



UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event:

Water, Peace, and Security in Africa

22.3.2023 at 11.00 @ ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters

Organized by the Permanent Missions of Finland, Senegal and Switzerland to the United Nations and the African Union Commission

Background:

On 22 March 2023, an inaugural side event on Water, Peace, and Security in Africa was co-organized by the African Union Commission, the Permanent Missions of Finland, Senegal, and Switzerland to the United Nations on the margins of the UN Water Conference in New York. The side event highlighted the role of water in enhancing peace and security and identified key opportunities and challenges in transboundary water cooperation by bringing in the perspectives of national governments, the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), and relevant organizations.

Key recommendations for action:

- Sharing of best practices between different countries and regions on transboundary water cooperation and management;
- Leveraging cooperation on shared waters as an entry point for broader regional and continental cooperation, including on peace and security;
- Investing in governance institutions and hard infrastructure to facilitate win-win outcomes in transboundary water cooperation and management, including demand-driven and context-specific support to local, regional, and continental stakeholders and organizations;
- Synergizing the water-energy-food security nexus;
- Utilizing water agreements and international water law/principles to facilitate cooperation and the development of a common vision;