European Commission

Water and Beyond

EU transformative approaches for international partnerships

18 - 21 January 2021

AGENDA

This event is organised by:

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

European Commission

BORDA

UNECE

UNESCO

WaterAid

WOMEN FOR WATER PARTNERSHIP

Water and Beyond

EU transformative approaches for international partnerships

Together, the Government of Slovenia, the Government of Portugal and the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA – formerly DG DEVCO) are hosting the high-level event **'Water and beyond – EU transformative approaches for international partnerships', from 18 – 21 January 2021**.

'Water and Beyond' will deliver insights on how to strengthen transboundary cooperation, build broader partnerships and trigger water investments in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. It will create meaningful connections between thematic silos for the formulation and implementation of water policies, projects and programmes. It will also lay the groundwork for applying the European Union's priorities for International Partnerships in the water sector and will make the link with programming and the Team Europe approach.

The online event will stretch over four days, with high-level panels, thematic sessions and networking opportunities to facilitate contacts between participants with common interests who wish to foster ongoing or future cooperation.

The 4-day online event will gather:

•government representatives from the European Union institutions (Commission, Parliament, Delegations), from EU Member States and EU partner countries, including policy-makers from ministries addressing agriculture, energy, environment and water;
•national and international experts from private and public water entities, development agencies, financing institutions and civil society.

Seven technical sessions on various water-related topics will be flanked by a high-level opening and closing session led by relevant political leaders. Topics to be discussed include:

- Water as an equaliser: realising impact for human development
- Water as a catalyst for cooperation: fostering trust and peace
- Bridging the financial gap: investing in SDG 6
- The water-climate nexus: how to address the cascading crises
- With knowledge and skills: water as the engine for economic development and jobs
- Water and the Environment: resource management to support nature
- Water as a human right: working towards implementation with all partners

These sessions are co-hosted by prominent European and international partners in the water sector, namely: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Women for Water Partnership, WaterAid (WfWP), and Bremen Overseas Research & Development Association (BORDA). Each session will feature a number of high-level technical keynote speakers, among which are the EU Commissioner for Crisis Management, the Slovenian Minister for Development, the Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Executive Secretaries of several basin Commission, the Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, the UNECE Executive Secretary, the Associate Director for WASH at the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the CEO of Sanitation and Water for All.

The event will be held in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.

LIVE • ONLINE EVENT FROM THE BLOOM HOTEL, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.

European Union International Partnership Pillars

Each session will address the pillars and priorities
of the European Union for international partnerships, as follows:

Monday 18 January

First day : High-level Opening and Session 1

12:00-12:30 Registration

12:30–13:45 High-level Opening session

Welcome address

- Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission

Keynote presentation

- Water and inequalities, the role of EU to fill the gap by Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission
- Water for cooperation, water in external relations by Stanislav Raščan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Secretary, acting as Minister for Development of Slovenia

Facilitator: Chris Burns

Panel discussion on elements for a strategic approach on global and EU international partnerships in the water sector

Moderator: Chris Burns

- Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senegal
- Francisco André, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal (EU Council Presidency)
- Stanislav Raščan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Secretary, acting as Minister for Development of Slovenia
- Peter Burian, EU Special Representative for Central Asia, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Annelise Avril, SUEZ Group Senior Vice-President – Member of Aquafed, International Federation of Private Water Operators
- Anna Nilsdotter, Chief Executive of WaterAid Sweden

Interaction with participants

13:45–14:00 Break

14:00 -15:30 Session 1- Water as an equaliser: realising impact for human development

Pillar 5: EU International Partnership Priority on 'Governance, Peace and Security

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14:00–14:25 Introduction

Facilitator: Sara Ahrari, Programme Manager, Simavi

Keynote by Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Member of the European Parliament – Renew Europe Group (France), Committee on Development (DEVE)

14:25–15: 25 Panel discussion

- Kelly Ann Naylor, Associate Director, WASH, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- Sok Silo, Secretary-General Cambodia's Council for Agriculture & Rural Development (CARD)
- Tripti Rai, Country Director of WaterAid Nepal
- Maria Pilar Palmero Vaquero, Head of Unit – Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Burkina Faso
- María Neira, Director of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Ion Salaru, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Public Health Specialist, Republic of Moldova

15:25-15:30 Interaction with participants

15:30-16:00 Networking time

Tuesday 19 January

Second day: Sessions 2, 3 and 4

11:15-12:45 **Session 2 - Water as a catalyst for cooperation: fostering trust and peace**
Pillars 4 & 5: EU International Partnership Priority on 'Migration Partnerships' and 'Governance, Peace and Security'

11:15-11:40 **Introduction**
Facilitator: Monika Weber-Fahr, Senior Advisor, Water Global Solutions Group, World Bank (WB)

Keynote by Dominic Porter, Head of Division, Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Keynote by Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

11:40-12:15 **Panel discussion**

- Aleš Bizjak, International Water Policy Expert, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia
- Ben Ampomah, Executive Secretary, Water Resources Commission, Ghana
- Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Commission
- Dina Ionesco, Head of Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Muna Luqman, Founder and Chairperson of Food4Humanity, Yemen

12:15-12:45 **Interaction with the audience**

12:45-13:15 **Networking time**

13:15-14:45 **Session 3 - Bridging the financial gap: investing in SDG 6**
Pillars 1-5: EU International Partnership Priorities

13:15-13:35 **Introduction**
Facilitator: Christian Severin, Coordinator International Waters, Global Environment Facility

Bridging the current financial gap for SDG 6, **keynote by** Catarina de Albuquerque, CEO, Sanitation and Water for All

13:35-13:40 **Questions and answers**

13:40-14:30 **Parallel break-out groups: Setting the current context on finance for water and challenges and opportunities**

Group 1: Setting the current context: finance for water and challenges and opportunities

- Chilufya Chileshe, Interim Global Policy Director, WaterAid Southern Africa
- Karine Measson, Head of the Water Management Division, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Céline Robert, Head of the Water and Sanitation Division, French Development Agency (AFD)
- Dominique Gatel, Vice President of Public Affairs/Water, Veolia Environment

Group 2: Setting the current context: finance for water and challenges and opportunities

- Francis Bougaire, Manager, Water Coordination and Partnerships Division, African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Toma Yanakiev, Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank (WB)
- Markus Theobald, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Lesotho
- Leonard Shang-Quartey, Policy Analyst, Water Citizens Network, Ghana

14:45-15:20 **Networking time**

15:20-16:50 **Session 4 - The water-climate nexus: how to address the cascading crises**

Pillar 1: EU International Partnership Priorities on 'Green Deal'

15:20-15:40 **Introduction**

Facilitators: Maggie White, Stockholm International Water Institute and Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

EU perspective on water and climate change interlinkages and introduction to the European Green Deal, keynote by Pär Holmgren, Member of the European Parliament – Group of the Greens (Sweden), Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

How to mainstream water and transboundary cooperation into climate policies on the global and national levels, keynote by Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands

15:40-16:15 **Panel discussion**

- Elena Višnar Malinovská, Head of Unit - Adaptation to climate change, cities, international cooperation, Directorate General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), European Commission
- Hasin Jahan, Country Director, WaterAid Bangladesh
- Antonio Cañas Calderón, Chief of the Technical Cabinet, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador
- Didier Zinsou, Director of the Niger Basin Observatory, Niger
- Iryna Stavchuk, Deputy Minister on European Integration, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ukraine

16:15-16:45 **Interaction with participants**

16:45-16:50 **Conclusions**

Conclusions by Tina Mlinaric, Advocacy Adviser on the water and climate campaign, WaterAid

16:50-17:20 **Networking time**

Wednesday 20 January

Third day: Sessions 5 and 6

12:30-14:00 **Session 5 - With knowledge and skills: water as the engine for economic development and jobs**
Pillar 3: EU International Partnership Priority on 'Alliances for Sustainable Growth and Jobs'

12:30-12:55 **Introduction**
Facilitators: Murray Biedler, Project Officer, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Lesha Witmer, Steering Committee, Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

Keynote on water and jobs by:

- Michela Miletto, Coordinator and Director, World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Moshood Tijani, African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

Video: Human Capacity Development in Africa's Water Sector

12:55-13:20 **Panel Discussion**

- Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) Secretariat responsible on the Water Policies and Development
- César Carmona Moreno, Senior Expert, Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- Antonella Vagliente, General Director, Young Water Solutions (YWS)
- Pieter Hoekstra and Erna van der Werff, Project Cordinators, Platform of Vocational Excellence Water

13:20-13:25 **Questions and answers**

13:25-13:45 **Parallel break-out groups sessions on key thematic issues**

13:45-13:55 **Report back by group rapporteurs**

13:55-14:00 **Closing by Facilitators**

14:00-14:30 **Networking time**

14:30–16:00 Session 6 - Water and the Environment: resource management to support nature

Pillar 1: EU International Partnership Priorities on 'Green Deal'

14:30-14:35 **Introduction**

Facilitator: Lesha Witmer, Steering Committee, Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

14:35-14:50

- **South Africa's sanitation choices to reduce the impact on the environment, keynote presentation** by Nchedi Moripe, Chief Director, Global Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships, Water and Sanitation Department, South Africa

14:50-15:35 **Panel Discussion**

- Philippe Mayaux, Head of Sector Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Unit Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, Directorate-General for International Partnership (DG INTPA), European Commission
- Marlos de Souza, Team Leader Nexus, Land and Water Division, Food and Agriculture Division (FAO)
- Stanzin Tsephel, Regional Director for South Asia, Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA)
- Jennifer Williams, Executive Director, Faecal Sludge Management Alliance (FSMA)
- Silvia Saravia Matus, Economic Affairs Officer, Water and Energy Unit, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC)

15:35-15:55 **Discussion with the audience**

15:55-16:00 **Closing by Facilitator**

16:00-16:30 **Networking time**

Thursday 21 January

Fourth day: Session 7 and Closing of the event

12:30 -14:00 **Session 7 - Water as a human right: working towards implementation with all partners**
Pillar 5: EU International Partnership Priority on 'Governance, Peace and Security'

12:30-12:50 **Introduction**
Facilitator: Lesha Witmer, Steering Committee, Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

Keynote by Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

12:50-13:45 **Panel discussion**

- Luisa Ragher, Head of Human Rights Division, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Tseguereda Abraham, Head of Sector Strengthening, WaterAid Ethiopia
- Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, President, Women for Water Partnership
- Neil Dhot, Executive Director of Aquafed, International Federation of Private Water Operators

13:45-13:55 **Interaction with the audience**

13:55-14:00 **Conclusions**

14:00-14:30 **Networking time**

14:30-16:00 Closing session

14:30-14:45 Introduction

Facilitator: Chris Burns
Key takeaways from the event sessions– and next steps/ timeline by
Arnaud de Vanssay, Team Leader for Water, Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources Unit, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission

14:45-15:45 Dialogue: How to promote water in international partnerships and in the EU current programming?

Moderator: Chris Burns

- Chantal Marijnissen, Head of Unit Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission
- Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Ben Ampomah, Executive Secretary, Water Resources Commission, Ghana
- Céline Robert, Head of the Water and Sanitation Division, French Development Agency (AFD)

15:45-16:00 Closing remarks

Reflections by: Ana Novak, Development Cooperation Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU

Closing by: Carla Montesi, Director for Green Deal and Digital Agenda, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission