



Launch of The Water Diplomat Media Platform

Media engagement is instrumental to raise awareness on water issues. However, to date, there is no media platform centralising and organising hydropolitical information in a consistent manner at a global level. The degree of complexity related to water issues further requires expertise in identifying and following the issues at stake and communicating on their evolution.

In a move to bridge the gap on hydropolitical information and trigger the interest of the public and the media, the Geneva Water Hub and OOSKAnews, the world's leading publisher of current international water news, jointly launched a global media platform entitled *The Water Diplomat*, a free monthly news and intelligence resource specialised in hydropolitics. The media platform builds upon the work of the Global High Level Panel on Water & Peace, that produced in 2017 the milestone report *A Matter of Survival*, by providing news pertaining to the various themes of the Panel's report. It also offers in-depth analysis of experts through *videocast interviews*. The Water Diplomat project thus pursued the goal of promoting access to political stakes of water management that are making news around the world. It is aimed at any water professional, researcher, politician, diplomat, communication specialist, citizen wishing to learn about hydropolitics news. It serves as an intermediate source of information for national and local media interested in providing news in this area of expertise.

This new media platform has been launched during World Water Week 2019 in Stockholm at the Swiss Booth in the frame of a session on intergenerational dialogue on Water and Peace convened by the Geneva Water Hub, the International Secretariat for Water and OOSKAnews. Further, it has been promoted through an event at the Geneva Press Club with a panel composed of Dr. Danilo Türk, Chair of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace, Mr. François Münger, Director General of the Geneva Water Hub, Mr. Johan Gély, Head of SDC Global Water Programme, Mr. David Duncan, Executive Director of OOSKAnews and Mr. Dagim Gesese Terefe, Freelance Journalist and Global Goodwill Ambassador for Ethiopia. Panellists of this press conference, [accessible online](#), highlighted the crucial need to mainstream water challenges in the media as well as the role that journalists may endorse in order to inform the public and contribute to the de-escalation of likely tensions aroused from water resource competition. There are also many positive steps taken in the water domain that would benefit from more media coverage with the aim to provide more visibility to the Blue Peace movement and actors working towards peace and cooperation.

The Geneva Water Hub and its partners warmly invites all SWP members and readers of its publications [to subscribe](#) to *The Water Diplomat* and its [free monthly newsletter](#).

The Geneva Water Hub is a centre of excellence specialised in hydropolitics and hydrodiplomacy. Its objective is to better understand and contribute to the prevention of tensions related to water by taking into account conflicts of uses between public sectors and private sectors, between political entities and between states. He is the Secretariat of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace and engages in the promotion and the implementation of the Panel recommendations published in September 2017.

The Geneva Water Hub aims at developing the hydropolitics agenda to help prevent water-related conflicts at intersectoral and transboundary levels at an early stage and to promote water as an instrument of peace and cooperation with the support of the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the University of Geneva. For further information, kindly contact the Geneva Water Hub at the following e-mail address contact@genevawaterhub.org and visit our website: www.genevawaterhub.org