

**Women in Water Diplomacy Network and the Red Dot Foundation and partners
Confirmed Official Side Event**



UN
**2023 WATER
CONFERENCE**

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

Entitled: 'Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy'

UN Water Conference | New York City, NY, USA | Date/Time to be confirmed March 22, 23, or 24

MINUTES	AGENDA 'Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy' SIDE EVENT
0-5	Welcome, Protocol Observance, and Introduction to the Side Event Felix Ngamlagosi, Executive Secretary, Zambezi Watercourse Commission (TBC)
6-20	Introduction to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Our Shared Commitments to the 2023 UN Water Action Agenda Elizabeth A. Koch, Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Team Lead for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (Confirmed); and Tais Reznikova, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and Network Process Support Team (Confirmed)
21-55	High Level Panel: Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy <i>Panel Moderated by Dr Saule Ospanova, Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe</i> Expert Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johanna Sumuvuori, Secretary of State, Finland (TBC) • Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, United States (TBC) • Foman Forough, Former Director General of the Kabul River Basin, Afghanistan (Confirmed) • Merrell-Ann Phare, Commissioner to the International Joint Commission, Canada (Confirmed) • Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director, Water Practice, World Bank (TBC) • Commissioner Bogadi T. Mathangwane, Orange-Senqu Basin Commission (ORASECOM), Botswana (TBC) • Kathryn Bryk Friedman, North American Arctic Policy Advisor, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (Confirmed)
56-66	Water intelligence: A prerequisite for addressing global water crises Dr Irena Creed, Vice-Principal Research & Innovation at University of Toronto Scarborough Book Launch: Recognizing Women Water Thought Leaders – from India to Canada ElsaMarie Dsilva, Red Dot Foundation
66-75	A Call to Partnership and Shared Action to transform the status quo, elevate women experts and decision makers, and foster inclusive decision making in critical water and climate dialogues – shared reading of the 'A Rising Tide of support for women in water diplomacy' Joint Statement; Read by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yodit Balcha, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Ethiopia; • Kerry Schneider, Senior Program Manager, SIWI, Sweden; • Aziza Sharofova Khamza kizi, Women in Water Management Network, Uzbekistan; • Omair Ahmad, Third Pole, India; • Firmina Acuba, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Member, Uganda; • Hussain Yusuf Ali, Director of Planning, Office of the President, Somalia; and • Tumaini Mwamyalla, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Tanzania.
	GROUP PICTURE – all consortia members, speakers and event participants are welcome to join in the side event group picture

Co-Convening Partners Include:

- The Women in Water Diplomacy Network and its partners including the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), the Orange Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) representing Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, and South Africa ; the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) representing Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe; the International Joint Commission (IJC) representing the United States and Canada; UNDP Cap-Net; UNESCO International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC); Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (CAREC) representing Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI); the Environmental Law Institute (ELI); the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the World Bank Equal Aqua, The Environmental Peacebuilding Association (EnPax); the Sudanese Youth for Water Parliament; the Community of Women in Water – Latin America; the Global Water Institute at the University of Saskatchewan; IHE Delft; and The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center
- The Red Dot Foundation and the Global Diplomacy Lab Secretariat at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Run of Show **UNDER DEVELOPMENT**:

AGENDA SESSION	KEY MESSAGES:
<p>Welcome, Protocol Observance, and Introduction to the Side Event Felix Ngamlagosi, Executive Secretary, Zambezi Watercourse Commission (TBC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome on behalf of ZAMCOM • Recognition of the large number of consortium partners engaged in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and new partners for this event including RedDot Foundation • Highlighting the submitted joint Commitments to the Water Action Decade on behalf of the consortia partners • Protocol observation – recognition of ministers and high-level supporters joining the event • Introduction to the event • If Felix is unable to attend and start the event due to visa challenges, Yodit will do the welcoming and someone else will replace her as a reader.
<p>Introduction to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Our Shared Commitments to the 2023 UN Water Action Agenda Elizabeth A. Koch, Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Team Lead for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (Confirmed); and Tais Reznikova, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and Network Process Support Team (Confirmed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network • Short #herstory review of the Network’s development • Recognition of the Network members in the room and the many who were unable to join due to financial, political, administrative, and other barriers to participation • Grateful for the opportunity to elevate the importance of inclusive water diplomacy with focus on women-led engagements at the UN Water Conference • Short outline of the Network’s Global Strategy • Call to partnership and resourcing of women-led engagements
<p>High Level Panel: Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy <i>Panel Moderated by Dr Saule Ospanova</i>, Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe Expert Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johanna Sumuvuori, Secretary of State, Finland (TBC) • Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, United States (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO introduction of the panel and individual panellists, panellist take their seats in the front of the room • JS: Ongoing support for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network; Alignment with Finnish Way of Water; key Finnish commitments to gender inclusion in Water Action Decade • TT: Ongoing US Support for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network; Alignment to US Global Water Strategy and White House priorities; key US

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foman Forough, Former Director General of the Kabul River Basin, Afghanistan (Confirmed) • Merrell-Ann Phare, Commissioner to the International Joint Commission, Canada (Confirmed) • Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director, Water Practice, World Bank (TBC) • Commissioner Bogadi T. Mathangwane, Orange-Senqu Basin Commission (ORASECOM), Botswana (TBC) • Kathryn Bryk Friedman, North American Arctic Policy Advisor, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (Confirmed) 	<p>commitments to gender inclusion in Water Action Decade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FF: Central Asia and Afghanistan Network engagement, including Afghan women; Keeping Afghan women water leaders voices at the table through the Network; importance of sisterhood • M-AP: Ongoing IJC partnership with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network; Support for the development of North American Network; Importance of learning from Nile Network as we all face water insecurity; key IJC commitments to gender inclusion in Water Action Decade • SKJ: Ongoing World Bank/CIWA/Equal Aqua partnership with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network; Support for benchmarking and data collection to ensure women’s equal representation in water decision making; key World Bank commitments to gender inclusion in Water Action Decade • BM: Stronger together – growth of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network across Southern Africa; SADC/ORASECOM Commitments to gender inclusion in the Water Action Decade • KBF: <i>To be developed</i> • SO: Closing panel remarks
<p>Water intelligence: A prerequisite for addressing global water crises Dr Irena Creed, Vice-Principal Research & Innovation at University of Toronto Scarborough</p> <p>Book Launch: Recognizing Women Water Thought Leaders – from India to Canada ElsaMarie Dsilva, Red Dot Foundation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IC: <i>To be developed</i> • EMD: <i>To be developed</i> • Recognition Colleen of Women+Water who is included in the book and in the session, encourage session participants to sign up with the Women+Water Expert List today or online (have Colleen raise her hand)
<p>A Call to Partnership and Shared Action to transform the status quo, elevate women experts and decision makers, and foster inclusive decision making in critical water and climate dialogues – shared reading of the ‘A Rising Tide of support for women in water diplomacy’ Joint Statement; Read by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yodit Balcha, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Ethiopia; • Kerry Schneider, Senior Program Manager, SIWI, Sweden; • Aziza Sharofova Khamza kizi, Women in Water Management Network, Uzbekistan; • Omair Ahmad, Third Pole, India; • Firmina Acuba, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Member, Uganda; • Hussain Yusuf Ali, Director of Planning, Office of the President, Somalia; and • Tumaini Mwamyalla, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Tanzania. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Reading of the ‘A Rising Tide’ Joint Statement. • Elizabeth will help arrange the speakers in order and provide everyone with their portion of the reading in advance • Readers are subject to change should someone not get a visa or otherwise be unable to change. Focus will remain on women water diplomats for reading roles. • If Felix is unable to attend and start the event due to visa challenges, Yodit will do the welcoming and someone else will replace her as a reader.

Communications Plan:

Event flyer developed to include: All consortia member logos, Speaker headshots and titles (not including joint statement readers)

- End of Feb:** Initial announcement of side event
- Early March:** Event details released; event webpage content released on partner websites
- March 8:** Event highlighted in Women in Water Diplomacy International Women's Day online event
- March 8:** Event highlighted in Environmental Law Institute podcast on International Women's Day, the March edition of the Environmental Law Forum publication
- Mid March:** Social media push across all consortia member channels
- March 22:** Social media final push as the UN Water Conference kicks off
- Event day:** Live tweeting on several channels (ICWC, UN Water Conference COMs, IJC, who else?); Facebook live event shared across consortia members sites
- Post event:** Recording 'cleaned up' and shared across consortia member social media and website pages.

Logistical Questions for Discussion:

- Will there be online participation options? Streaming?
- Will the side event be recorded?
- What is the capacity of the room we will be assigned?
- Elizabeth is in touch with the UN Water Communication teams who have expressed willingness to attend and live tweet our side event