



PGA Stakeholder Consultation for the UN 2023 Water Conference

24 October 2022

Roundtable 2: Capacity Development - 11h35-13h20 (EDT)

Statement by Ms. Noura Kayal on behalf of the Geneva Water Hub

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am speaking on behalf of the Geneva Water Hub

Water is complex by nature.

Knowledge of multiple fields and intersectoral understanding of those fields are necessary to even start grasping the complexity of water. And Nothing shows the need to think beyond our border more than the use of water as a tool for sustainable peace. It reveals how interdependent we are. Any move we make benefits – or affects – others who are connected.

The Geneva Water Hub is a competence center on water for peace of the University of Geneva and is honored by a UNESCO Chair in Hydropolitics.

Part of our focus in capacity development is directed towards students coming to Geneva to learn more about water resources and its use for peace building and sustainable peace. We also disseminate knowledge resources globally through **open platforms, including free education programs with certifications.**

But to be serious about sparing water, and sharing water, for peace, then we should answer what capacity needs to be in place at the local, regional and global level, for example, to negotiate an equitable transboundary arrangement or to implement it in a sustainable way.

Therefore, a lot more of *institutional and technical support* is required globally to effectively ensure availability and sustainable management of water. In a way, good governance also starts with capacity development. So, as much as good governance and infrastructure is required, we need to ensure that States, administrative regions, and communities have the capacity to negotiate, to base position on international law, to advocate along a single water body on what is best for all, and to be able to take the steps necessary to get towards peace or to maintain peace along the water body.

Strengthening the work of regional economic commissions in the field of water and peace would support this endeavor.

Particular attention must be made on *the territorialization of knowledge* and capacity development. In this endeavor, the training of women and youth has to be central. The renewal of water professional is still, in many countries, a huge challenge. Part of that is due



to the lack of knowledge, but also to the **lack of provision of knowledge in local languages**. This goes beyond providing free or cost-effective training on the water resource, as we need to address real barriers to capacity development. The provision of knowledge and training in a language that is easily understandable and clear remains one of them.

With those tools at hands, the capacity development will create much stronger conditions for peace.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Executive Summary:

Water is complex by nature: we should not oversimplify, but we have to be clear when providing with knowledge, especially on water and peace. Game changers would be three things: 1) the territorialization of knowledge – in a clear and local language; 2) Strengthening the regional architecture for water and peace for supporting negotiation of fair and informed agreements or equitable implementation of agreements; 3) the provision of free or cost-effective training programs can be valorize through certification.