

Women in Water Diplomacy Network North American Network Development Proposal

North American Women in Water Diplomacy Network
Inception and Development Proposal
November 2023



The **Women in Water Diplomacy Network** is a community of practice comprised of both formal and informal women decision-makers and experts, representing a wealth of collective experience and expertise in transboundary water management and decision-making engaged in some of the most water insecure regions of the world. Originating in the Nile Basin in 2017, the Network is now a global community of women water leaders (and male champions supporting gender equality) working collectively to strengthen women’s leadership in transboundary water decision-making. Support comes from a growing global coalition of partners across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.



Commissioner Henry Lickers, Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare, Commissioner Adriana Resendez, Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner and Commissioner Robert Sisson; August '22.

North American representatives have been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the 2022 launch of the Network’s Global Strategy **[‘A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security’](#)**. The Global Strategy is designed to be an adaptable tool to support the development and deepening of dialogue across transboundary settings, broadly construed. During the Network’s Global Strategy launch event at the Stockholm World Water Week 2022, International Joint Commission Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare endorsed the Global Strategy and encouraged its adoption across North America. ***“There has never been a more important time for a Network like this to exist. The challenges we are facing are so significant – while we all face them – the impacts are most severely on those that are marginalized and vulnerable. We all have the opportunity to benefit from this Network.”***¹ At Women in Water Diplomacy Network events organized alongside the 2023 UN Water Conference, North American champions were joined by the International Boundary and Water Commission and other core partners, further building momentum to establish a North American Women in Water Diplomacy Network.²

Building on this momentum, the North American Women in Water Diplomacy Network (NA-WWDN) **will be launched** on the side of the 2023 Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA). To date the NA-WWDN has received in-kind and seed support from partners including the Stockholm International Water Institute, the Environmental Law Institute, the International Joint Commission, the International Boundary and Waters Commission, the



¹ For further details on the First Global Network Forum and Global Strategy Launch at the World Water Week 2022 please see this After Action Report: <https://siwi.org/publications/women-in-water-diplomacy-after-action-report/>.

² For further details on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network engagements at the UN Water Conference see Koch, E. Patel, E. et al. 2023. Women in Water Diplomacy Network After Action Report: The Water Diplomacy Symposium and Network Engagement in the 2023 UN Water Conference. Washington DC, USA and Stockholm, Sweden.

University of Arizona’s Water Resources Research Center and Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Indigenous Women’s Leadership Network, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the National Audubon Society, the Gila River Indian Community and Colorado River Indian Tribes with specific support for the December 2023 launch event provided by the Walton Family Foundation, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Central Arizona Project, the Salt River Project, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, N-Drip, Montgomery and Associates, Freeport McMoRan and Stantec.

To support the development of the NA-WWDN, the following prioritized activities are envisioned at an estimated direct cost of approximately \$300,000 over two years. To date \$50,000 has been leveraged by partners.

Additional resources are needed to undertake the following activities.

- A. Conceptual Development, Process Support and Resource Mobilization
- B. NA-WWDN participation in the annual Women in Water Diplomacy Year-in-Review online meeting; December 11, 2023
- C. NA-WWDN Launch Event at CRWUA, Las Vegas, USA; December 13, 2023
- D. NA-WWDN Informational Session; January 2024
- E. NA-WWDN members participation in Women in Water Diplomacy Global Network Forum, Vienna, Austria; March 4-8, 2024
- F. NA-WWDN Hybrid Consultation Workshop #1 (Adapting the Strategy); June 2024 (tbc)
- G. NA-WWDN Hybrid Consultation Workshop #2 (Developing an Action Plan); October 2024 (tbc)
- H. Publication Launch Event: Adaption and Adoption of the Women in Water Diplomacy Global Strategy in North America; February 2025 (tbc)
- I. Public Webinar: Release of NA-WWDN strategy alignment publication; March 2025 (tbc)
- J. NA-WWDN member online experience exchange sessions and contribution to experience exchange sessions in the Global Network; recurrent (tbc)
- K. NA-WWDN inputs into recurrent Women in Water Diplomacy Network Newsletters; twice annually
- L. Reporting/ Next Steps Identified



Please join in supporting this much-needed network for women working in and around shared waters in North America!

For additional details on how to support the Women in Water Diplomacy Network please contact:
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