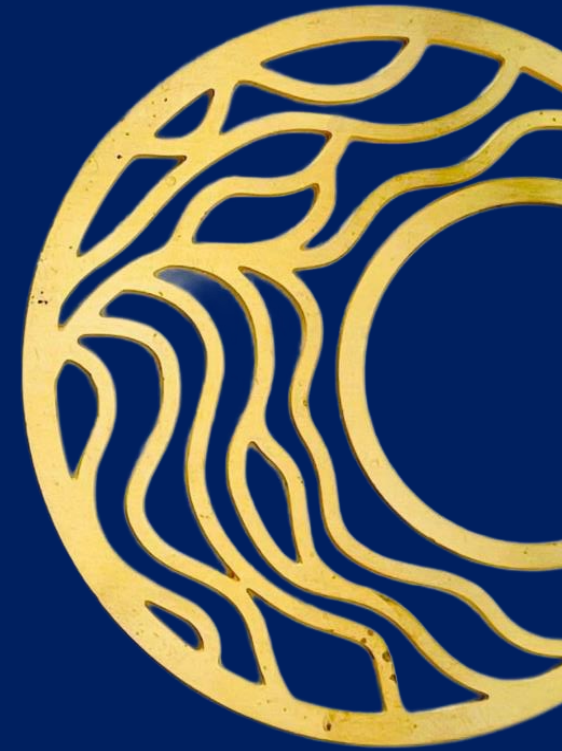


# Women in Water Diplomacy Network: 2023 Year-in-Review Online Event



Monday, December 11, 2023 | Online | 14:00-15:30 CET

Open to Network Members and Supporters globally, with required pre-registration



WOMEN IN  
WATER DIPLOMACY  
NETWORK & PARTNERS

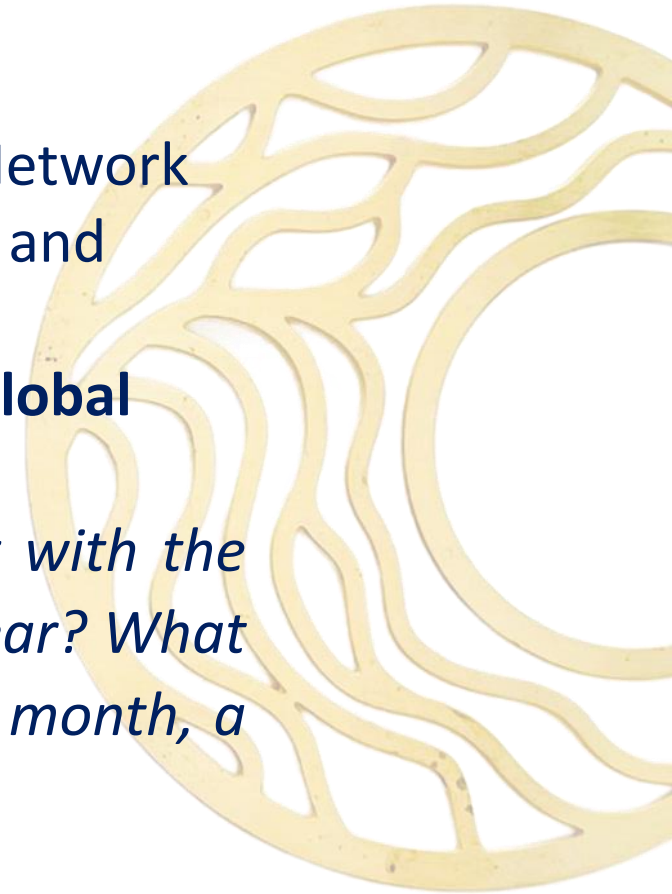


ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW • INSTITUTE®

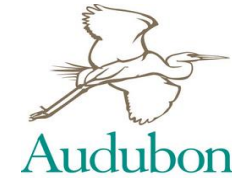
# Welcome to the 2023 Year-in-Review Session!

## Today's Program highlights include:

- **2023 Engagement Highlights** from Across the Growing Global Network including updates from Members in the Nile Basin, Central Asia and Afghanistan, Orange-Senqu Basin, and North America.
- **What to expect in 2024 and how to apply to join the Second Global Network Forum!**
- **Plenary Interaction:** *"What one thing from your engagement with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network has stuck with you this year? What new knowledge or skill will you remember or use in a week, a month, a year?"*
- **Closing Reflections and Exit Poll**



# With special thanks to our ever-growing partners!



Government of the Netherlands




Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland



## Snapshot: Women in Water Diplomacy Network

- Initiated in the Nile Basin in 2017
- Central Asia-Afghanistan Network launched in 2021
- Global Strategy released in 2022
- New basin Networks under development – Southern Africa, Americas
- Networks host regular in-person and online experience exchange sessions; collectively engage in basin, regional, international events of critical importance to water cooperation; enables inter-generational and cross border mentoring and shared learning for women water diplomats and more.

# New to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network? Learn more with our #Herstory Resource Series



**POLICY PAPER**  
**Tapping our Potential: Women's Water Leadership in the Nile Basin**

Women Have a Critical Role to Play in Inclusive and Effective Transboundary Water Governance

Cooperation over the shared water resources of the Nile Basin is essential to water security and development in the region. To mitigate and manage potential and actual drivers of water-related conflict in the region, improved and more inclusive resource decision-making is critical. Engaging a diverse cross-section of stakeholders in decisions around shared waters broadens the set of environmental and social impacts that are considered and the knowledge and skills employed to address them, thus increasing the likelihood of developing sustainable and equitable solutions. In the Nile Basin, SWI and partners initiated a growing network of women water professionals active in transboundary water management under the 'Women and Water Diplomacy in the Nile (WIN)' platform to enhance the collective capacity of women throughout the basin and to support the engagement of these women water leaders in decision-making and peace-building processes in the Basin.

**From Policy to Action: Balancing Gender for Stronger Water Diplomacy**

The critical role of women in water resources management and protection has been recognized and emphasized at the highest policy levels for over 25 years. The Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development (see box) was only the first of countless national, basin-level and international policy statements and guidance documents that stress the need for more gender-inclusive water governance processes at all levels'. Yet, despite repeated, high-level commitments to engaging women in water governance, evidence reveals a persistent gender gap in the water sector. The gap is particularly evident at the transboundary level, where water governance processes continue to be dominated by men (Baill and Earle, 2013; IUCN, 2017).

Similarly, the transformative role of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding has been repeatedly demonstrated.


See, e.g., The Dublin Statement for Action (2005); Rio Principle 20 (1992); Africa Water Vision 2025; The ABC200 Strategy and Policy for Mainstreaming Gender in the Water Sector in Africa (2011); and the Mekong River Commission Gender Policy and Strategy (2013).

**INCEPTION AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

## Laying the Bedrock of Transformation

### Women in Water Diplomacy Network 2013-2021

The story so far; how the Network came to be and how it has developed through the years.



**Dublin Statement (1992) Principle 3:**

Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

This pivotal role of women as providers and users of water and guardians of the living environment has seldom been reflected in institutional arrangements for the development and management of water resources. Acceptance and implementation of this principle requires positive policies to address women's specific needs and to equip and empower women to participate at all levels in water resources programmes, including decision-making and implementation, in ways defined by them.


including research showing that gender inclusive peace processes are 35 per cent more likely to last at least 15 years, that peace agreements signed by women are positively associated with more durable peace, and that higher levels of gender equity are associated with a lower incidence of conflict (Krause et al., 2018; UNSC, 2000). Despite this evidence and the formal recognition of the UN Security Council of the critical role of women in peace and security efforts, between 1990 and 2017 women constituted only 2 percent of mediators, 8 percent of negotiators and 5 percent of witnesses in all major peace processes. Women in transboundary water governance therefore face a hurdle on two fronts in overcoming the traditionally male-dominated worlds of water and peacebuilding (UN Women, 2018). Ensuring a better gender balance in water diplomacy efforts will require a sea change in perception of gender roles in both fields, accompanied by strong and implementable policies to overcome entrenched discrimination.

The persistent failure to include women equitably in political decision-making processes at the transboundary level undermines progress towards the cooperative and sustainable

**GLOBAL STRATEGY | AUGUST 2022**

## A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace, and Security

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network Nile and Beyond Global Strategy 2022-2027



# Sign up for our Network Newsletter

The sixth edition was released on December 4, 2023 and included dozens of articles from Network members.

Newsletters provide a shared space for updates from across the growing Network, enabling learning and fostering community.



## Women in Water Diplomacy Network official Side-Event at the UN Water Conference

by Elizabeth Koch and Ekta Patel

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network hosted its official side event on March 22 at the UN Headquarters, entitled 'Elevating Critical Voices in Water Diplomacy'.

[Read the full message >](#)



## Inclusivity fostered by the Women in Water Diplomacy Network

by Sharon E. Megdal, Ph.D.

It is hard to believe that it was less than nine months ago that I became part of the strong and exciting Women in Water Diplomacy Network...

[Read the full message >](#)

## Youth participation at the UN Water Conference

by Afeerim Seidakmatova

Youth engagement at the UN Water Conference took many forms, such as attending as delegates or observers, participating in side events and workshops, and contributing to the conference's outcomes through various channels.

[Read the full message >](#)



# Women in Water Diplomacy Network After Action Report

The Water Diplomacy Symposium and Network  
Engagement in the UN 2023 Water Conference



## Global Network updates

- Strong Network engagement at the **UN Water Conference** including delegation, many Network members contributing to official and unofficial sessions, Network commitment to Water Action Agenda.
- Network engagement at the **2023 World Water Week** including Network Member speakers at sessions
- **International Women in Diplomacy Day** Event with U.S. Institute of Peace
- Launch of **Women in Water Diplomacy Network LinkedIn Page**
- **Women in Water Diplomacy Newsletter** continues to grow and develop!
- **New Networks** under development in Orange-Senqu and North America
- **New Network partnership with Organization for American States** to support Network developments across the Americas.





# Photo Highlights: Global Engagements 2023





# Updates from the Nile Basin Network

---

- **June 2023: Online Experience Exchange Workshop on the theme of *'Digitalization: Supporting inclusive, sustainable, and effective water diplomacy processes'***
- **August 2023: World Water Week engagements**
- **October 2023: Women in Water Diplomacy Network members represent at the 2023 Nile Basin Development Forum**
- **November 2023: Online Experience Exchange Workshop on the theme of *'WASH + Water Security'***



# Photo Highlights: Nile Basin Engagements 2023







# Photo Highlights: Central Asia-Afghanistan Engagements 2023



# Updates from the Orange-Senqu Network

---

- **Aug 2022: Commitment to establish an Orange-Senqu chapter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network at Global Strategy launch**
- **Nov 2022: Concept Note developed**
- **April 2023: Consultation processes undertaken in all riparian states**
- **Draft framework document developed to be validated by ORASECOM and published in 2024**





# Photo Highlights: Orange-Senqu Engagements

# Updates from the North American Network


- **Aug 2022:** Call to establish a North American (US, Mexico, Canada, Indigenous Nations and Communities) chapter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network at Global Strategy launch
- Engagement and support for Global Network events (UN Water Conference Water Diplomacy Symposium, World Water Week)
- Broad partnerships developed and resource mobilization initiated
- **June 2023:** Concept Note and commitment to launch NAWWDN at Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) annual conference in partnership with Indigenous Women's Leadership Network Concept Note.
- **December 13 2023: Launch Event** CRWUA in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A



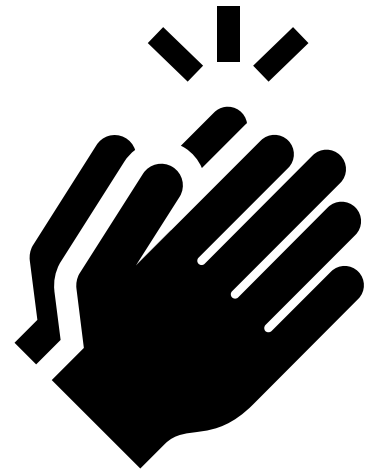
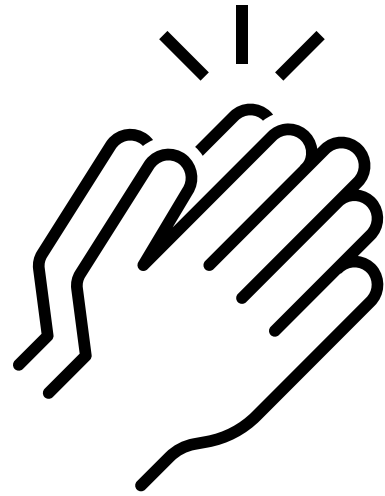
# Photo Highlights: North American Network Engagements 2023



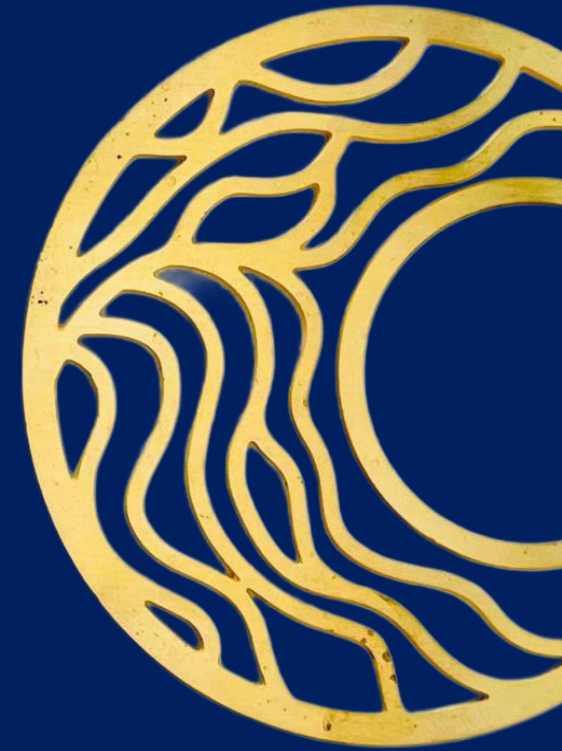




WOW –  
TAKE A MOMENT TO  
APPRECIATE ALL THE  
AMAZING  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
THIS YEAR!



# Women in Water Diplomacy Network: *What to expect in 2024 and how to apply to join the Second Global Network Forum!*



**Elizabeth A. Koch, Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute  
Process Support Team Lead, Women in Water Diplomacy Network**



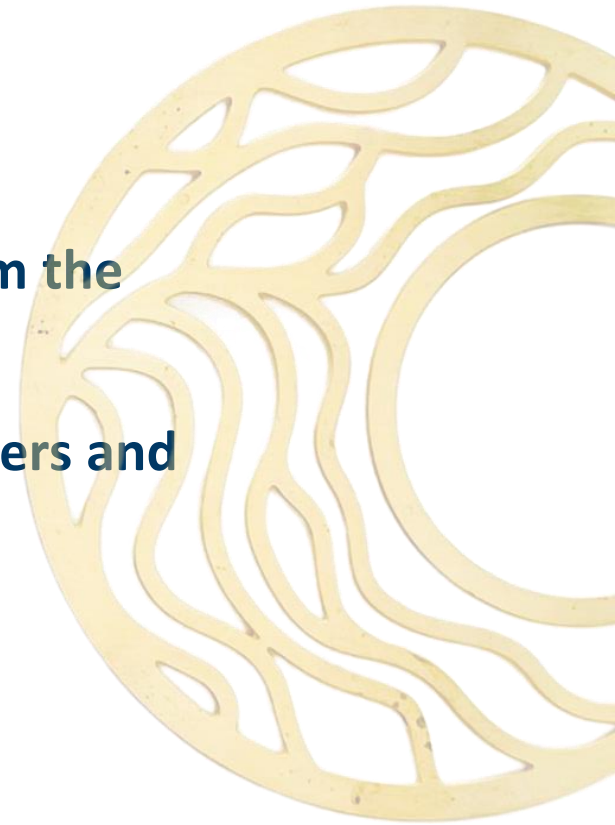
# What to expect in 2024?

- **Online Experience Exchange Sessions** will continue within basin groups
- **Celebrating key international dates with ‘open’ online events** including International Women’s Day (March 8), International Women in Diplomacy Day (June 24) and Annual Year-in-Review (**TODAY!**).
- **World Water Week in Stockholm - 2024 theme is ‘*Bridging Borders: Water for a peaceful and sustainable future*’!**
- **Resource mobilization with focus on Nile Basin Network urgent resource needs**
- **Network Newsletter will continue! Your contributions are welcome!**
- **The Second Global Network Forum!**
- **And more!**



# The 2024 Global Network Forum

- March 4-8, 2024 in Vienna, Austria
- 2024 Global Network Forum is made possible by targeted support from the MFA of Finland and joint programming with OSCE and other partners
- 4 days of joint learning and experience exchange with Network members and supporters from around the world!
- Networking and informal engagement activities.
- Celebration of International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> together.
- And lots more!
- Read the [2022 After Action Report on the first Global Network Forum](#) to get a sense of the experience.





# Snapshots: Women in Water Diplomacy Network's first-ever Global Network Forum; August 2022

---



## You can apply to join the 2024 Global Network Forum if you are:

- **an active member** of Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile, Central Asia & Afghanistan, Southern Africa, North America or other basin communities
- **a water diplomat** or water expert committed to advancing gender equality (male champions included)
- **a young water diplomat** (35 years old and younger)
- a development or implementation **partner** representative
- Engaged in a **women's mediation network** such as the Finnish women's mediation network.



# How will participants be selected/ sponsored?

- We have limited resources, time, and space.
- We expect an estimated 60-80 participants.
- **Sponsorship determined by engagement rate; and overall group composition goals for the 2024 Global Network Forum.**
- We aim to provide sponsored participation packages to a diverse range of Network members across a variety of regions and areas of expertise.
- Network members under the age of 35 are strongly encouraged to apply.
- We invite partners that can sponsor their own costs to consider joining (or sponsoring a young professional).
- Applications will be assessed and approved on a rolling basis **so apply early!** March 2024 is right around the corner.
- **Final deadline is January 5, 2024.**



# What is included in the participation application?

- **Basic applicant information**
- **Professional experience description**
- **Motivation statement – *why do you want to participate? How you will utilize the experience in your professional engagements?***





# Ready to apply?



<https://forms.office.com/r/9aNFTMSqB2>

**Submit your application by January 5, 2024!**

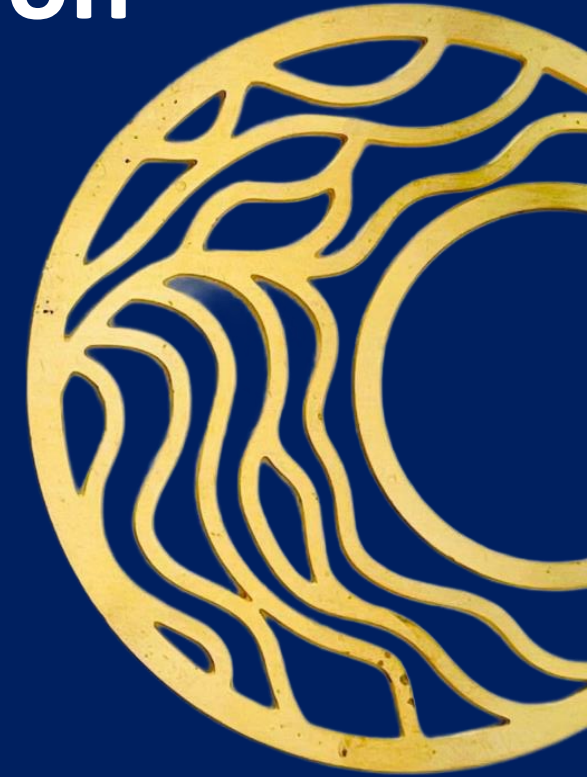


# An opportunity for Collective Reflection

*What is one thing that has stuck with you this year from your engagement with the Network? What new knowledge or skill will you remember or use in a week, a month, a year?*

*Participants will take a moment to reflect, sharing thoughts in the chat and to the group.*

**Facilitated by: Sogol Jafarzedeh, Process Support Team**



**Join at  
slido.com  
#1116 086**



**What is one thing that has stuck with you this year from your engagement with the Network?**

# Discussion

**What is one thing that has stuck with you  
this year from your engagement with the  
Network?**



**What new knowledge or skill will you remember or use in a week, a month, a year?**

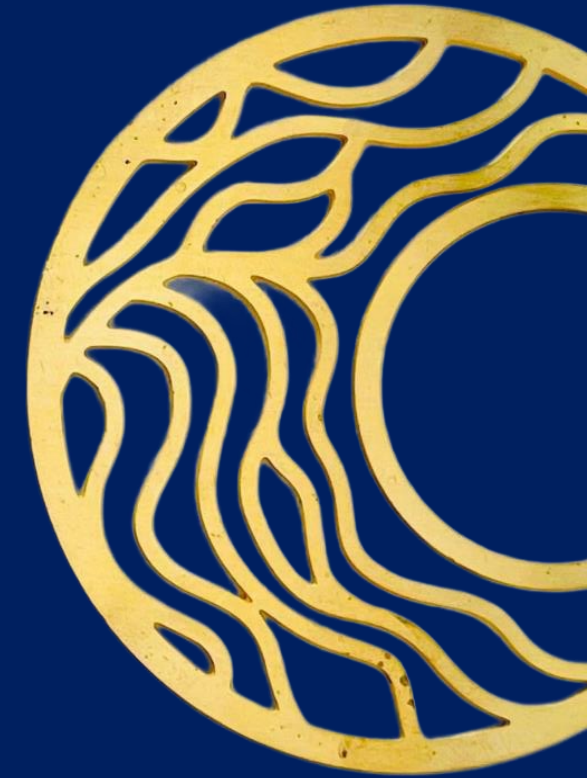
# Discussion

**What new knowledge or skill will you remember or use in a week, a month, a year?**

# Closing Reflection



**Dr Muna Musnad, Women in  
Water Diplomacy Leadership  
Council**



# Share your inputs in the Exit Poll

