



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission
of Pakistan to the
United Nations

The Permanent Missions of Finland, Senegal and Pakistan

invite you to

A Concept for Change

What we mean when we talk about water security

Tuesday, October 25 from 8:15 am to 9:30 am

Venue: Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations
605 Third Avenue (between 39th and 40th), 35th Floor
New York, NY, 10158

Kindly **RSVP** via [THIS LINK](#) by Friday 21 October COB

Please see the concept and program on the next page.

Background

The UN Water Conference 2023 marks a critical juncture for global water policy and is an opportunity that cannot be missed. Political will and ambition is needed to ensure the UN Water Conference serves to transform water action. The Conference can be the moment through which the world set a roadmap and timeline towards ensuring Water Security for All.

Reaching an international agreement on the concept of Water Security would serve to accelerate action in a similar way that the agreement of the concept of Food Security transformed food assistance and livelihoods work from 1995 onwards.

With Water Security we refer to the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of and acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socioeconomic development, for ensuring protection against waterborne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability.

Recognizing that the aim of our efforts should be a water secure world means cooperating across borders and across communities to ensure that our increasingly scarce freshwater sources are shared in a manner that protects the lives and livelihoods of all that depend on it. This is especially relevant for shared groundwater resources, which can be a great source of economic growth, development and cooperation, if used in a sustainable and well-managed way.

Even though water is the very conduit of cooperation between and among states the water agenda has been largely absent at the United Nations for decades. This has to change. The Cross Regional Statement on Water in 2021 shows with 176 signatures that there is broad consensus on advancing water issues within the UN membership.

We need to work together to turn that broad consensus into Action, because we are running out of Time, and we are running out of Water. This is why we are convening this side-event to initiate a dialogue on how agreeing on the concept of Water Security can serve to galvanize Water Action Agenda's success.

Programme

- Introductions by Mr. Antti Rautavaara, Special Envoy for Water
- Keynote speech by Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Chief, Transboundary section UNECE
- Commentary by Mr. Federico Properzi, UN Water
- Remarks by Mr. Diamane Diome, Minister Counsellor, Senegal
- Panel Discussion moderated by Mr. Antti Rautavaara, Special Envoy for Water (Finland):

What would agreeing on the concept mean for water action?

- o Mr. Aidan Cronin, UNICEF Water Director (acting)
- o Mr. Joel Kolker, The World Bank
- o Mr. Johannes Cullman, Office of the President of the General Assembly
- o Ms. Angie Saleh, Sanitation and Water for All
- Q&A
- Short Recap of Discussions and Way Forward, Ms. Sofie Sandström, First Secretary, Finland