

UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogue

**Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and
International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral
Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation,
and Water Across the 2030 Agenda
(SDG 6.5, 6.b and SDGs 16, 17)**

23 March 2023, 15:00 - 18:00 EDT | Conference Room 4 UNHQ, New York



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**NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023**

Co-chairs

Co-chair: H.E. Mr. Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Water and Sanitation of Senegal

Minister Serigne Mbaye THIAM was a Member of Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Economy and Finance and General Rapporteur of the Budget at the National Assembly of Senegal. Minister Serigne Mbaye THIAM was also a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO and a member of the UNESCO International Commission on the Future of Education by 2050. Mr. Serigne Mbaye THIAM is since April 2019 Minister of Water and Sanitation. In this capacity, he is the current Chair of the Council of Ministers of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS in French).



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Co-chair: H.E. Mr. Christian Frutiger, State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation

Ambassador Christian Frutiger is Assistant Director General and Head of Thematic Cooperation. Christian took up his current responsibilities on 1st September 2022. From 2019 to 2022 he was heading Global Cooperation at SDC, which included five thematic sections, Switzerland's support to the UN and the World Bank, plus the SDC's Strategy Team. Before joining SDC in 2019, Christian worked at the International Committee of the Red Cross in a number of field and headquarters positions, as well as in the private sector.



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Moderator

Moderator: Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)

Ms. Rola Dashti is the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Ms. Dashti is a leading Kuwaiti economist and long-time champion of women's rights, gender equality and democratic reform. She served as member of the Supreme Planning Council in Kuwait. From 2012 to 2014, she was Minister for Planning and Development and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.



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Panelists

Keynote: H.E. Mr. Tran Hong Ha, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam



H.E. Mr. Tran Hong Ha has a Ph.D in Political theory. He is advanced - Alternate member of the 11th Party Central Committee. H.E. has worked at the Environment Department under the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment in various capacities since 1996.



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Panelist: H.E Mr. Hassan Nasir Jamy, Deputy Minister, Federal Secretary of Water Resources of Pakistan

Mr. Jamy is a member of **Pakistan's Civil Services**, with more than 33 years of work experience in a variety of core disciplines in the public sector. Before working as Federal Secretary, he worked as the Secretary of the Privatisation Ministry, Aviation Ministry, and the Climate Change Ministry. During his various assignments, he has supervised the Federal Flood Commission, Indus System River Authority, **Pakistan Water & Power Development Authority**, Pakistan Commission for Indus Waters, **Pakistan Meteorological Department**, National Energy Conservation and Efficiency Authority, and Global Climate Change Impact Studies Centre, among others.



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Panelist: Mr. Ahmet Mete SAATÇI, Emeritus Professor, Member of the Board of Governors of World Water Council 2019-2022 of Türkiye



Professor Saatçi was a member of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) Scientific Committee between 2005 and 2011. He served as Vice Secretary General of the 5th World Water Forum held in Istanbul in 2009. During this mission, he gave speeches in 18 countries (Bosnia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Saudi Arabia Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, and USA). He served as the President of the European Network of Basin Organizations (Europe-INBO) for the 2012-2013 period. He is a member of the Bureau of the World Water Council and was in the Governing Board of UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education. He is an observer in the European Environmental Agency Scientific Committee. He also served as the Vice Chairman of Ilisu Dam and HEPP Project Scientific Committee. Currently, Professor Saatçi serves as a consultant to Turkish State Hydraulic Works (DSİ).



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Panelist: Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)



On 13 April 2017, the Secretary-General appointed Ms. Olga Algayerova of Slovakia as the next Executive Secretary of the UNECE. She took office on 1 June 2017. Ms. Algayerova brings to the position a combination of leadership and diplomatic skills with deep knowledge of the region with its challenges and opportunities and a strong focus on building and nurturing partnerships among key stakeholders with the United Nations. Prior to her appointment, she served as Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the International Organizations in Vienna, Austria (since 2012).



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Lead Discussants

Lead Discussant: H.E. Mr. Norbert Totschnig, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of the Republic of Austria

H.E. Mr. Norbert Totschnig is the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of the Republic of Austria. The Federal Minister has 20 years of experience in federal and agricultural policy. As a bridge-builder he understands how to reconcile economic, ecological and socio-political interests. His work in the field of politics has been characterized by a future-oriented and balancing attitude for 20 years.



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Lead Discussant: H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk, Lead Political Advisor - Geneva Water Hub, President of Club de Madrid and Former President of Slovenia



H.E. Mr. Danilo had a rich and varied career as an academic, as a diplomat and as UN official. In the years 1984-1992, he wrote several UN reports on human rights. In the years 1992-2000 he was Ambassador, Permanent representative of Slovenia to the UN in New York. He served on the UN Security Council in 1998-1999 and was President of the Security Council twice. Between 2000-2005, he served as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, at the invitation of Mr. Kofi Annan, then UN Secretary-General. In the year 2016 he was a candidate for the post of UN Secretary-General.



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Lead Discussant: Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Public International Law at the University of Bonn, Governing Council member Itaipú Binacional

Ms. Maria A. Gwynn is currently a Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Public International Law at the University of Bonn. Her research focuses on international law concerns the international cooperation in the uses of shared resources. Ms. Gwynn's research interests also lie in analysing international treaties to identify different forms of sovereignty costs derived from them and how they can be diminished. She analyses legal and political factors in asymmetrical international negotiations and is currently investigating the upcoming renegotiation of the most important hydroelectrical energy treaty (the Itaipu treaty) in the South American region as a case study.



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Lead Discussant: Mr. Daouda Samba SOW, Secretary General of Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG)



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