

# 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 global mechanisms 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 1,570,000, plus contributions from partners

**Duration**

04.2017 – 03.2020

**Contact**

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The Blue Peace initiative has supported the work of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace. The panel officially launched in November 2015 presented the conclusion of its work compiled in a report called "A matter of survival" in September 2017. This set of proposal developed by the 15 co-convening countries aims at strengthening global mechanisms to prevent and resolve water-related tensions and conflicts, and facilitate the use of water for building peace. Switzerland is supporting the dissemination of the report and contributes to the implementation of the recommendations.

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 6 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 Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace was 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 was chaired by H.E. Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia. Launched in November 2015 in Geneva, the panel released its work in September 2017.

While the Panel has been functioning outside the formal structure of the United Nations, it worked in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the UN represented in the Panel through UN-Water (as observer), taking into account already existing initiatives and organisations in the water sector. In addition, and for offering some political

support to the work of the Panel, an informal 'Group of Friends' of Water and Peace has been created to encourage participation from additional countries. To this day, the Group of Friends has reunited up to 40 countries within the Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva.

This independent panel was tasked to outline concrete recommendations to enable water to be an instrument of peace. These non-binding recommendations address policy issues at all levels (global, regional, national, and local) but do not make any country-specific recommendations. The report is currently widely disseminated to the UN community, the civil society, the private sector, academic actors and philanthropic associations. Switzerland is now supporting through strategic partners, such as the Strategic Foresight Group or the Geneva Water Hub, the implementation of the panels' recommendations.

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**Additional information**

[www.genevawaterhub.org](http://www.genevawaterhub.org) (access to the report)  
[www.strategicforesight.com](http://www.strategicforesight.com)

