



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES  
**WATER RESOURCES  
RESEARCH CENTER**



## Water Diplomacy Symposium 2023: A Global Experience Exchange Organized on the side of the 2023 UN Water Conference

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 | 8:30-17:00 NYC time | Volvo Hall, Scandinavian House,  
58 Park Ave, New York City, New York, United States | In-person participation only

### Engagement Summary:

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network in partnership with the Environmental Law Institute, the Stockholm International Water Institute, the International Joint Commission, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the University of Arizona are pleased to convene this 2023 Water Diplomacy Symposium directly in advance of the 2023 UN Water Conference in New York City. The objective of this one-day program is to enable networking, partnerships and experience and good practice exchange amongst participating formal and informal water diplomats attending the UN Water Conference with focus on critical themes of importance to transboundary basins globally, and water insecure and conflict sensitive basins in particular. This event is expected to engage an estimated 80 water diplomats from around the world with special focus on women water leaders.

**The Women in Water Diplomacy Network** consists of members of the [Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile \(initiated in 2017\)](#), the [Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan \(initiated in 2021\)](#) as well as the supporters of both networks and representatives of newly developing basin communities in Africa and the Americas including the Zambezi River Basin Commission (ZAMCOM), the Okavango River Basin Commission (OKACOM), the Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) and the (US-Canada) International Joint Commission (IJC). The Networks are ‘informal engagements for formal actors’ and include representatives of the Ministries of Water and Foreign Affairs or other related ministries as well as informal influential intermediaries such as academics and civil society leaders from dozens of countries on the frontlines of water insecurity including Afghanistan, Angola, Botswana, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**The Women in Water Diplomacy Network and partners will host an official side event during the UN Water Conference on March 22 at 15:30 in UN Side Event Room A entitled ‘Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy’ for details please see: <https://www.eli.org/events/elevating-critical-voices-water-diplomacy>! For a complete list of WWDN events at the UN Water Conference please see summary at the bottom of this document.**

**Partners and financial resources are currently being sought to support the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Global Strategy ‘[A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security](#),’ for details please contact: Elizabeth A. Koch, Network Process Support Team Lead at [koch@eli.org](mailto:koch@eli.org).**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



## Water Diplomacy Symposium Program

Time (EST)	Tuesday, March 21, 2023
8:30-9:00	<p><b>Registration and Morning Coffee</b>  <i>All participants are invited to register and network over coffee and light refreshments in advance of the formal start of the program. Participants are encouraged to bring materials to share as part of an information table at registration.</i></p>
9:00-9:20	<p><b>Introduction to the Global Water Diplomacy Symposium and the Women in Water Diplomacy Network</b>  <b>Elizabeth A. Koch</b>, Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Lead for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network</p>
9:21-9:30	<p><b>Welcome Address: Johanna Sumuvuori</b>, State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland</p>
9:31-9:40	<p><b>Welcome Address: Julien Katchinoff</b>, Water Team Lead, Office of Conservation and Water, United States Department of State</p>
9:41-9:55	<p><b>Welcome Address: Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare</b> (Canadian Section) and <b>Commissioner Robert C. Sisson</b> (US Section), International Joint Commission</p>
9:55-11:10	<p><b>Session 1: Tools of Inclusive Water Diplomacy for all scales</b>  <b>Facilitated by: Kerry Schneider</b>, Senior Program Manager, Shared Waters Partnership, Stockholm International Water Institute  <b>Expert Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yodit Balcha</b>, Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council, Ethiopia</li> <li>• <b>Dr Saule Ospanova</b>, Senior Environmental Affairs Advisor, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe</li> <li>• <b>Governor Stephen Roe Lewis</b>, Gila River Indian Community</li> <li>• <b>Viviane Kinyaga</b>, Water Management Specialist, Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM), South Africa</li> <li>• <b>Dr Anders Jägerskog</b>, Program Manager, Cooperation on International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund, World Bank</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A with all Symposium participants</b></p>
11:10-11:25	<p><b>Technical Break: Opportunity to stretch your legs and chat with the assembled water diplomats from around the world</b></p>
11:25-12:40	<p><b>Session 2: Effective Consultation and Community Engagement in Water Diplomacy Processes</b>  <b>Facilitated by: Dr Sharon B. Megdal</b>, Director of The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center  <b>Expert Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lyazzat Syrlybayeva</b>, Co-Lead of the Central Asia Youth for Water Network, Women in Water Diplomacy Network member, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• <b>Commissioner Henry Lickers</b>, Canadian Section, International Joint Commission</li> <li>• <b>Chairwoman Amelia Flores</b>, Colorado River Indian Tribes</li> <li>• <b>Phera Ramoeli</b>, Executive Secretary, Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A with all Symposium participants</b></p>

<b>12:40-14:00</b>	<b>Group picture and lunch for all participating delegates and a great opportunity for informal networking with basin representatives from around the world. Participants are welcome to use the Scandinavia House’s garden as well as explore the gallery over lunch.</b>
<b>14:00-15:10</b>	<p><b>Session 3: The Power of Information Exchange</b>  <b>Facilitated by Dr Faith Sternlieb</b>, Associate Director for Stakeholder Engagement, the Internet of Water Initiative at the Lincoln Institute’s Center for Geospatial Solutions</p> <p><b>Expert Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sylvester Anthony Matemu</b>, Executive Director, Nile Basin Initiative Representative</li> <li>• <b>Dr Dinara Ziganshina</b>, Director at the Scientific Information Centre of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination, Uzbekistan</li> <li>• <b>Dr Melissa McCracken</b>, Assistant Professor of International Environmental Policy at the Fletcher School at Tufts University</li> <li>• <b>Dr Sharon B. Megdal</b>, Water &amp; Tribes Initiative   Colorado River Basin Leadership Team</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A with all Symposium participants</b></p>
<b>15:10-15:25</b>	<b>Technical Break: Opportunity to stretch your legs and chat with the assembled water diplomats from around the world</b>
<b>15:25-16:35</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Managing for Uncertainty in an Era of Climate Change</b>  <b>Facilitated by: Assistant Secretary Tanya Trujillo</b>, Department of the Interior, United States</p> <p><b>Expert Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambassador Tanja Miškova</b>, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador-at-Large for Water Diplomacy, Slovenia</li> <li>• <b>Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner</b>, International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section</li> <li>• <b>Commissioner Adriana Reséndez Maldonado</b>, International Boundary and Water Commission, Mexico Section</li> <li>• <b>Zafar Makhmudov</b>, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), Tajikistan</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A with all Symposium participants</b></p>
<b>16:35-16:45</b>	<p><b>Updates on Women in Water Diplomacy Network Official Side Event inside the UN and other key events during the UN Water Conference</b>  <b>Elizabeth A. Koch</b>, Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Lead for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network</p>
<b>16:45-17:00</b>	<p><b>Closing remarks and Exit Survey</b>  <b>Jessica Troell</b>, Senior Attorney and Director of the International Water Program, Environmental Law Institute  <i>All participants are kindly asked to complete the exit survey before departing.</i></p>

## Collected Expert Speakers and Discussant/Participants Biographies

**Aaron T. Wolf** (United States; Confirmed) is a Professor of Geography in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University. His research and teaching focus is on the interaction between water science and water policy, particularly as related to conflict prevention and resolution. He has acted as a consultant to the World Bank and several international government agencies on various aspects of transboundary water resources and dispute resolution. Wolf is a trained mediator/ facilitator and directs the Program in Water Conflict Management and Transformation, through which he has offered workshops, facilitations, and mediation in basins throughout the world. He coordinates the Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database and is a co-director of the Universities Partnership on Transboundary Waters. He has been an author/editor for seven books, as well as almost 50 journal articles, book chapters, and professional reports on various aspects of transboundary waters.



**Adam Schempp** (United States; Confirmed) joined ELI as a Staff Attorney in 2007. He leads the Institute's work on water allocation and use in the United States. Much of Mr. Schempp's research focuses on water resource management, specifically identifying opportunities to meet conservation and sustainability objectives through existing laws and potential legal developments. Mr. Schempp also has worked extensively on other topics, including TMDLs and CWA 303(d) listing under the Clean Water Act, marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management of marine resources, and routine program changes under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Prior to joining ELI, Mr. Schempp clerked in the legal department of the Denver Water Board and for the Native American Rights Fund.



**Dr Adanech Yared Jillo** (Ethiopia; Confirmed) is a former member of the Ethiopian Negotiations Team to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and adviser on national and regional transboundary water issues in the Minister of Water and Energy in Ethiopia. Her main duties included advising ministers, facilitating hydro-diplomacy, negotiation meetings, and internal consultation meetings, and doing hydrological analysis. In her previous capacities, Dr. Adanech Yared Jillo led Ethiopia's national NBI, Nile Equatorial Lake Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP), and ENTRO, supporting Nile-COM/EXCO members of the respective countries in prioritizing NBI, NELSAP-Cu, ENTRO, and AMCOW activities as member and chair of the NBI, NELSAP, ENSAP, and AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee. Dr. Adanech Yared Jillo provides regular guidance and technical support on matters related to the Nile cooperation and the sustainable management of the Nile water resources including providing oversight for the NBI, its centers, and AMCOW programmatic activities.



**Commissioner Adriana Reséndez Maldonado** (Mexico; Confirmed) was appointed in September 2021. She is a civil engineer with a master's degree in hydraulic resources in arid zones, with a specialty in water use and water quality. She has 23 years of experience in the Mexican section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, in the department of engineering as deputy director of the Colorado River and in operations as principal engineer. In the IBWC, Reséndez has performed functions to ensure compliance with the current treaties between Mexico and the United States regarding the distribution of the waters of the international rivers, as well as the supervision of the operation and maintenance of the hydraulic projects built in the Rio Grande and Colorado River, the operation and



maintenance of the hydrometric system of the Mexican section of the IBWC and the accounting of water allocations of the Rio Grande and Colorado River. During her career in this institution, she has participated in the negotiation of several minutes of the IBWC, as well as in the inter-institutional and binational coordination for the development of projects of great relevance in the border region.

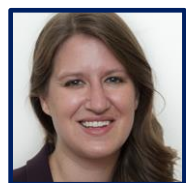
**Alexandra Caplan** (United States; Confirmed) is a PhD candidate in Geography at Oregon State University. Her research brings a multi-scalar perspective to hydropolitical analysis, with a focus on how power influences transboundary water interactions at different spatial scales. Her research aims to utilize this knowledge to understand how seemingly intractable water conflicts may be transformed into more equitable and sustainable situations. Alexandra is the manager of the Transboundary Freshwater Diplomacy Database, a global repository of data relating to the governance of internationally shared freshwater resources. She is also a visiting researcher at the Environmental Law Institute, where she has coordinated a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace, which attracted a global cohort of over 10,000 learners across its three iterations. Alexandra also contributed to an evaluation of GEF support in fragile and conflict-affected situations, with a focus on the conflict sensitivity of GEF-funded projects in Lebanon. She is a founding member of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association and a member of the North American Youth Parliament for Water.



**Alexandria Farrell** (Canada; Confirmed) is an Environmental Officer with the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission whose work focusses on transboundary waters along the Canadian and United States border. Alexandria supports the delivery of scientific priorities for the Commission's Sciences and Engineering team including planning and coordination of the Geo-Spatial Team, support for the International Watersheds Initiative, and serves as a support liaison to the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board. Prior to joining the International Joint Commission, Alexandria's expertise included GIS and Remote sensing, and advocating on behalf of and representing students under Concordia University's Academic Code of Conduct, as well as the Code of Rights and Responsibilities. Alexandria's interests include building climate resiliency among Small Island Developing Nations and establishing diversity and inclusivity of water management along the transboundary. Alexandria received her BA (Specialization) in Human Environment from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. She continues her studies at Concordia and is completing a graduate diploma in Environmental Impact Assessment, within the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment.



**Alyssa Offutt** (United States/ The Netherlands; Confirmed) is currently completing her PhD at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education where she is focused on the multi-scalar hydropolitics of transboundary water quality. She also supports the Water, Peace, and Security and Water Diplomacy initiatives hosted by IHE. Alyssa has a background and training in Water Cooperation and Diplomacy as well as Environmental and Water Resources Engineering. Alyssa has contributed to key scholarship related to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network as well as supporting experience exchange opportunities such as through the IHE Delft Seminar entitled "(En)Gendering Transboundary Water Governance" in 2020 and the IHE Water and Peace Seminar 2022 session featuring members of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Her chapter 'A Gendered Perspective on the Multiple Scales of Water Conflict' is set to be released in the soon to be released IHE Delft edited book Gender dynamics in transboundary water governance: Feminist



Perspectives on Water Conflict and Cooperation. IHE Delft is a long-time partner to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, and she will be joining the UN Water Conference in person on behalf of IHE Delft.

**Ambika Vishwanath** (India; Confirmed) is Founder and Director of the Kubernein Initiative and a Transboundary Water Security and Diplomacy Specialist. The Kubernein Initiative is an India-based geopolitical advisory group that aims to bridge the gap on issues that require greater intellectual questioning. Ambika works in the space of multilateralism and at the intersection between transboundary water security and foreign policy. She has led Track II diplomacy efforts and consulted with several governments and international organizations both in India and around the world.



**Chairwoman Amelia Flores** (United States; Confirmed) is Mohave and an enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT). She holds a B.S. Degree in Education Northern Arizona University and a Masters in Linguistics from University of Arizona. A former Tribal Librarian/Archivist she has volunteered her time serving on local, tribal, state committees, boards, and commissions in regards to libraries, archives, early childhood education, foster care, language revitalization, and the humanities. Chairwoman Flores lives on the Colorado River Indian Reservation with her husband Mr. Neil Flores, Sr. and together they have three grown boys and ten grandchildren and one great-grandson with one on the way. She has received many awards for her Library/Archives and Language work, and recently was recognized as 2021 Leader of the Year – Environment/Public Policy by the Arizona Capitol Times. Appointed to the Arizona First Things First, Early Childhood Development and Health Board from 2018 – 2020. Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Councilwoman from 2013 to 2020; served as Tribal Council Secretary, two-year terms in 2013 – 2015 & 2017 – 2020. She serves as a Board Member of the Parker Unified School District #27 from 2011 to present, and 2021 Governor’s Water Augmentation Board. In 2020, she was elected as the first Chairwoman for the Colorado River Indian Tribes.



**Dr Anders Jägerskog** (Sweden; Confirmed) is Program Manager of the Cooperation on International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund ([ciwaprogram.org](http://ciwaprogram.org)). He is also the focal point at the World Bank for Transboundary Waters. His work focuses primarily on the African continent and on the Middle East and North Africa region but is also global. Previously he was Counsellor for regional water resources in the MENA region at the Swedish Embassy in Amman, Jordan; Director, Knowledge Services, at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) where he headed the Transboundary Water Management Unit and was work area leader for applied research. He managed the UNDP Shared Waters Partnership which facilitates and promotes dialogue and cooperation on transboundary water resources. He is Associate Professor (Docent) at Peace and Development Research, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg where his work focuses on global water issues. He worked for Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs; at the Embassy of Sweden, Nairobi and at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In 2003 he finished his PhD on the water negotiations in the Jordan River Basin at the Department of Water and Environmental Studies at the Linköping University, Sweden. He has published over 100 scientific articles, book chapters, debate articles and reports on global water issues.





**Dr Andrea Gerlak** (United States; Confirmed) is Director at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and Professor in the School of Geography, Development and Environment at the University of Arizona. Her research agenda focuses on cooperation and conflict in water governance, including questions of equity and access, institutional change, learning and adaptation. She is an author or co-author of more than 100 publications. She serves as a co-editor for the *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning* and as a senior fellow with the Earth Systems Governance network. Andrea has more two decades of experience leading interdisciplinary environmental studies programs and university-community environmental partnerships. She has consulted on water governance and climate resilience efforts for UNESCO and the WMO.



**Antti Rautavaara** (Finland; Confirmed) is Finland’s Special Envoy for Water. In that role he is an advocate of Finnish Water Way strategy, which is a unique platform housed at Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs uniting Finnish water society to work together with national and international partners towards Water Secure World by 2030. The Special Envoy for Water coordinates and represents the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. Antti holds strong hands-on experience of international water affairs in political, peace mediation, development and humanitarian contexts. He has been seasoned through long-term posts in Sweden, China, Ethiopia and Nepal. During mega earthquakes in Nepal (2015) Antti was manager of UNICEF Nepal Water Section, which included leadership and coordination of water sector response and humanitarian cluster coordination for over 4 million people, and there he also served as acting Deputy Representative for over five months. He is well aware of insights of water affairs at the Horn of Africa through his tenure as First Secretary at the Embassy of Finland in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In China he was with UNDP based at Tumen River Commission serving five northeastern Asia countries. At the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, he has been Senior Adviser for Director General for Development and for several years Senior Water Adviser. He has also been assigned to work as Director of International Water Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Mr. Rautavaara holds a MSc from Aalto-university (Helsinki) and a Certificate from the Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm).



**Dr Avni Solanki** (United States, Confirmed) is an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the Department of State/International Joint Commission. Avni works for the International Joint Commission (IJC) as an Engineering Advisor. Her work focuses on transboundary water issues between the U.S. and Canada including portfolios focused on water quality, water apportionment, Indigenous collaboration, and sustainability. Prior to joining the IJC, Avni was faculty at Washington University in St. Louis. Avni received her Ph.D. from the University of Florida and her work focused on alternative wastewater streams for nutrient recovery and pharmaceutical removal using low-cost products.



**Aziza Sharofova Khamza kizi** (Uzbekistan; Confirmed pending visa) is a Chief Expert of the Center for State Ecological Expertise of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection. She was born in Tashkent (Uzbekistan), in a family of farmers. After graduating from a secondary school in 2008, she entered the Tashkent Financial and Economic College at the Faculty of Accounting and Audit, and



successfully completed it in 2011 (secondary special education with a degree in accounting and economics). She also graduated Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration at the Faculty of Hydromelioration in the direction of Ecology and Environmental Protection, in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering (in water management). Aziza a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will be attending the UN Water Conference in person on behalf of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection.

**Catherine Wong** (United States; Confirmed) is the Team Leader of Climate & Security Risk at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

**Cécile Pillon Hue** (France; Confirmed) Cécile is an artist, feminist, and communications specialist. She has a strong commitment to social & environmental justice. Cécile joined SIWI in 2021. She serves as a Project Communication Manager and Gender Equality Champion. She is trained in digital communications strategy, she has over 10 years of experience managing multilingual platforms for non-profits and feminist organizations. Cécile brings her passions for visual arts, social & environmental justice into her work as a communicator. She loves connecting people across regions, cultures, and technologies as she believes this is the key to a more respectful and inclusive world. Originally from France, Cécile lived in Canada for 5 years before moving to Sweden in 2016. She speaks French, English and Spanish; and is currently learning Swedish and Portuguese.



**Cholpon Aitakhunova** (Kyrgyzstan; Confirmed) is a Research Fellow at Collective Leadership Institute under the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's International Climate Protection Fellowship. She is carrying out her research at the interface of water, climate, and security in Central Asia with a special focus on collective leadership approaches. She leads Central Asia Youth for Water (CAY4W) in her role of regional co-coordinator for Central Asia and Afghanistan. The network's mission is empowerment of a new generation of water leaders to work on peaceful and sustainable development through transboundary water cooperation. Through a journey of around 5 years across different sectors (state, civil society, academia) and between various levels (national to international) Cholpon got well-acquainted with climate and water governance topics, and for more than a decade now she has been involved in youth empowerment in Kyrgyzstan and beyond. She strongly believes that in the face of the multi-layered crisis the world is confronting today it is only through quality dialogue and collaboration that we can bring transformative change. 'Everyone matters in water action; everyone can learn how to collaborate.' Cholpon is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will join the 2023 UN Water Conference in person on behalf of CAY4W.



**Dr Corinne Schuster-Wallace** (Canada; Confirmed) is the Associate Director of Global Water Futures and faculty member in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Saskatchewan. Previously she has worked within the UN and for the Public Health Agency of Canada. She is the founder of the Women Plus Water community. Her research utilises a coupled systems approach to water-related human health in rural, remote, and marginalised communities. Her work integrates university and community, and research, practice, and teaching. Coupling environmental and social systems provides a comprehensive understanding of socio-environmental determinants and how inequities and





intersectionality along with knowledge, attitudes, and practices affect health and wellbeing. This requires diverse, disaggregated data and research that span disciplines and are grounded in community, Traditional Knowledge, and modern science.

**Diana Moczula** (Canada; Confirmed) is a Policy and Communications Analyst with the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission with her work focusing on transboundary waters along the Canadian and United States border. Diana provides policy analysis and support for the delivery of strategic and operational policy priorities for the Commission's Policy and Communications team and provides support for initiatives relating to Indigenous collaboration. Prior to joining the International Joint Commission, Diana has experience in environmental education and conservation work within freshwater and brackish water ecosystems in southeastern Ontario and along the eastern coast of the United States; in conjunction with this she has experience in compliance promotion and regulatory development. Diana received an MSc in Integrated Water Resource Management from McGill University and a BSc (Honours) in Environmental Science with a Biology Minor from Carleton University.



**Dr. Dinara Ziganshina** (Uzbekistan; Confirmed) is the Director at the Scientific Information Centre of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC) in Central Asia, a regional organisation that contributes to fostering transboundary water cooperation in the region through data, information and knowledge development and dissemination. Dr. Ziganshina is the Vice Chair of the Implementation Committee under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; a Governor at the World Water Council and an Associate Professor at the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers. Dr. Ziganshina has more than 20 years' experience working as a legal and policy expert in water resources management at national and transboundary levels and managing and coordinating regional projects in multi-stakeholder environments.



**Ekta Patel** (Kenya / United States; Confirmed) is finishing her PhD at Duke University where her dissertation focuses on global water governance and the politics of desalination. She has contributed to scholarship on water reuse technologies, stakeholder participation, water rights, and climate change, including a book chapter entitled "Rights, resilience, and water in turbulent times" (forthcoming, 2023). Some of the classes she has helped teach have centered on environmental peacebuilding and the intersections between WASH and COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa. Ekta has also supported several USAID projects on topics such as water and food security, wildlife trafficking, and conflict sensitivity. Most recently, she led the rewrite of USAID's Water and Conflict Toolkit (forthcoming, 2023).



**Elia M. Tapia** (Mexico; Confirmed) is a faculty professor at Universidad de Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico. She holds a Ph.D. in Arid Lands Resource Sciences and a Minor Degree in Hydrology from the University of Arizona. Elia has thirteen years of experience in applied hydrology, hydrogeology, climate change studies, and disaster risk assessment. She has been contributing to the United States-Mexico efforts on the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP) for over 12 years, among many other projects for private and public institutions in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Elia has been recently involved in projects for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and IDB Invest, including the



Transboundary Regional Plan for Drinking Water, Basic Sanitation and Solid Waste Management for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization. Her areas of interest involve water governance, climate change, stakeholder engagement, and water resources management, particularly in transboundary settings.

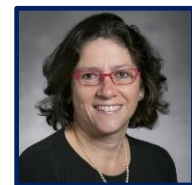
**Elisabeth Ericson** (United States; Confirmed) (also known as Tess) has been with the State Department since 2012, where she began her career as a seasonal clerical intern in high school, before working her way up to a direct hire position on the Water Team in 2018, where she serves as a Foreign Affairs Officer. A lifelong member of the Girl Scouts of the USA, she has a passion for public service. Her portfolio covers interagency coordination and multilateral affairs, serving as the coordinator for the Interagency Water Working Group and the national focal point for the UNECE Watercourses Convention, as well as the main U.S. point of contact for UN Water. Most recently, she served as the main coordinator for the U.S. delegation to the UN Water Conference. She is also extensively involvement in the Team’s programs, including the Ambassador’s Water Experts Program (AWEP).



**Elizabeth A. Koch** (United States; Confirmed) serves as the Senior Manager for International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and leads the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Process Support Team, supporting the Network’s development since inception. Elizabeth has over 15 years of experience supporting water diplomacy engagements in conflict sensitive basins on behalf of ELI, SIWI’s Shared Waters Partnership programme, the UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation, and EcoPeace Middle East. Elizabeth holds a MA in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy and BA in International Relations.



**Dr Erika Weinthal** (United States; Confirmed) is a Professor of Environmental Policy and Public Policy at Duke University. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University. She specializes in global environmental politics and environmental security with an emphasis on water and energy. Erika is a founding Vice President of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association and an associate editor at the new journal, *Environment & Security*. In 2017 she was a recipient of the Women Peacebuilders for Water Award under the auspices of “Fondazione Milano per Expo 2015”. Erika is author of *State Making and Environmental Cooperation: Linking Domestic Politics and International Politics in Central Asia* (MIT Press 2002), which received the 2003 Chadwick Alger Prize and the 2003 Lynton Keith Caldwell Prize. Her recent books include: *Water Quality Impacts of the Energy-Water Nexus* (Cambridge University Press 2022) and *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press forthcoming, 2023).



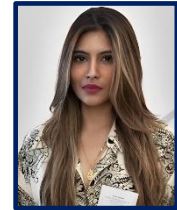
**Dr Faith Sternlieb** (United States; Confirmed) is the Associate Director for Stakeholder Engagement for the Internet of Water Initiative at the Lincoln Institute’s Center for Geospatial Solutions, where she facilitates the IoW Coalition and fosters partnerships with local, state, and federal government agencies to support modernized water data systems. Faith received a bachelor’s degree in anthropology and Latin American languages from the University of Maryland, a master’s degree in agriculture through the Peace Corps Masters International Program, and a Ph.D. in earth sciences with a watershed specialty, both from Colorado State University. Her post-doctoral work through the U.S. Department of State, Office of the Geographer, was on the Secondary Cities project, where she facilitated





teams from under-served, rapidly growing cities across the globe to collect and curate geospatial data for participatory mapping to help them better prepare for uncertain futures. She recently transitioned from Lincoln Institute’s Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, where she led Growing Water Smart, a program that works with the private and public sector to support Colorado River Basin communities integrate their land and water planning. She continues to work with diverse communities to address environmental justice, water sustainability, and climate resilience through appropriate technology, intelligent design, collaboration, sound science, and political resolve.

**Farwa Aamer** (Pakistan; Confirmed) is a Water and Climate Security Analyst. Her research focuses primarily on the diplomatic and political dimensions of transboundary river water governance in conflict-prone and water-stressed regions. Through her work, Farwa has led, organized, and convened high-level Track II dialogues and discussions designed to facilitate greater inter-and intra-regional cooperation on issues and opportunities concerning water, energy, and sustainable development in the Global South. Prior to joining the Stimson Center, Farwa served as the Director of the South Asia program at the EastWest Institute (EWI)—a global think tank headquartered in New York. At EWI, Farwa worked on promoting non-traditional channels of diplomacy and establishing multi-stakeholder platforms for shared economic, financial, and geopolitical interests by bringing together media influencers, thought leaders, policymakers, and business experts from within South Asia and across the globe.



**Firmina Acuba** (Uganda; Confirmed) serves as the Senior Sociologist in the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda. Firmina has worked with the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda since 2001, serving as the Ministry’s Gender Equality and HIV Mainstreaming Expert. Firmina has developed, guided and revised several Ministry of Water and Environment Gender Equality and HIV mainstreaming policies and strategies and provided extensive capacity building on these areas. She is an advocate of inclusion of rights of women and vulnerable groups in water supply and management programming and a training and capacity development expert. Firmina has years of experience supporting bottom up/grassroots water diplomacy processes and inclusive decision making in several key sub-basins in the Nile including the Maziba River catchment in the Kagera – one of the key sources of Lake Victoria shared by Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Firmina has been a Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018 and will be attending the 2023 UN Water Conference in person on behalf of Uganda.



**Dr Gaia Hatzfeldt** (Confirmed; Germany) is a gender and social inclusion specialist working in the Water Global Practice of the World Bank. She specializes in developing analytical work and providing guidance to task teams on gender, citizen engagement and broader social inclusion. Gaia is also team member of the Equal Aqua platform that promotes gender diversity and inclusion in water institutions and was one of the lead authors of the *Women in Water Utilities: Breaking Barriers* report that preceded the platform. Gaia is a social anthropologist by training.



**Commissioner Henry Lickers** (Canada; Confirmed) of the International Joint Commission, Canada Section is an internationally recognized Indigenous environmental leader who has pioneered and inspired the braiding of Indigenous and Western scientific knowledge toward sustainable solutions. A Haudenosaunee citizen of the Seneca Nation, Turtle Clan, Dr. Lickers resides in Akwesasne where he served as director and



environmental science officer for over 40 years. Dr. Lickers has been contributing to the work of the International Joint Commission for decades, first as a board member and then in 2019 as the first Indigenous person to be appointed by Canada to the Commission. Dr. Lickers earned a B.Sc. from Trent University, Peterborough and undertook graduate studies at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. He received an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from the State University of New York Syracuse, in recognition of his environmental leadership and development of cross-cultural partnerships. Dr. Lickers has received several awards for his work in environmental protection and conservation, including the Royal Canadian Institute for Science's Sandford Fleming Medal.

**Ambassador Igli Hasani** (Albania; Confirmed) serves as the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. Before joining the OSCE, Ambassador Hasani served as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna (2018-2021). In 2019, as part of OSCE Troika, he chaired the Mediterranean Contact Group. Subsequently, in 2020, Ambassador Hasani held the position of the Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, and in 2021, he acted as Chairperson of the Asian Partners for Cooperation Group. Ambassador Hasani has extensive experience in international security, contributing to the development of the security and defence policy packages of the Republic of Albania. During his 17 years tenure at the Albanian Ministry of Defence, he held various management positions, including Secretary General (2017-2018), Director General for Defence Policy (2015-2017), Director of NATO and Foreign Relations (2013-2014), Director of Euro-Atlantic Integrations (2013-2014) as well as director of the Press and Information, Policy and Media and Legal Affairs. Prior to his career at the Ministry of Defence, he worked as journalist and editor for several newspapers and TV stations in Albania. Ambassador Hasani holds Degrees in Law, Sociology and Philosophy from the University of Tirana, a Master's Degree in International Relations from King's College London and is also a graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies.



**Dr Irena F. Creed** (Canada; Confirmed) is a Canada Research Chair laureate, a professor and vice-principal research & innovation at the University of Toronto. She has been producing field-leading water research for over two decades, and she is among the world's most-cited female water scientists. Her interdisciplinary research combining hydrology, biogeochemistry, and ecology has led to scientific advances that underpin much of the water field today. She currently focuses on the effects of global changes, including climate warming and atmospheric pollution, on ecosystem function and services. Irena has used her field-leading science to inform policy and management. For example, she held a high-profile role as co-chair of the International Union of Forest Research Organization's Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Water and contributed to the Global Diplomacy Lab on Water Diplomacy 4.0, an initiative that brought together scientists and diplomats to better understand the obstacles and opportunities for creating a more just and equitable society. Irena's original research discoveries, documented in her over 200 peer-reviewed publications, have also resulted in invitations to give over 100 distinguished, keynote, or invited presentations in the USA, Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Irena is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the recipient of an honorary doctorate, two international professorships, and numerous awards and honors.





**Dr Jenny Grönwall** (Sweden; Confirmed) serves as a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Program Specialist in the Department for International Organisations and Policy Support of the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida). With a background in law, Jenny has 25 years of experience from the water sector including interdisciplinary social science research in groundwater governance, sustainable textile manufacturing, and human rights. She has worked extensively in countries such as India, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates and is a member of the World Water Week’s Scientific Programme Committee.



**Jessica Troell** (United States; Confirmed) is a Senior Attorney and has directed the Environmental Law Institute’s International Water Program since its founding in 2006. Under her leadership, the Program has developed and implemented projects to define and track the legal recognition and protections for Indigenous and community-based water tenure; create realistic mechanisms for involving diverse stakeholders in water-related decision-making; identify and implement innovative water governance mechanisms to strengthen resilience of communities and countries in the face of climate change; build the legal and institutional capacity to manage transboundary water challenges; strengthen livelihoods and food security through more effective water management; and ensure that water management is effectively leveraged in fragile and post-conflict states to promote peacebuilding. Jessica works with NGOs, governments, the private sector, and universities to create, implement, and enforce sustainable water laws, policies, and management mechanisms.



**Joe Younkle** (United States; Confirmed) serves as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science in the United States Department of the Interior. Joe is a descendant of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and most recently served as Congressional Relations Associate at the National Indian Health Board where he led their Congressional advocacy on Medicare and Medicaid. Prior to joining the National Indian Health Board, Joe worked at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee where he served as Deputy Finance Director for the Midwest and South. Joe holds a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



**Johanna Sumuvuori** (Finland; Confirmed) was appointed State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs by Pekka Haavisto on 4 July 2019. As State Secretary, she assists the Minister in matters relating to political steering and preparatory work. She also assists the Minister and represents him in the drafting of policy papers and in inter-ministerial coordination. Her responsibilities include participation in the harmonization of policy positions, the implementation of the Government Programme in the Minister's administrative branch, and the handling of EU and international affairs. Sumuvuori deals with matters relating to public relations and she deputises for the Minister. Previously Sumuvuori has been Press Counsellor at the Embassy of Finland in London. She has a wide experience of politics, communications, culture, and civil society organisations. Sumuvuori has previously been a Member of Parliament and a city councillor, and she has held leading positions in civil society organisations as well as in different kinds of positions of trust. Sumuvuori holds the degrees of Master of Social Sciences and Master of Arts.



**Joshua (Josh) Moore** (United States; Confirmed) serves as the Farm Manager for the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Farms located on both the Arizona & California banks of the Colorado River. CRIT Farms consists of 33,000 acres of fertile farmland irrigated with water from the Colorado River. Josh holds two degrees from the University of Arizona, a B.S. in Agricultural Technology Management & Education, and an M.S. in Agricultural Education Research. As a former agricultural education teacher, and cooperative extension agent, Josh strives to incorporate technology, human resource development, and work force development to assist CRIT in tackling water resource challenges in the region. With a background in formal and non-formal education, Josh works to manage CRIT Farms on a daily operations basis, as well as holds responsibilities to work with tribal leadership to develop long term agricultural resource plans for the tribe while working to integrate water conservation practices on CRIT's farmland base. Josh is a member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes of Hopi, Mohave, and Chemehuevi descent and resides on the CRIT Reservation on farm with his wife, Lillian, and children Elena and Rhett Moore. Outside of work, Josh and Lillian have started up a family ran sheep farm with the goal of providing fresh lamb protein to local customers.

**Julien Katchinoff** (United States; Confirmed) currently serves as Water Team Lead in the Office of Conservation and Water at the U.S. Department of State. Previously, he served as the Department's Primary Action Officer in implementing the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 between the United States and Canada, including oversight of the U.S. section of the binational International Joint Commission (IJC) as Transboundary Water Specialist and Deputy Columbia River Treaty Negotiator in the Office of Canadian Affairs. Over a decade at the Department, Mr. Katchinoff also developed and implemented U.S. foreign policies on drinking water and sanitation, water resources management, and transboundary water issues, with a specific focus on Southeast Asia. Prior to Federal service, Mr. Katchinoff worked as an Environmental Scientist with Montgomery Watson Harza in Denver, Colorado, and a Research Intern with the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC. Mr. Katchinoff earned his B.A. in geography and international affairs from the University of Colorado and M.A. in global environmental policy from American University's School of International Service. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of Georgia and speaks French and an ever-diminishing amount of Georgian.



**Dr Kathryn B. Friedman** (United States; Confirmed) joined the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies in July 2022. She also serves as a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Canada Institute). Kathryn is a recognized foreign policy expert on North America, specifically the US-Canada relationship, with experience in transboundary water governance and diplomacy. Her strategic advice to senior-level government officials includes advising the US Embassy Ottawa; US Consulate General Toronto; Embassy of Canada to the United States; Canadian Consulate Generals New York, Chicago and Seattle; the Government of Northern Ireland; the Cabinet Office of the United Kingdom; the German Foreign Ministry; and the Slovenian Foreign Ministry. She also has worked with The Nature Conservancy and the Alliance for the Great Lakes on strategies for strengthening water diplomacy and governance. Kathryn is an experienced mediator and conflict resolution specialist, who has designed processes and led Track 1.5-4.0 diplomatic efforts. She currently is leading a Water Diplomacy 4.0 initiative in collaboration with the German Foreign Ministry, the Slovenian Foreign Ministry and the German-American Fulbright Foundation. Kathryn has served as a Fulbright Fellow (Germany) and an Abshire Inamori Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. Kathryn is



approached frequently to provide guest commentary in the media, including PBS, NPR, The Hill, CBC and Bloomberg News. Kathryn clerked for two appellate judges and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Kathryn has a Ph.D. with a concentration in international relations and J.D., magna cum laude, with a concentration in international law.

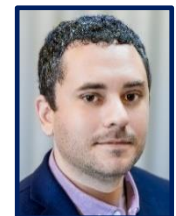
**Katie Goldie-Ryder** (Canada/Sweden; Confirmed) is a Programme Officer at the Stockholm International Water Institute where she supports the Shared Waters Partnership (SWP) programme and serves as a Youth Empowerment Champion. Working closely with senior programme staff, Katie provides efficient coordination, programme management and logistical support for several projects, ensuring effectiveness and sustainability across the work. Katie has several years of practical experience building networks, supporting cooperative processes and multi-stakeholder dialogues in regional contexts. She holds a Master Degree in Peace and Conflict from Uppsala University and wrote her MA thesis for the 'Equal Peace?' project at the PRIO Centre on Gender, Peace and Security. Katie also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Global Developments from Huron University College in Canada.



**Kayly Ober** (United States; Confirmed) serves as the Senior Program Officer for the Climate, Environment, and Conflict Program at the United States Institute of Peace. She primarily leads the program's portfolios on migration and displacement as well as transboundary water issues. Previously, she was the senior advocate and program manager of the Climate Displacement Program at Refugees International. She also served as a member of the Task Force on Displacement established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. She has worked on climate change and migration issues for more than a decade, including for the Asian Development Bank; the World Bank, where she authored the flagship report *Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration*; Overseas Development Institute; and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, among others. Kayly holds a Master of Science in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from American University. She is currently completing her PhD in Geography at the University of Bonn, where her dissertation analyzes policymaking and governance structures around the climate change-adaptation-migration nexus.



**Kerry Schneider** (United States/Sweden; Confirmed) serves as SIWI's Senior Programme Manager for the Shared Waters Partnership programme, a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at advancing cooperation over shared water resources in regions where political tensions could be a source of conflict. He contributes to the development of research and project management in a number of fields including transboundary water management, climate change, and capacity building. Kerry holds a Master's degree in International Humanitarian Action from Uppsala University, Sweden. Prior joining SIWI in 2013, Kerry worked for Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Kerry has supported the inception and development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2017 as a flagship engagement of SIWI's Shared Waters Partnership programme.





**Commissioner Lance Yohe** (United States; Confirmed) of the International Joint Commission has been previously involved in Canada-U.S. transboundary organizations centered in the Red River basin for over 25 years, serving as the executive director of the Red River Basin Commission in Fargo, North Dakota from its formation in 2002 until 2014. He was involved with its two predecessors, the Red River Basin Board and International Coalition for Land and Water Stewardship. He also served as a manager with the Southeast Cass Water Resources Board and as a member of the Red River Joint Water Resources Board’s Executive Board of Managers. In 2014, Mr. Yohe formed Trans Boundary Solutions, a consulting firm working with regional clients on both sides of the boundary, including the Prairie Improvement Network and the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative.



**Liliana Pimentel** (Brazil; Confirmed) is an Architect and Urban Planner and Specialist in Water Resources Management in Watersheds holding a Master’s in Urban and Regional Planning focusing on bioregional planning and landscape ecology, Liliana is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Geography Department at Universidade de Brasilia. She is a Former Fulbright Hubert Humphrey Fellow attending SPURS/MIT and currently works as a civil servant at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in Brazil. Liliana is a trained mediator interested in transboundary cooperation and conflict prevention over Natural Resources. Her passion for mediation and peacebuilding drove her to join the Environmental Peacebuilding Association since its very beginning and Mediators Beyond Borders International. By volunteering for several non-profit organizations, she keeps enhancing her negotiation and conflict prevention skills to benefit governance, decision-making, and public policy processes in Latin America and the Caribbean Region. Liliana has more than 30 years of professional experience working in climate change, environmental conservation, biodiversity, governance, water resources, STEM, and WASH for the public, private, and third sectors. Liliana holds extensive teaching experience and, in the last two decades, has been a lecturer in Architecture and Urban Planning Courses. A former coordinator of the Climate Justice Cluster at OLAC and former co-chair of the EnPax Interest Group on Water, she is starting to set up a Water Group under the MBBi’s UNMWG umbrella. She will be attending the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the UN Water Conference, and the New York Water Week as a representative of Mediators Beyond Borders International.



**Lou-Ellen Martin** (Australia; Confirmed) is an Australian Government official responsible for international engagement on water, and urban water policy issues, within Australia’s Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Prior to this role, Lou-Ellen served as an Australian diplomat with assignments in New York, Beirut and Buenos Aires, and expertise in multilateral issues and the Middle East. She has a Master of International Development and undergraduate studies in politics and business. Lou-Ellen is from Australia’s Kooma and Kamilaroi First Nations.



**Lyazzat Syrlybayeva** (Kazakhstan; Confirmed) has over 4 years of experience in the water sector, within the scope of her duties, she has worked in the fields of integrated water resources management, transboundary water cooperation, climate change, as well as Sustainable Development Goals. Besides this, she was a consultant in various assignments with the World Bank Group, the OSCE office in Vienna, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and the Kazakh-German University (DKU) in Kazakhstan. Lyazzat has contributed to the preparation of the Country Climate Development Report (CCDR) for Kazakhstan, focusing





on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures for water, rangelands, and croplands. Currently, she is employed with the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) as a consultant, co-leading a regional project on youth empowerment for water in Central Asia and Afghanistan.

**Maarten Gischler** (The Netherlands; Confirmed) is a water adviser in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2011. He works on water and resilience at scales from the global water cycle to urban watersheds. His focus is on Africa and the Middle East. In the transboundary domain he has engaged in the Senegal River (OMVS), Niger River (ABN), Lake Chad (LCBC), and Nile (NBI). Before joining the Foreign Ministry in 2001, Maarten worked as a consultant on challenges in transboundary waters of the Caspian Sea, Aral Sea Basin and in the Middle East Peace Process.



**Dr Mara Tignino** (Switzerland; Confirmed) is Reader at the Faculty of Law and the Institute for Environmental Sciences at the University of Geneva and Lead Legal Specialist of the Platform for International Water Law at the Geneva Water Hub. Dr Tignino has been Visiting Professor at Renmin University of China, the University of Barcelona, the *Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali* (LUISS) and the Catholic University of Lille. She was also a Visiting Scholar at the George Washington University Law School in Washington D.C. Dr Tignino acts as an expert and legal adviser for States and international organisations. She has given training workshops in Africa, Asia, Middle East and South America. She is a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group of “International Business and Human Rights” of the European Society of International Law (ESIL) and former co-chair of the Interest Group on Water of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association. She holds a Ph.D. in international law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and an *Habilitation à diriger des recherches (HDR)* from the Faculty of Law of the University Jean Moulin Lyon 3.



**Maria (Byström) Vink** (Sweden; Confirmed) Senior Programme Specialist, Water Security, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

**Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner** (United States; Confirmed) was appointed by US President Joe Biden in August 2021 to serve as the United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico. Dr. Giner, the second woman and first Latina to hold the post, previously served as General Manager of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), an institution that developed environmental infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border in association with the North American Development Bank. During her tenure at the BECC, she focused on policies that addressed U.S.-Mexico cooperation on water, energy, and climate change. Dr. Giner is well regarded among state agencies and local communities in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and the six Mexican border states. With the support of the BECC staff, she led the development and financing of \$9 billion in environmental infrastructure, benefitting about 100 communities and over 10 million residents. In addition, she has published extensively on water policy and transboundary bilateral cooperation. Dr. Giner’s education includes a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Loyola Marymount University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Texas at Austin. She is also a registered professional engineer, first-generation college graduate, and daughter of an immigrant. Dr. Giner is from the border region and attended Loretto Academy High School in El Paso, Texas. She is bicultural and bilingual.



**Dr Mark Colosimo** (United States; Confirmed) is the Director, Science and Technology of the US Section of the International Joint Commission. Dr. Colosimo works on water quality and quantity issues along the Canadian and United States Boundary. Mark serves as the U.S. Section Liaison to 14 different IJC Boards, Committees or Task Forces, and supervises, oversees and provides guidance to IJC US Section staff. Prior to joining the International Joint Commission in June 2004, Mark worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) where he worked on water non-point source pollution reduction programs and initiatives, including market-based environmental stewardship and the initial development of the USDA Policy on Market-Based Environmental Stewardship. Mark has also worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers, first with Baltimore District in a variety of positions within the Regulatory, Civil Works and Military programs, and later in the Civil Works Planning and Policy Division of the Headquarters office. Mark served as one of ten federal agency representatives on the Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Task Force (2002-2003) that evaluated mechanisms to make the NEPA process more effective and efficient, as well as methods to modernize the NEPA process. Mark served as the Chair of the technical committee for the 2006 American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Specialty Conference on Adaptive Management of Water Resources held in Missoula, Montana and the 2009 AWRA Specialty Conference on Adaptive Management of Water Resources held in Snowbird, Utah. Mark also served on the 2007, 2011, and 2015 Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum Steering Committees. Mark received a BS in Biology from the Pennsylvania State University, an MA in Environmental Planning from Towson University, an MS in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University (JHU), and a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, also from JHU. Mark is a registered professional wetland scientist and has authored a number of peer reviewed journal articles.



**Dr Martina Klimes** (Sweden; Confirmed) is Advisor for Water and Peace at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and a member of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) of the World Water Week. She has over 15 years of experience working with dialogue facilitation, conflict resolution, political and security analysis, including practical work in the field and informal diplomacy processes. Her main focus is on water diplomacy and water cooperation, climate and security, dialogue facilitation, incentives, and third party involvement in negotiation processes. Martina's book *Using Carrots to Bring Peace? Negotiation and Third Party Involvement* (World Scientific, 2016) focuses primarily on the effectiveness of aid conditionality and other external tools that third parties – from states and regional organizations to NGOs – bring to the table in peace negotiations. She holds a PhD degree in International Relations and is also an Associated Research Fellow at the Institute for Security and Development Policy in Stockholm. Martina is a co-editor of forthcoming *Routledge Water Diplomacy Handbook* (2023) and she represents SIWI in the Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate, and Security.



**Dr Melissa McCracken** (United States; Confirmed) is an assistant professor of international environmental policy. She directs the Shared Waters Lab and is an affiliate with the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy and the Center for International Law and Governance at Fletcher. Her research focus is on international water policy and management, cooperation and conflict over shared surface and groundwaters, and conflict transformation surrounding environmental resources. Broadly, she supports interdisciplinary research and teaching for water policy and management. Water is both a human and physical resource and therefore requires collaborative technical and policy solutions.



Her current work addresses how transboundary water cooperation is defined and measured, with the goal of operationalizing a method for evaluating effective transboundary water cooperation. She is a collaborator with the Transboundary Freshwater Diplomacy Database at Oregon State University on additional projects to monitor hydropolitical tension and identify factors that contribute to potential conflict or cooperation, including research on international freshwater agreements, river basin organizations, and events over freshwater.

**Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare** (Canada; Confirmed) is a lawyer, writer, strategist, negotiator, and relationship-builder who worked extensively in and with Indigenous organizations on environmental, land, water, rights and governance issues. She, along with 10 First Nation Chiefs, was the founding Executive Director of the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, a national First Nation charitable environmental organization. As Chief Negotiator for the Government of the Northwest Territories, Ms. Phare lead the negotiation of transboundary water agreements in the Mackenzie River Basin and the creation of Thaidene Nene, a national and territorial park in the east arm of Great Slave Lake. She is the author of the book “Denying the Source: The Crisis of First Nations Water Rights” and co-author of “Ethical Water”. She is a member of the Forum for Leadership on Water, Smart Prosperity’s Leadership Council, and is a recipient of Canada’s Clean 50 Award. She served as legal counsel and advisor to a number of First Nation and Métis governments and organizations. Ms. Phare was appointed by Canada to the International Joint Commission in 2019.



**Meerim Seidakmatova** (Kyrgyzstan; Confirmed) graduated with honors from the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in 2021, specializing in ecology and environmental management. She is currently studying for her master’s degree in Integrated Water Resources Management at the Kazakh-German University. She founded the student eco-club “Young Environmentalists” at the higher student council of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in 2019 to increase social environmental education among students. At the same time, Meerim interned at the “Urban Initiatives” and “Rural Development Fund” public foundations, the Agency for Hydrometeorology under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, in the Department of Environmental Monitoring (surface water and atmospheric air). She worked on research and projects on “Revival of indigenous livestock breeding. Kyrgyz horse”, “Land of snow leopards”, in the laboratory assisted in physical and chemical analysis of surface water samples, atmospheric air monitoring, including PM 2.5, freons. Since the beginning of 2021, she has served as the project coordinator for the Kyrgyzstan Youth Network CAY4W.



**Olivia Urbanski** (United States; Confirmed) is a Water Security and Foreign Affairs Officer in the Office of Conservation and Water at the U.S. Department of State. She recently joined the Water Team after over three years in the Office of Global Change and working directly with the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, specializing in international climate policy and climate negotiations at the UNFCCC. She coordinated the team’s bilateral and regional engagement for Central and Eastern Africa including SPEC John Kerry’s two trips to Africa. She also focused on climate security issues, youth engagement, and the nexus of climate and gender. Olivia was the U.S. negotiator at the UNFCCC for both Action for Climate Empowerment and gender during the past two COPs. Previously, Olivia was a fellow at the U.S. Forest Service managing the national Youth Conservation Corps program and working in conservation education.





She also has experience with the National Park Service in Alaska and teaching at an environmental learning center in Minnesota.

**Paul Allen** (Canada; Confirmed) is the Manager of Policy and Communications with the International Joint Commission’s Canadian Section. Paul has over 30 years’ experience with the Government of Canada working with various science-based natural resource management departments on domestic and Canada-US water policy issues. Since joining the International Joint Commission in 2011, Paul has contributed to numerous national and binational Canada-US water policy and governance initiatives and led numerous multidisciplinary teams providing strategic communications advice and policy analysis and advice. Before joining the Commission, Paul was a Manager of Horizontal Policy Initiatives at Natural Resources Canada where he led the development of a Freshwater Strategy for the department. This effort was awarded a departmental merit award by the Deputy Minister and was an important contribution to advancing understanding sustainable water use and management in the energy, mining, and forestry sectors. Paul has a Master of Arts Degree in Geography from the University of Waterloo, Faculty of Environmental Studies, and a BA from the University of Ottawa.



**Paula Randolph** (United States; Confirmed) is a media creator for the Babbitt Center, responsible for producing content that raises awareness of the critical importance of water sustainability and resilience in the Western United States. This content includes videos, photographs, infographics, and other visual materials that communicate the complex issues surrounding land and water management in the Colorado River Basin. Paula Randolph is driven by a deep passion for the American West and a belief that all communities in the region should have access to the tools and knowledge necessary to manage their land and water resources in a sustainable way. She understands that water is a precious and limited resource, and that it is essential to work collaboratively to develop innovative solutions that ensure its availability for future generations. Through her work with the Babbitt Center, Paula Randolph is helping to advance the integration of land and water management, not only in the Colorado River Basin but throughout the Western United States and beyond. Her efforts are critical to creating a more sustainable and resilient future for all communities that rely on this precious resource.



**Phera Ramoeli** (Botswana; Confirmed) is currently the Executive Secretary of the Okavango River Basin Commission since October 2018, after serving as Senior Program Officer in Directorate of Infrastructure and Services – Water Division, SADC Secretariat for over 15 years. He was responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the implementation of the SADC Program of Action in Water. He has been working in the water sector for at least 20 years, with over 14 years focused in Transboundary Water Resources management at the SADC Level. He joined SADC Water Sector Coordinating Unit as Senior Environment Officer in 1997 and was in charge of, among other things, coordinating the implementation of the ZAMBEZI Action Plan Program including the Chairing the negotiation Process for ZAMCOM. He became the Sector Coordinator in 1999 until the restructuring of SADC in 2003 and has been with the SADC Secretariat as head of the Water Program since and was active in the process of negotiating the amendments and subsequent revision of the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses. Mr. Ramoeli has a Master’s Degree in Aquatic Resources Management from the Kings College, University of London, A Post Graduate Diploma in Operational Hydrology from Institute of





Meteorological Training and research in Nairobi, and BSc in Biology and Chemistry from the National University of Lesotho.

**Philip Battlestone** (United States/United Kingdom; Confirmed) currently serves as the Director of the Water Resources Department at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). Philip enjoys the challenges of water resources management and its interrelated nature affecting all aspects of society, the economy, and the environment. His primary focus is on the governance of water in all its aspects. As a trained Civil Engineer (MSc.) specialized in groundwater, he has over 20 years of water and environment sector experience in corporate consulting, development cooperation and humanitarian response. His work has encompassed projects on governance, transboundary water management, catchment management, groundwater, service delivery, stewardship, water security, and DRR/flood risk management among other areas. Over his career Philip has worked and lived in Germany, the USA, South and Central Asia, South-East Asia, and Eastern and Southern Africa.



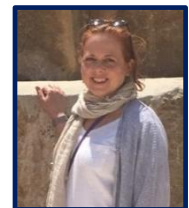
**Dr Rebecca Peters** (United States; Confirmed) serves as an international water policy advisor in the Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International and Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Previously she served as an Aspen Institute Climate Fellow and Academy Associate at the London-based think tank Chatham House. Her other experience includes serving as a Luce Scholar at the Asian International Rivers Center in Yunnan, China and co-authoring The Nature Conservancy's Power of Rivers report. As a doctoral candidate at the University of Oxford, she partnered with the REACH Water Security program to engage civil society, private sector partners, and the government of Bangladesh to confront industrial water pollution. During her tenure, she led the bi-lingual Bengali-English translation of the 283-page 'legal personhood' High Court verdict for Bangladesh's rivers. Dr. Peters received an M.Sc. in Poverty and Development Economics and an M.Sc. in Water Science and Policy as a Marshall Scholar in the United Kingdom. As an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, she served as President of the Berkeley Water Group and as a Berkeley Law Human Rights Fellow. She has written for publications including *Scientific American*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *The World Today*.



**Commissioner Robert Sisson** (United States; Confirmed) the Acting United States Co-Chair of the International Joint Commission has been involved with the environmental organization ConservAmerica since 2006, where he has served as president since 2011, and more recently was appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to the state's Environmental Justice Working Group in 2017. Mr. Sisson has also been involved in the government of the Michigan city of Sturgis, where he has served as mayor from 2005-2007 and as a city commissioner from 2003-2008 and again from 2011-2016. Concurrently, he was a member of the boards of directors for both the Sturgis Economic Development Corporation and the St. Joseph County Economic Development Corporation.



**Sarah Keener** (United States; Confirmed) is a Senior Social Development Specialist, serving as the global thematic lead on social inclusion in the World Bank Water Global Practice and in this role leads a team to embed gender, citizen engagement and broader inclusion into World Bank supported operations. She has worked for over 25 years with the World Bank Group in the Middle East and North African Region, the Latin American and Caribbean Region, and the Africa Region, leading efforts to increase citizen





engagement and social inclusion within World Bank lending and non-lending operations. Sarah has pioneered approaches to inclusion in water via leading a stakeholder engagement project among the riparians of the Nile Basin, contributing to the Africa Region Infrastructure Flagship on water provision to the urban poor, managed technical assistance focused on infrastructure regulation and citizen engagement, and developed innovative approaches to peri-urban water provision in Peru, Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho, Zambia and elsewhere. She has focused extensively on issues of inclusion and voice in the context of infrastructure operations in municipal, water, energy and transport. Sarah holds a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

**Dr Saule Ospanova** (Kazakhstan; Confirmed) is a Senior Environmental Affairs Advisor heading the environmental cooperation portfolio at OSCE with activities in sustainable water management, water diplomacy, disaster risk reduction, good environmental governance, and hazardous waste management. She has over 20 years of experience contributing to international multi stakeholder initiatives, managing, and implementing sustainability projects in different parts of the world (including Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and China). Prior to joining OSCE, she worked with the International Institute for Environment and Development, the World Bank, UN and other institutions on policy development in water, climate change, energy and green economy, as well as accountability in the extractive sector. Her doctorate studies at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor focused on resource governance and environmental justice. Dr Ospanova and the OSCE are founding supporters of the Central Asia-Afghanistan Network and she will be participating in person at the UN Water Conference on behalf of OSCE.



**Dr Sharon B. Megdal** (United States; Confirmed) is Director of The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center (WRRC), Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, C.W. & Modene Neely Endowed Professor, and Distinguished Outreach Professor. Dr Megdal aims to bridge the academic, practitioner, and civil society communities through water policy and management research, education, and engagement programs. The geographic scope of Dr. Megdal’s work ranges from local to international. Applied research projects include analysis of water management, policy, and governance in water-scarce regions, groundwater recharge, and transboundary aquifer assessment. Key engagement initiatives are Indigenous Water Dialogues and Diversifying Voices in Water Resources. Dr. Megdal teaches the multi-disciplinary graduate course “Water Policy in Arizona and Semi-arid Regions”. In 2020, she was awarded the Warren A. Hall Medal for lifetime achievement in water resources research and education by the Universities Council on Water Resources. Dr. Megdal serves as on the Board of Governors for the Kasser Joint Institute for Food, Water, and Energy Security, is an ex officio member of the Leadership Team for the Colorado River Basin Water & Tribes Initiative, and is a member of the University of Arizona Presidential Advisory Commission on the Future of Agriculture and Food Production in a Drying Climate. Dr. Megdal holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University.



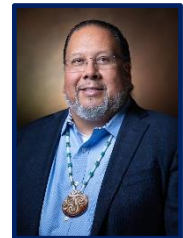
**Shohida Tulieva** (Tajikistan; Confirmed) has a Master Degree in Social Sciences: Regional Studies - Integrated Water Resources Management, Kazakh- German university, Almaty, Kazakhstan. Shohida is the Senior Project Officer "Basin Management" and the National Coordinator for “Gender and Social Equality” in the National project “Water Resources Management in Tajikistan”, which aims to support the “Tajikistan Water Sector Reform Program for 2016-2025”, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in Tajikistan. Moreover, Shohida is the President of the Association “Woman and Water” of Central Asia and





Afghanistan with the aim of developing networking and increasing the potential of women specialists in the water sector. Shohida has contributed to the development of social, gender issues in water resources management, taking into account the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), development of the Basin, Sub-basin and Watershed management with focusing on the development of the “Bottom-Up” approach with 14 experience in Central Asia.

**Governor Stephen Roe Lewis** (United States, Confirmed) is in his third term serving as Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, having previously served as Lt. Governor. Stephen Roe Lewis graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor’s of Science and pursued graduate studies at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Governor Lewis currently oversees the implementation of the Community’s Water Settlement of 2004 (at that time the largest water settlement of its kind in United States history). Governor Lewis advocates for renewable and green technologies guided by O’odham agricultural history and cultural teachings. Governor Lewis’s vision is to support a new generation of Community member agriculturalists with the goal of promoting and protecting the Community’s shudag (water) and agricultural development. During his tenure as Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, Governor Lewis has brought innovative solutions to long-standing issues that will create long-term gains for the Gila River Indian Community. One of these projects, Managed Aquifer Recharge sites, brings together the need for access to water while restoring the return of the Community’s riparian area which is vital for farming and the return of wildlife to the Community. Bringing back the Gila River, which is critical to the culture and identify of the Gila River Indian Community, has been a key milestone during Governor Lewis’ Administration and one that will lay the foundation for future projects across the Community. In addition, Governor Lewis’ innovation can be seen in his approach to providing educational opportunities for the youth of the Gila River Indian Community. Governor Lewis proudly serves as the Secretary of the National Congress of American Indians, President of the Arizona State University’s American Indian Policy Institute Board of Directors, on the Executive Board for the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), and on the Board of Trustees for the Heard Museum of Phoenix.



**Susan Daniel** (United States; Confirmed) is the Secretary for the United States Section of the International Joint Commission (IJC). The IJC is a bilateral treaty organization created by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty which assists in preventing and resolving disputes between the United States of America and Canada over the use of waters shared by the two countries. She also served as legal advisor for the U.S. Section of the IJC. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C. she worked as an attorney-advisor for the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission on the southern boundary of the United States, between the U.S. and Mexico, in El Paso, Texas. She has also served as legal counsel to the Oklahoma Municipal League, an association of cities and towns, and was in private legal practice in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Susan received both an undergraduate degree in economics and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma.



**Dr. Suvi Sojamo** (Finland, Confirmed) works as a Senior Research Scientist at the Finnish Environment Institute. She has over ten years of experience on developing principles and practices of sustainable and equitable water use and governance, collaborating with academia, governments, private sector, and civil society alike. Dr. Sojamo was a member of the drafting team of the UNECE Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context and coordinated an Expert Opinion on the role of water during and after



conflicts and in conflict prevention to the UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogues. She currently leads a Horizon Europe project Governance innovations for a transition to sustainable and equitable water use in Europe (GOVAQUA) and acts as an expert in the Water Cooperation and Peace - Finnish Water Way project developing Finland's water diplomacy activities.

**Sylvester Anthony Matemu** (Tanzania; Confirmed) is the Executive Director Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat. Eng. Matemu brings 40 years of experience service in the public sector in different capacities including chairpersonship of various Technical Advisory Committees at national, regional, and international levels; board member of various water-related institutions; and advisory roles to ministers responsible for water, higher education, communication, science, and technology. He has vast experience in international and national transboundary water management including water law.



**Tais Reznikova** (Kazakhstan; Confirmed) is a water resources management specialist with an academic background in IWRM, environmental management, and policy. Currently, she is coordinating the Mentoring and Career Development Programme for Women in Water and the Blue Peace Central Asia Secretariat at the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) in Almaty, Kazakhstan and the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan. Tais has more than 7 years of experience in the implementation of projects in Central Asia in the field of basin management and planning, water diplomacy. She holds a master's in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from Central European and Lund Universities, and in IWRM from Kazakh-German University.



**Ambassador Tanja Miškova** (Slovenia; Confirmed) serves as Ambassador-at-Large for Water Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia. During her diplomatic career she served as Director General for Multilateral Affairs and Development Cooperation, as head of Department for Emerging Challenges, as Ambassador to Egypt (non-resident to Jordan, KSA, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman), as Diplomatic Adviser to the President of Slovenia, and as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Slovenia to Israel. In her current position, she is focusing on the four priority areas of the Slovenian water diplomacy: water & peace nexus, the transboundary water cooperation, water & climate change nexus, and the SDG6 and other water-related goals & targets of the Agenda 2030. Ambassador Miškova is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the 2023 UN Water Conference in person on behalf of Slovenia.



**Tanya Trujillo** (United States; Confirmed) currently serves as the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for the United States. She is a water lawyer with more than 20 years of experience working on complex natural resources management issues and interstate and transboundary water agreements. She most recently worked as a project director with the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign. Before then, she served as the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California. She has served as Senior Counsel to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at Interior. A native New Mexican, Tanya attended Stanford University and the University of Iowa College of Law.





**Dr Tuğba Evrim Maden** (Turkey; Confirmed) is the Policy Development Coordinator at the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN). She completed her undergraduate study at Hacettepe University Department of Hydrogeological Engineering and her master's degree at Hacettepe University Hydropolitics and Strategic Research Center. In 2010, she received her Ph.D. from Ankara University, Institute of Social Sciences, which was entitled 'EU Water Framework Directive, Transboundary Rivers – Case Study: Maritsa (Meriç) River.' She worked at the Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (ORSAM) - Water Research Programme as a Hydropolitics Researcher between December 2010 - April 2015. She worked as a hydropolitics expert at Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) from June 2017 – January 2021. She has been worked as a Policy Development Coordinator at Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) since January 2021. She is an experienced Turkish water analyst whose work focuses on water politics, water diplomacy, transboundary waters, aquifers, environmental politics, the EU Water Framework Directive, and the Middle East (in particular water issues in Iraq, Syria, and Iran). She has been co-chair of Union for the Mediterranean Water-Employment- Migration Task Force since 2018. She was the head of the Blue Peace in the Middle East Initiative Coordination Office between 2019-2022, which is based in Istanbul.



**Viviane Kinyaga** (South Africa; Confirmed) is a qualified water management specialist with more than 20 years of professional experience advocating for environment sustainability in freshwater, marine and dryland ecosystems. She is passionate about promoting transboundary water cooperation and has worked with different governments, NGO's, the UN, and inter-governmental bodies. She is currently working as a Project Manager at Orange-Senqu Water Commission (ORASECOM) where she is leading implementation of the Strategic Action Programme that seeks to reduce stress on the catchment emanating from increased water demand, deteriorating water resources quality, changes to flow regime and land degradation. Viviane and her colleagues are currently driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Orange-Senqu Basin.



**Wilzave Quiles Guzmán** (United States; Confirmed) is currently completing her MS Degree in Water, Society and Policy at the University of Arizona with strong focus on local and international water resource management. Wilzave also serves as a Graduate Research Assistant and project manager for the interdisciplinary research project "Assessing Navajo COVID-19 Risk and Increasing Indigenous Resilience." A native of Puerto Rico, Wilzave has strong interests in service, community engagement, the intersection of science and society and is deeply passionate about water resources.



**Xanani Baloyi** (South Africa; Confirmed) serves as a Programme Officer in SIWI's African Regional Centre and is the Gender Equality Focal Point for SIWI. Her prime work area at SIWI is supporting the implementation of development projects that seek to make more public and private capital accessible for water-related projects in Africa: advancing the financial viability of these projects, attracting investment finance into the regional water sector, and strengthening national IWRM governance frameworks. Xanani also contributes to the development of activities related to transboundary water governance and cooperation. Some of the projects worked on include: The Africa-EU Water Partnership Project (AEWPP), Transforming Investments in African Rainfed Agriculture (TIARA) initiative and 'Enhancing rainfed agricultural system in the Zambezi watercourse'. She holds a Master's degree in International Development Studies from Palacký University, Czech Republic obtained via the EU Erasmus Mundus mobility program, an Honours



degree in International Relations and a Bachelor of Political Sciences in International Studies from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She has worked for GIZ, Genesis Analytics, Higher Education and Training, South Africa.

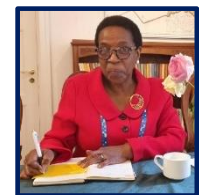
**Yodit Balcha** (Ethiopia; Confirmed) is a member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Leadership Council since 2021 and a founding member of the Network since 2017. Yodit currently serves at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT-Africa Hub in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as a Climate Adaptation research officer. Her work focuses on the nexus approach of Climate, Land (Agriculture), Energy, and Water Systems. Until early 2022, Yodit served as the Senior Climate Change Adaptation Advisor at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy in Ethiopia, where she is responsible for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and resilience plans into the ministries sectoral strategic and development projects, she was also one of the few women water diplomats during the GERD negotiations in 2019. Yodit holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University, a Master's course in Agricultural Economics from Haramaya University, and Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Economics and Management from Mekelle University. Yodit will be attending the 2023 UN Water Conference in-person on behalf of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.



**Zafar Makhmudov** (Tajikistan; Confirmed) is the Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). His main areas of professional expertise and activities are related to the mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into national development plans and strategies. Prior to joining CAREC, Mr. Makhmudov served as the Head of the Project Implementation Unit at the Committee for Environment Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, where he coordinated projects on natural resource management at all levels of their implementation, including project development, structuring, negotiation, execution and monitoring, carried out in close cooperation with a number of international development partners, donor community and multilateral development banks by providing access to climate and environmental funds supported by the National Coordinator.



**Dr. Zodwa Dlamini** (South Africa; Confirmed pending visa) is a member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Leadership Council and a seasoned international transboundary water management specialist, development professional, and senior infrastructure projects manager. As the former South Africa's Chief Delegate and Permanent Representative on the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC) for 11 years, she oversaw the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) and its implementation and served as South Africa's Chief Negotiator for Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project that is currently being implemented in Lesotho. The LHWP is a binational project between the government of the Republic South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho responsible for delivering water from the highlands of Lesotho to South Africa and utilising the water delivery system to generate 72MW hydro-electric power for the Kingdom of Lesotho at 'Muela Hydropower Station. LHWP is Africa's largest water transfer scheme to date. Zodwa further ensured that gender policies in the LHWP are intentional and decisive in matters of gender inclusivity and participation of women. It was during her tenure when the LHDA first appointed a woman Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in over 20 years of its existence.





**Zoe Rosenblum** (United States; Confirmed) is a PhD candidate in Geography at Oregon State University. Her work brings wetlands into transboundary water cooperation research, exploring the governance of transboundary wetlands and how institutions play a role in sustainable wetland management. She also supports and contributes to the Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database, a global register of international freshwaters and treaties. Zoe was introduced to transboundary water research by the Water Cooperation and Diplomacy joint master's program at OSU, IHE-Delft and the United Nations-Mandated University for Peace. She has experience in wetlands policy from working in the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Wetlands, Oceans & Watersheds; wetlands education and restoration from working at a small non-profit, Environmental Concern; and in wetland science from field and lab research with the University of Maryland and the US Department of Agriculture.



## Co-convenor references and resources for ongoing learning:

- **The Women in Water Diplomacy Network:** <https://siwi.org/publications/a-path-forward-for-women-water-peace-and-security/>

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network is an informal community of practice comprised of both formal and informal women decision-makers and experts, representing over 500 years of collective experience and expertise in transboundary water management and decision-making engaged in some of the most water insecure regions of the world. The Network holds a cooperative vision, which recognizes the unique and intrinsic social, cultural, environmental, and economic values of transboundary water resources that traverse the landscapes of our one shared planet. Since 2017 the Women in Water Diplomacy Network has been supported by the Stockholm International Water Institute and the Environmental Law Institute among other core partners.

- **The Environmental Law Institute:** [www.eli.org](http://www.eli.org)

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 which aims to make law work for people, places, and the planet. ELI's Vision is "a healthy environment, prosperous economies, and vibrant communities founded on the rule of law." ELI's Mission is to foster innovative, just, and practical law and policy solutions to enable leaders across borders and sectors to make environmental, economic, and social progress. To achieve its objectives ELI builds the skills and capacity of tomorrow's leaders and institutions, conducts innovative research and analysis on complex and pressing environmental challenges, promotes and disseminates the best thinking through print and electronic media, and convenes people with diverse perspectives to build understanding through robust debate.

- **The Stockholm International Water Institute:** [www.siwi.org](http://www.siwi.org)

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) a not-for-profit institute with a wide range of expertise in water governance – from sanitation and water resources management to water diplomacy. SIWI focuses on water governance and capacity building aiming to reach a just, prosperous, and sustainable water wise world. SIWI research, knowledge generation, and applied science help to develop policy recommendations and support the implementation of programmes. SIWI convenes the annual World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden.

- **The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy:** <https://www.lincolninst.edu/>

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy seeks to improve quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land. A nonprofit private operating foundation whose origins date to 1946, the Lincoln Institute researches and recommends creative approaches to land as a solution to economic, social, and environmental challenges. Through education, training, publications, and events, we integrate theory and practice to inform public policy decisions worldwide. We organize our work around six goals: low-carbon, climate-resilient communities, and regions; efficient and equitable tax systems; reduced poverty and spatial inequality; fiscally healthy communities and regions; sustainably managed land and water resources; and functional land markets and reduced informality.

- **The University of Arizona's Water Research Resource Center:** <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/>  
The Water Research Resource Center (WRRC) is a cooperative extension center and a research unit in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The WRRC is the designated state water resources research center established under the 1964 Federal Water Resources Research Act. The WRRC conducts water policy research and analysis, and its information transfer activities include publications, conferences, lectures, and seminars. Water news and information are provided to the academic community, water professionals, elected and appointed officials, students, and the public.
- **The International Joint Commission:** <https://www.ijc.org/en>  
The International Joint Commission prevents and resolves disputes between the United States of America and Canada under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty and pursues the common good of both countries as an independent and objective advisor to the two governments. US and Canadian Commissioners work together to play a binational oversight role, in matters involving water quality and quantity issues on the topics and in the basins where the governments have requested the IJC's assistance.

### Participation Guidelines:

#### **Venue: Scandinavia House, 58 Park Ave, New York City, New York, United States**

The 2023 Water Diplomacy Symposium will be hosted in Volvo Hall at New York's Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America. Hosting of the 2023 Water Diplomacy Symposium in partnership with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and partners reflects Scandinavia House's mission of '*development of goodwill through educational and cultural exchange.*' For more information on this venue please visit: <https://www.scandinaviahouse.org/>.

**Coffee breaks and light vegetarian lunch will be served** as part of the program. During breaks all participants are encouraged to get to network and exchange with the Symposium participants.

**The Water Diplomacy Symposium will be held under the Chatham House Rule to encourage open dialogue and discussion.** The Chatham House Rule helps create a trusted environment to understand and resolve complex problems. Its guiding spirit is: share the information you receive, but do not reveal the identity of who said it. The Rule reads as follows: '*When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.*' To learn more about the Chatham House Rule please visit: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>.

**Online participation will not be possible during this event. The Symposium will not be recorded.**

**Language of Symposium:** Please note that given limited resources this symposium will be conducted in English without translation services, we apologize for this inconvenience.

#### **Travel, Accommodation and Transportation:**

All travel, transportation and accommodation arrangements must be made by participating representatives directly. The co-conveners of the event cannot support participant costs or provide logistical arrangement support.



## Summary of Women in Water Diplomacy Engagements at the UN Water Conference 2023

### Monday, March 20, 2023 | 18:00-19:30

Public Event with in-person and online participation. Women in Water Diplomacy Event at Columbia University featuring Network Members from Central Asia-Afghanistan. Details and Registration here: <https://lnkd.in/euEmqz4J>

### Wednesday, March 22, 2023 | Official UN Water Conference Side Events inside the UN HQ

Women in Water Diplomacy Network featured in Official Side *'Water, Peace, and Security in Africa'* | 11:00-12:15, ECOSOC Chamber, Convened by Finland, African Union Commission, Switzerland, Senegal

Women in Water Diplomacy Official Side Event *'Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy'* | 15:30-16:45, Conference Room A | Details here: <https://lnkd.in/eGc8znRj>

### Thursday, March 23, 2023 | Side Events outside the UNHQ

Women in Water Diplomacy Network featured at **Devex WASH Works Symposium** | 14:00-15:00 | In-person with online participation options. Details and Registration here: <https://lnkd.in/ezdQngHg>.

Women in Water Diplomacy featured in Side Event *'The Role and perspectives of women's participation in Integrated Water Resources Management in the Tajik Syrdarya and Kafarnigan River Basins and Nile Basin'*, 9:00-11:00 at 15 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor | In-person with online participation options. Online participation link here: <https://lnkd.in/eqHGfhQb>.

### Friday, March 24, 2023 | Official Side Event outside the UN

Network co-convening side event with the World Bank *'Roundtable: Empowering Women, Youth and Indigenous Persons to Accelerate Global Water Security in the Water Action Decade'* | 8:30-10:00 | Riverview Room, Hilton Millennium | In-person with online participation Details and Registration here: [https://lnkd.in/e6i\\_wUyH](https://lnkd.in/e6i_wUyH).