

# The Global High Level Panel for Water and Peace



**Region**  
Global

**Partners**  
Co-convening countries from all the world's regions; Geneva Water Hub; Strategic Foresight Group (India); other partners

**Background information**  
The Swiss Government and the SFG have held consultations with more than 150 political leaders, diplomats and water experts that have shown the need for a high-level political debate on how to prevent water conflicts.

**Project target**  
Develop a set of proposals aiming to strengthen the global architecture to prevent and resolve water-related conflicts.

**Beneficiaries**  
Political, UN, academic, civil society and private sector actors that can influence the water, security and peace theme.

**Costs**  
CHF 1,870,000, plus contributions from partners

**Duration**  
06.2014 – 03.2017

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The Blue Peace initiative supports the work of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace. The panel was officially launched in November 2015 and is set to last a maximum of two years. Its main objective, as decided by the 15 co-convening countries, is to develop a set of proposals aiming to strengthen the global architecture to prevent and resolve water-related tensions and conflicts, and facilitate the use of water for building peace.

Sustainable water resources management is one of the global challenges of the 21st century. Water issues are a growing cause of social, economic and political instability, with significant impact on security and peace in the world. In its 2015 Global Risks report, the World Economic Forum ranked water as the top global risk.

For the last 5 years, the Swiss Government, together with other countries and in partnership with the Strategic Foresight Group (SFG), a global think tank based in Mumbai, has developed the "Blue Peace" framework for transforming water from a source of potential crisis into an instrument for peace.

The freshly established Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace is composed of 15 eminent persons coming from a variety of backgrounds and sectors, each nominated by one of the co-convening countries (Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Estonia, France, Ghana, Hungary, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Oman, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland). It is chaired by H.E. Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia. In addition, an informal 'Group of Friends' of the Panel is being created to encourage participation from additional countries.

The Panel will recommend a global architecture for transforming water into an instrument of peace. It is established for a maximum of two years and has the following objectives:

1. to develop a set of proposals aiming to strengthen the global architecture to prevent and resolve water-related conflicts;
2. to facilitate the use of water for building peace and cooperation; and
3. to put water relations at the centre of government policy worldwide.

The issue of "Water and Peace" has many facets. Thus, the Panel will also focus on:

- identifying legal, economic, financial and institutional mechanisms to incentivise multi-sectoral and transboundary water cooperation;
- examining how to cope with and prevent water-related conflicts, namely transboundary and intersectoral – possibly exploring potential mechanisms to promote hydrodiplomacy;
- promoting effective implementation of the global water conventions; and
- promoting best practices in water cooperation.

The work of the panel focuses specifically on linkages between water and peace, which contributes to improving water governance at all levels. Its proposals should also contribute to the implementation of the water goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, growing tensions and disputes over water allocation and uses may undermine the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The panel is independent and tasked to outline concrete proposals/recommendations to enable water to be an instrument of peace. These proposals/recommendations will be nonbinding, and will address policy issues at all levels (global, regional, national, local). However, the panel will not make any country specific recommendations.

While the Panel functions outside the formal structure of the United Nations, it works in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the UN which is represented in the Panel through UN-Water as observer, taking into account already existing initiatives and organisations in the water sector.

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Additional information  
[www.genevawaterhub.org](http://www.genevawaterhub.org)  
[www.strategicforesight.com](http://www.strategicforesight.com)