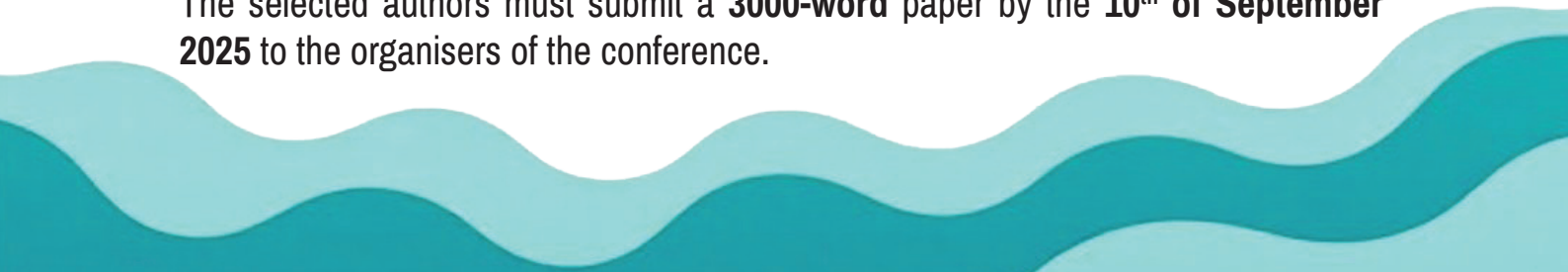
- Deadline for submission: the **30th of June 2025**.

Selection Committee

- Ibrahim Ag Youssouf, Senior Advisor, Geneva Water Hub.
- Boubacar Barry, IPAR Associate Researcher, member of the Pôle Eau Dakar.
- Youssouf Diedhiou, Head of Programme, IUCN Senegal.
- Awa Niang Fall, Professor at Cheikh Anta Diop University.
- Alioune Kane, Professor at Cheikh Anta Diop University.
- Madiodio Niasse, Independent Expert, member of the Pôle Eau Dakar.
- Issa Sakho, Professor at Amadou Mahtar Mbow University, Dakar.
- Fatimatou Sall, Independent Expert, member of the Pôle Eau Dakar.
- François-Xavier Saluden, Lecturer at the University of Montréal.
- Damien Scalia, Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.
- Mara Tignino, Senior Lecturer at the University of Geneva and Senior International Law Specialist at the Geneva Water Hub.
- Hugo Tremblay, Professor at the University of Montréal.
- Jean Willemin, Senior Programme Manager at the Geneva Water Hub.

The Selection Committee will send confirmation to the selected researchers or practitioners during the week of the **14th of July 2025**.

The selected authors must submit a **3000-word** paper by the **10th of September 2025** to the organisers of the conference.



Selection criteria

The selection criteria will be as follows:

- Originality and innovation
- Relevance of the proposal to the themes of the call for papers
- Impact and practical applicability
- Methodological rigour

Women's participation is encouraged.

Coverage of costs

Travel and accommodation costs may be covered on a case-by-case basis depending on the objectives of the conference for researchers and practitioners from the West Africa and Sahel regions.

Publication of best papers

The organisers will select the best papers for publication in a scientific journal or in a grey literature publication in the case of action-oriented presentations.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the following e-mail addresses:

- For general enquiries: g3-conference@unige.ch
 - For questions about Afro-centred hydro-diplomacy : communication@pole-eau-dakar.org
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