

**Women in Water Diplomacy Network and the Red Dot Foundation and partners**  
**Confirmed Official Side Event**



**UN**  
**2023 WATER**  
**CONFERENCE**

NEW YORK  
 22-24  
 MARCH  
 2023

**Entitled: 'Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy'**

**UN Water Conference | New York City, NY, USA | Date/Time to be confirmed March 22, 23, or 24**

MINUTES	AGENDA 'Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy' SIDE EVENT
0-5	<b>Welcome, Protocol Observance, and Introduction to the Side Event</b> <b>Felix Ngamlagosi</b> , Executive Secretary, Zambezi Watercourse Commission (TBC)
6-20	<b>Introduction to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Our Shared Commitments to the 2023 UN Water Action Agenda</b> <b>Elizabeth A. Koch</b> , Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Team Lead for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (Confirmed); and <b>Tais Reznikova</b> , Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and Network Process Support Team (Confirmed)
21-55	<b>High Level Panel: Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy</b> <i>Panel Moderated by Dr Saule Ospanova</i> , Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe <b>Expert Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Johanna Sumuvuori</b>, Secretary of State, Finland (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Tanya Trujillo</b>, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, United States (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Foman Forough</b>, Former Director General of the Kabul River Basin, Afghanistan (Confirmed)</li> <li>• <b>Merrell-Ann Phare</b>, Commissioner to the International Joint Commission, Canada (Confirmed)</li> <li>• <b>Saroj Kumar Jha</b>, Global Director, Water Practice, World Bank (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Commissioner Bogadi T. Mathangwane</b>, Orange-Senqu Basin Commission (ORASECOM), Botswana (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Kathryn Bryk Friedman</b>, North American Arctic Policy Advisor, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (Confirmed)</li> </ul>
56-66	<b>Water intelligence: A prerequisite for addressing global water crises</b> <b>Dr Irena Creed</b> , Vice-Principal Research & Innovation at University of Toronto Scarborough  <b>Book Launch: Recognizing Women Water Thought Leaders – from India to Canada</b> <b>ElsaMarie Dsilva</b> , Red Dot Foundation
66-75	<b>A Call to Partnership and Shared Action</b> to transform the status quo, elevate women experts and decision makers, and foster inclusive decision making in critical water and climate dialogues – <b>shared reading of the 'A Rising Tide of support for women in water diplomacy' Joint Statement;</b> Read by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yodit Balcha</b>, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Ethiopia;</li> <li>• <b>Kerry Schneider</b>, Senior Program Manager, SIWI, Sweden;</li> <li>• <b>Aziza Sharofova Khamza kizi</b>, Women in Water Management Network, Uzbekistan;</li> <li>• <b>Omair Ahmad</b>, Third Pole, India;</li> <li>• <b>Firmina Acuba</b>, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Member, Uganda;</li> <li>• <b>Hussain Yusuf Ali</b>, Director of Planning, Office of the President, Somalia; and</li> <li>• <b>Tumaini Mwamyalla</b>, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Tanzania.</li> </ul>
	<b>GROUP PICTURE</b> – all consortia members, speakers and event participants are welcome to join in the side event group picture

## 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; the Global Water Institute at the University of Saskatchewan; IHE Delft; 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

## Run of Show **UNDER DEVELOPMENT**:

AGENDA SESSION	KEY MESSAGES:
<p><b>Welcome, Protocol Observance, and Introduction to the Side Event</b>  <b>Felix Ngamlagosi</b>, Executive Secretary, Zambezi Watercourse Commission (TBC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome on behalf of ZAMCOM</li> <li>• Recognition of the large number of consortium partners engaged in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and new partners for this event including RedDot Foundation</li> <li>• Highlighting the submitted joint Commitments to the Water Action Decade on behalf of the consortia partners</li> <li>• Protocol observation – recognition of ministers and high-level supporters joining the event</li> <li>• Introduction to the event</li> <li>• If Felix is unable to attend and start the event due to visa challenges, Yodit will do the welcoming and someone else will replace her as a reader.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Introduction to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Our Shared Commitments to the 2023 UN Water Action Agenda</b>  <b>Elizabeth A. Koch</b>, Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute and Process Support Team Lead for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (Confirmed); and  <b>Tais Reznikova</b>, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and Network Process Support Team (Confirmed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network</li> <li>• Short #herstory review of the Network’s development</li> <li>• Recognition of the Network members in the room and the many who were unable to join due to financial, political, administrative, and other barriers to participation</li> <li>• Grateful for the opportunity to elevate the importance of inclusive water diplomacy with focus on women-led engagements at the UN Water Conference</li> <li>• Short outline of the Network’s Global Strategy</li> <li>• Call to partnership and resourcing of women-led engagements</li> </ul>
<p><b>High Level Panel: Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy</b>  <i>Panel Moderated by Dr Saule Ospanova</i>, Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe  <b>Expert Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Johanna Sumuvuori</b>, Secretary of State, Finland (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Tanya Trujillo</b>, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, United States (TBC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SO</b> introduction of the panel and individual panellists, panellist take their seats in the front of the room</li> <li>• <b>JS:</b> Ongoing support for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network; Alignment with Finnish Way of Water; key Finnish commitments to gender inclusion in Water Action Decade</li> <li>• <b>TT:</b> Ongoing US Support for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network; Alignment to US Global Water Strategy and White House priorities; key US</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Foman Forough</b>, Former Director General of the Kabul River Basin, Afghanistan (Confirmed)</li> <li>• <b>Merrell-Ann Phare</b>, Commissioner to the International Joint Commission, Canada (Confirmed)</li> <li>• <b>Saroj Kumar Jha</b>, Global Director, Water Practice, World Bank (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Commissioner Bogadi T. Mathangwane</b>, Orange-Senqu Basin Commission (ORASECOM), Botswana (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Kathryn Bryk Friedman</b>, North American Arctic Policy Advisor, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (Confirmed)</li> </ul>	<p>commitments to gender inclusion in Water Action Decade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FF: Central Asia and Afghanistan Network engagement, including Afghan women; Keeping Afghan women water leaders voices at the table through the Network; importance of sisterhood</b></li> <li>• <b>M-AP:</b> Ongoing IJC partnership with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network; Support for the development of North American Network; Importance of learning from Nile Network as we all face water insecurity; key IJC commitments to gender inclusion in Water Action Decade</li> <li>• <b>SKJ:</b> Ongoing World Bank/CIWA/Equal Aqua partnership with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network; Support for benchmarking and data collection to ensure women’s equal representation in water decision making; key World Bank commitments to gender inclusion in Water Action Decade</li> <li>• <b>BM:</b> Stronger together – growth of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network across Southern Africa; SADC/ORASECOM Commitments to gender inclusion in the Water Action Decade</li> <li>• <b>KBF:</b> <i>To be developed</i></li> <li>• <b>SO:</b> Closing panel remarks</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water intelligence: A prerequisite for addressing global water crises</b>  <b>Dr Irena Creed</b>, Vice-Principal Research &amp; Innovation at University of Toronto Scarborough</p> <p><b>Book Launch: Recognizing Women Water Thought Leaders – from India to Canada</b>  <b>ElsaMarie Dsilva</b>, Red Dot Foundation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IC:</b> <i>To be developed</i></li> <li>• <b>EMD:</b> <i>To be developed</i></li> <li>• Recognition Colleen of Women+Water who is included in the book and in the session, encourage session participants to sign up with the Women+Water Expert List today or online (have Colleen raise her hand)</li> </ul>
<p><b>A Call to Partnership and Shared Action</b> to transform the status quo, elevate women experts and decision makers, and foster inclusive decision making in critical water and climate dialogues – <b>shared reading of the ‘A Rising Tide of support for women in water diplomacy’ Joint Statement;</b>  Read by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yodit Balcha</b>, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Ethiopia;</li> <li>• <b>Kerry Schneider</b>, Senior Program Manager, SIWI, Sweden;</li> <li>• <b>Aziza Sharofova Khamza kizi</b>, Women in Water Management Network, Uzbekistan;</li> <li>• <b>Omair Ahmad</b>, Third Pole, India;</li> <li>• <b>Firmina Acuba</b>, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Member, Uganda;</li> <li>• <b>Hussain Yusuf Ali</b>, Director of Planning, Office of the President, Somalia; and</li> <li>• <b>Tumaini Mwamyalla</b>, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Leadership Council, Tanzania.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Reading of the ‘A Rising Tide’ Joint Statement.</li> <li>• Elizabeth will help arrange the speakers in order and provide everyone with their portion of the reading in advance</li> <li>• Readers are subject to change should someone not get a visa or otherwise be unable to change. Focus will remain on women water diplomats for reading roles.</li> <li>• If Felix is unable to attend and start the event due to visa challenges, Yodit will do the welcoming and someone else will replace her as a reader.</li> </ul>

## Communications Plan:

Event flyer developed to include: All consortia member logos, Speaker headshots and titles (not including joint statement readers)

- End of Feb:** Initial announcement of side event
- Early March:** Event details released; event webpage content released on partner websites
- March 8:** Event highlighted in Women in Water Diplomacy International Women's Day online event
- March 8:** Event highlighted in Environmental Law Institute podcast on International Women's Day, the March edition of the Environmental Law Forum publication
- Mid March:** Social media push across all consortia member channels
- March 22:** Social media final push as the UN Water Conference kicks off
- Event day:** Live tweeting on several channels (ICWC, UN Water Conference COMs, IJC, who else?); Facebook live event shared across consortia members sites
- Post event:** Recording 'cleaned up' and shared across consortia member social media and website pages.

## Logistical Questions for Discussion:

- Will there be online participation options? Streaming?
- Will the side event be recorded?
- What is the capacity of the room we will be assigned?
- Elizabeth is in touch with the UN Water Communication teams who have expressed willingness to attend and live tweet our side event