

Part 2: Thinking big - together

Interactive networking session to get to know Network Members and supporters joining the Global Network Forum from around the world



Women in Water Diplomacy Network 2nd Global Network Forum

concept note

Vienna, Austria | 11:00 - 12:30 CET, March 4, 2024

Background and Opportunity

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network was initiated in 2017 *to improve gender equality in high-level decision making in transboundary basins with focus on women's leadership in regional dialogues around shared waters*. The Network was developed in the Nile Basin and later adapted and replicated in other water regions including Central Asia and Afghanistan and other partner basins across Africa, Asia, and the Americas through the 2022 Global Network Strategy '[A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security](#).' In person 'Network Forums' have been a central feature of Network engagements since the first Nile Forum as described in the Network's inception and development report '[Laying the Bedrock of Transformation](#).' In 2022, the Network convened its **first Global Network Forum** alongside the release of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Strategy at the 2022 World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden as described in the [2022 Global Network Forum After Action Report](#).

The Women in Water Diplomacy Second Global Network Forum will be held in Vienna, Austria from March 4-7, 2024. The second Global Network Forum is being organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) in close collaboration with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is headquartered in Vienna. As with the first Global Network Forum, the second Global Network Forum aims to bring together Network members from across the growing global community that make up the Women in Water Diplomacy Network with focus on engaging Network members from the Nile Basin, Central Asia-Afghanistan, Southern African basins including the Zambezi, Orange-Senqu, Okavango, as well as shared basins across the Americas. The Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Second Global Network Forum is expected to engage an estimated 80 women water diplomats and experts.

Rationale

The implementation of the [Women in Water Diplomacy Network Global Strategy 'A Path Forward for women, water, peace and security'](#) necessitates a strong collaboration of all networks and development partners. It also needs to consolidate a common vision on water priorities and opportunities to enhance water management and foster cooperation.

This session will bring Network members and supporters together to consider how much they have in common, and identify shared perspectives to work together on water management and cooperation.

After this session, it will be expected that Network Members and Supporters are able to identify with one or more other members beyond their geographical areas.

The forum will serve as a platform of exchange and will enable strong synergies for collaboration as well as knowledge and experience exchange.

Objectives

The interactive networking session will be facilitated by **Julienne Ndjiki** (SIWI), **Letizia Zuliani** (OSCE), **Tim Kraenzlein** (OSCE), **Katie Goldie-Ryder** (SIWI) and **Tais Reznikova** (CAREC) with the aim to:

- Get to know members and supporters of the Network from across the world
- Reach a common understanding and/or vision of values of water
- Enable Network Members and Supporters to realise and capitalize on their affinities
- Strengthen linkages among members to foster collaboration
- Meet and exchange with water diplomats from a range of disciplines and geographies

Approach/Methodology

| TIME (CET) | AGENDA ITEMS |
|---------------|--|
| 11:00 – 11:05 | Introduction to the Interactive Networking session – By Julienne Ndjiki |
| 11:05 – 11:40 | <p>Activity 1: Speed dating using the following questions – By Tais Reznikova</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the unique selling point that being a member of the Network brings? 2. What does being a ‘water diplomat’ mean to you? 3. Please share one memorable travel experience related to water. 4. Are there any cultural traditions or practices related to water management in your region/country that you find interesting or meaningful? |
| 11:40 – 12:25 | <p>Activity 2: Group discussions using the following questions – By Letizia Zuliani</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the critical impacts of climate change on water resources in your region? 2. In your region, what is the biggest opportunity for enhancing transboundary water cooperation? 3. How can marginalized and underrepresented groups (inc. women and youth) be more included in decision-making processes? <p>Scenario 1: Presentation of the artwork – Artist</p> <p>Scenario 2: Facilitation of report back from table rapporteurs – By Katie Goldie-Ryder</p> |
| 12:25 – 12:30 | Closing – By Tim Kraenzlein |

Instructions for the Exercise 1: Speed Dating:

1. Form a single row with 40 participants seated or standing in a line.
2. The remaining 40 participants who prefer to move around will be designated as the "rotating" group.
3. Upon the facilitator's signal, the rotating group should begin moving from one participant in the first row to the next, clockwise or counterclockwise, as directed.
4. Each participant in the rotating group should ask 1-2 questions from the ones displayed on the screen to the participant they are facing.
5. After 4 minutes or when signaled by the facilitator, the rotating group should move to the next participant in the row and continue the process.
6. Repeat the rotation 5 times - until each participant in the rotating group has interacted with several participants in the seated
7. The participants are encouraged to engage in meaningful conversations and to actively listen to each other's responses.

After the icebreaker exercise, participants will be invited to take their seats at the tables for the next group exercise.

Instructions for the Exercise 2: Group discussions on common challenges and opportunities.

1. Return to your table.
2. Designate one person to be the moderator and one to be a rapporteur.
3. You will have 30 minutes to discuss the questions above.
4. After 30 minutes, each table will have 2-3 minutes to summarize 2 key points from the discussion.

Scenario 1: Presentation of the artwork – Artist

5. The Artist will present the artwork created during the session.
6. A facilitator will take a few comments or reflections on the artwork from the room.

Scenario 2: Facilitation of report back from table rapporteurs

5. The facilitator will have 15 minutes to visit each table and ask the rapporteur to share the key takeaways.