



PGA Stakeholder Consultation for the UN 2023 Water Conference

24 October 2022

Roundtable 3: Data and information - 14h20-16h05 (EDT)

Statement by Dr. Mara Tignino on behalf of the Geneva Water Hub

Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor,

Dear colleagues,

My name is Mara Tignino and I represent the Geneva Water Hub, a Competence Centre on water for peace, of the University of Geneva and the Geneva Graduate Institute. The Geneva Water Hub underlines the role of international water law to ensure the exchange of data and information – as part of sharing water equitably and sparing water during times of armed conflict.

The sharing of information will help to ensure three main objectives: 1) prevention of unilateral projects on transboundary watercourses; 2) prevention of conflicts; 3) building peace. I would further like to draw attention to the importance of considering the *quality* of information as well as the availability in the access to it. Specifically, we want to underline the importance of:

- Data and information, based on independent and objective scientific studies, must be shared between States sharing a transboundary water resource, according to the principles of international water law.
- Independent and objective scientific data and information must be notified to a State which risk to be affected by a planned measure prior that the project is implemented by a riparian country.
- Cooperative process established by riparian countries should include rules dealing with access to data and information to the public. Access and exchange of data supports trust building if done in an open way.

I thank you, Madam Chair.