



Event Summary:

This event elevates the critical importance of inclusive water diplomacy processes with focus on linkages between women, water, peace and security and the value of water to peace and human security.

MINUTES	AGENDA 'Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy' SIDE EVENT
15:30-15:35	Welcome, Protocol Observance, and Introduction to the Side Event Phera Ramoeli , Executive Secretary, Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)
15:35-15:50	Introduction to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Our Shared Commitments to the 2023 UN Water Action Agenda Elizabeth A. Koch , Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Team Lead for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network; and Tais Reznikova , Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and Network Process Support Team
15:50-16:25	High Level Panel: Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy <i>Panel Introduction by Ambassador Igli Hasani</i> , Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe <i>Panel Moderated by Dr Saule Ospanova</i> , Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe Expert Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johanna Sumuvuori, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland • Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, United States • Yodit Balcha, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Ethiopia • Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare, International Joint Commission, Canada • Yogita Upadya Mumssen, Practice Manager, Water Global Practice, World Bank • Dr Kathryn Bryk Friedman, North American Arctic Policy Advisor, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies
16:25-16:35	Water intelligence: A prerequisite for addressing global water crises Dr Irena Creed , Vice-Principal Research & Innovation at University of Toronto Scarborough Book Launch: Recognizing Women Water Thought Leaders – from India to Canada ElsaMarie Dsilva , Red Dot Foundation
16:35-16:45	A Call to Partnership and Shared Action to transform the status quo, elevate women experts and decision makers, and foster inclusive decision making in critical water and climate dialogues – shared reading of the 'A Rising Tide of support for women in water diplomacy' Joint Statement ; Read by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yodit Balcha, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Ethiopia • Omair Ahmad, Third Pole, India; • Aziza Sharofova Khamza kizi, Women in Water Management Network, Uzbekistan; • Kerry Schneider, Senior Program Manager, SIWI, Sweden; • Viviane Kinyaga, Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission and Women in Water Diplomacy Network Member, South Africa;
	GROUP PICTURE – all consortia members, speakers and event participants are welcome to join in the side event group picture

Speaker Biographies, in order of appearance

Phera Ramoeli (Botswana) 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.



Elizabeth A. Koch (United States) 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.



Tais Reznikova (Kazakhstan) 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 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 Saule Ospanova (Kazakhstan) 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.



Johanna Sumuvuori (Finland) 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.



Tanya Trujillo (United States) 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.



Yodit Balcha (Ethiopia) 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.

Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare (Canada) 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 led 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.



Yogita Upadya Mumssen is the Practice Manager for the World Bank's Water Global Practice where she manages and leads the Global Solutions Unit comprising about 30 staff and provides strategic direction in delivering cutting edge technical solutions, advice and global knowledge into implementation, with the aim of supporting operational teams based in the regional units that deliver programs to Bank clients. Yogita has managed infrastructure projects, with a focus on the water and sanitation and energy sectors, worldwide. She has worked extensively on regulation, institutional reform, competition policy, private sector participation, results-based financing and pro-poor service delivery across the infrastructure sectors, and has several publications in these areas.



Dr Kathryn B. Friedman (United States) 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.



Dr Irena F. Creed (Canada) 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.



ElsaMarie D'Silva (India) is the Founder of Red Dot Foundation (India) and President of RedDot Foundation Global (USA). She created the technology platform Safecity, which crowdsources personal experiences of sexual violence and abuse in public and private spaces globally. Since its launch in 2012, Safecity has become the largest crowd map on the issue in India and abroad. ElsaMarie D'Silva has been recognized by various organizations and governments for her work, including the United Nations Secretary General, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the German Federal Foreign Office, and the Government of India's Niti Aayog and MeITY. She was a W7 advisor under the German G7 Presidency, and a Fellow with several organizations including the Yale World Fellow, Reagan Fascell Democracy Fellow, Rotary Peace, Aspen New Voices, Vital Voices and a BMW Foundation Responsible Leader. She co-founded the Gender Alliance, a cross-network initiative bringing together feminists from various German networks. She is a co-editor and author of books such as "The Demographic Dividend and the Power of Youth", "Decolonising Development in South Asia" and a series "She Is" which highlights the leadership of women in various fields - sustainability, STEAM and water.



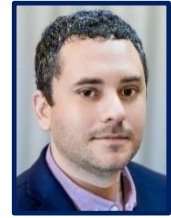
Omair Ahmad (India) has a background in international politics, and has worked on conflict resolution and democratic transition issues in the Himalayas. He is currently the Managing Editor, South Asia, for The Third Pole, which reports on the transboundary river basins of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region.



Aziza Sharofova Khamza kizi (Uzbekistan) 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.



Kerry Schneider (United States/Sweden) 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.



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.



Side Event Co-Convening Partners Include:

- The Women in Water Diplomacy Network and its partners including the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), the Orange Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) representing Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, and South Africa ; the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) representing Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe; the International Joint Commission (IJC) representing the United States and Canada; UNDP Cap-Net; UNESCO International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC); Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (CAREC) representing Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI); the Environmental Law Institute (ELI); the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the World Bank Equal Aqua, The Environmental Peacebuilding Association (EnPax); the Sudanese Youth for Water Parliament; the Community of Women in Water – Latin America; Women Plus Water at the University of Saskatchewan; IHE Delft; Lincoln Institute of Land Policy; and The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center
- The Red Dot Foundation and the Global Diplomacy Lab Secretariat at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany