

## Fostering Peace before, during and after Water-related Disasters World Water Week 2024 in Stockholm

**Date & Time:** 14:00-15:30 on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Room:** A2, Level 6e

**Conveners:** High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP), Geneva Water Hub (GWA), Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), and UNCRD/UNDESA

### Session description:

Peace and water are interlinked. Throughout history, there have been more cases when water-related disaster become opportunities between riparian countries by sharing critical information and extending support to affected neighboring countries. In the past fifty years, water was used as an agent for peace in 1,200 diplomatic events, or two thirds of the 1,800 total events on water. Leaders can position water as strategic means for peace, and discuss diplomatic ways to materialize it. On the other hand, water infrastructure which are vital for human survival may become targets of malicious forces. Construction and repair of water infrastructure in the situation of fragile peace setting is difficult. Facilities and workers related to water and other essential services should be protected from military offense even in wars and conflicts.

The session will discuss the actions at the time of water hazards to foster peace among countries based on a set of recommendations compiled as HELP Principles to Peace before, during and after Water-related Disasters. We will also discuss how to implement “The Spirit of Bandung: A Call to Actions”, a key outcome document of the Bandung Spirit Water Summit of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, focusing on its water and peace chapter.

### Draft Agenda:

- 14:00-14:05 Opening and objectives of the session by the moderator, Prof. Kenzo Hiroki, Coordinator of HELP / Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) of Japan
- 14:05-14:10 Welcome remarks by the co-organizing organization(s)
- Prof. Mark Zeitoun, Director General, Geneva Water Hub
- 14:10-14:25 Briefing on the “The Spirit of Bandung: A Call to Actions”
- 14:25-15:25 Panel Discussion on “fostering Peace before, during and after Water-related Disasters”
- Panelists (in alphabetical order)
- Ms. Anesa Colakovic, Member of the World Youth Parliament for Water
  - Mr. Satoshi Ishii, Director, Strategy and Partnerships Team, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Group, Asian Development Bank
  - Mr. Muyatwa Sitali, Head of Country Engagement, Sanitation and Water for All
  - Mr. Yosuke Tomizawa, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan
  - Prof. Mark Zeitoun, Director General, Geneva Water Hub
- 15:25-15:30 Summary and Closing by the moderator