
Presentation of the *Geneva Water Hub*

The Global Water and Peace Nexus in meeting Freshwater Challenges

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**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

Avec le soutien de



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**



45% of the world GDP may originate in water-stressed & half of the world population in a water stress region in 2050

Source: Veolia Research & the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) & al. 2012

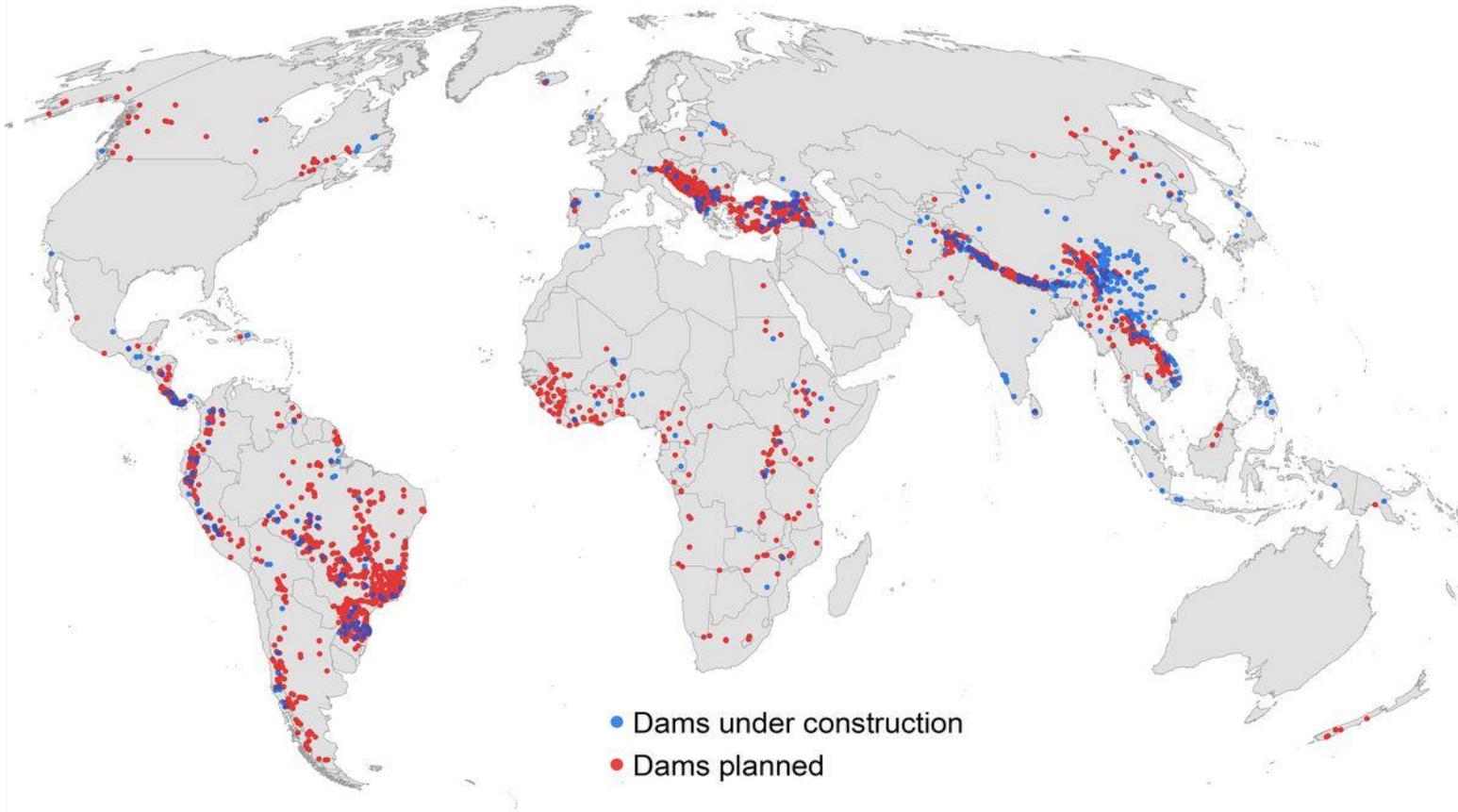
Water is in the first three highest global risk WEF 2014-2020

Source: Global Risks reports published by the World Economic Forum

Dams:

7,320 existing dams over 15 m high or with a reservoir of more than 0.1 km³ geolocated worldwide

Currently, 3,700 large hydroelectric dams are under construction or in an advanced stage of planning



Source Global Dam Watch

Sustainable and equitable access to water resources is a major global challenge of the 21st century.

- Our **main water resources are transboundary**. The world's **263 transboundary lakes and rivers** cover nearly half of the Earth's land surface; a total of **145 nations** territories **include international basins**.
- 99% of all accessible fresh water on the planet is found in aquifers, **270 of the biggest aquifers are transboundary worldwide** (UNESCO).
- At local level we see the emergence of **increasing intersectorial** conflicts
- In the past years, there have been increasing warnings about the possibility of water conflicts and water shortage coupled with poverty and societal instability could weaken intra-state cohesion and fuel inter-state conflicts.

Vision

Water is a tool for collaboration and an instrument of peace.

Experience shows that in many situations, rather than causing open conflict, **the need for water sharing induces cooperation.** Despite the complexity of the problems, **water disputes can be handled diplomatically** and even, water sharing can become a catalyzer for collaboration in conflict situations.

It is with this positive vision that the Geneva Water Hub has been established

Blue Diplomacy or Blue Peace.

GWH's Hydrodiplomacy

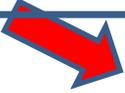
- According to the GWH, hydrodiplomacy, also known as water diplomacy, is a strategic tool for reconciling conflicting interests including and beyond water, based on the increasing global recognition of the water-peace nexus/paradigm. We view water diplomacy as one form of preventive diplomacy that adopts a multidisciplinary approach and innovative tools, that uses water as a vehicle for peace and a bridge that connects the development and peace agendas.
- Peace, according to us, is not the absence of armed conflict but rather the prevalence of sustainable development.

Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace supported by the Geneva Water Hub



From Recommendations to Actions

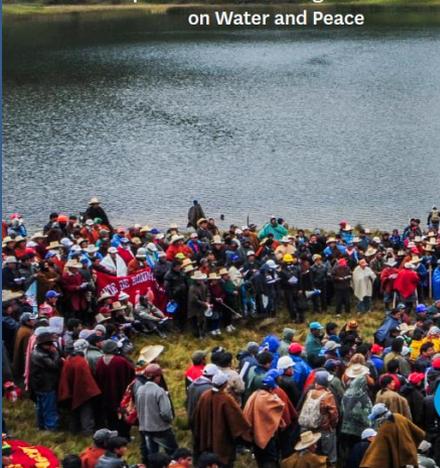
Developments by the GWH and its partners

1 THE DRAMA OF WATER		Advocacy for an UN Global Conference for water
2 INTO THE ABYSS: WATER IN ARMED CONFLICTS		The <i>Geneva List to protect water infrastructures</i>
3 AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION: INTERNATIONAL WATER LAW AND TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION		Close relations with UNECE Secretariat of the Water convention
4 QUANTITY AND QUALITY: STRENGTHENING OF KNOWLEDGE-BASED AND DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING AND COOPERATION		Support agencies in charge of water data and creation of an <i>analytical grid including social, economic, political and cultural</i> factors to better understand water conflicts.
5 PEOPLE'S DIPLOMACY, INTER-SECTORAL WATER MANAGEMENT AND DECISION MAKING		Partnership with normative and financial actors to <i>strengthen international standards and evaluation processes of mining industries</i>
6 FINANCIAL INNOVATION FOR WATER COOPERATION		<i>Blue peace financing</i> water infrastructure financing. (blended finance)
7 IN PURSUIT OF AGENCY: NEW MECHANISMS OF WATER DIPLOMACY		the <i>Global Observatory</i> for Water and Peace

2017

A MATTER OF SURVIVAL

Report of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace



2019

DETERMINED STEPS

Follow-up activities and implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace "A Matter of Survival"



2020

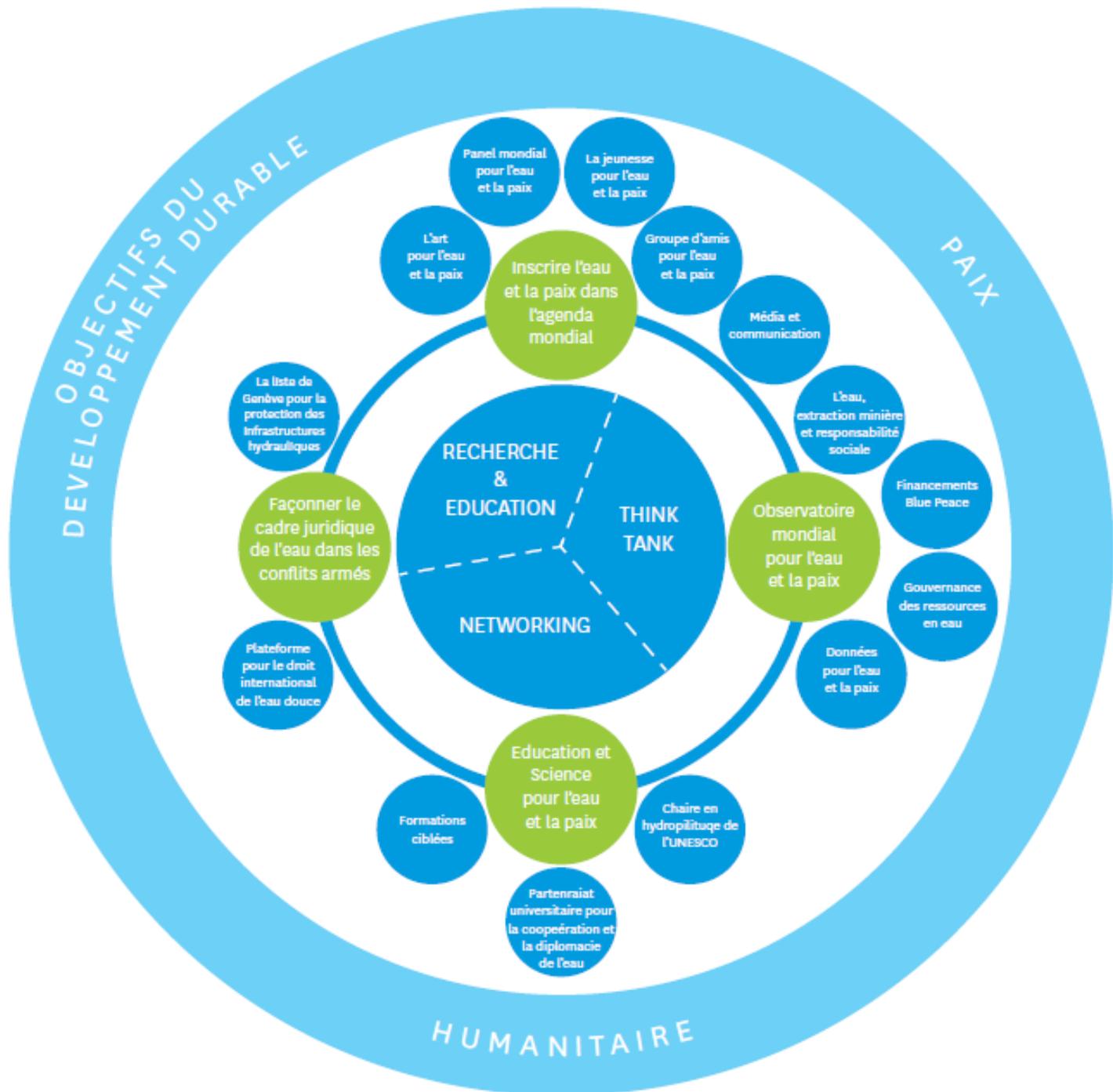
INTENSIFIED ACTION

Second progress report on the follow-up activities and implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace "A Matter of Survival"



(à venir) 2020-2021

*Rapport
Global Observatory on
Water and Peace*



At the Water, Peace and Security Interface: The Global Observatory for Water and Peace

- Gap in international cooperation, beyond the technical water management, especially in systematically leveraging the potential of water as a tool of peace-building and conflict-prevention
- Need for a **global network** (not a new institution!) that facilitates the expansion of water cooperation by providing a trusted, impartial clearing house for promising initiatives
- Launch at 5th Arab Water Week «Towards SD for water and sanitation», March 2019

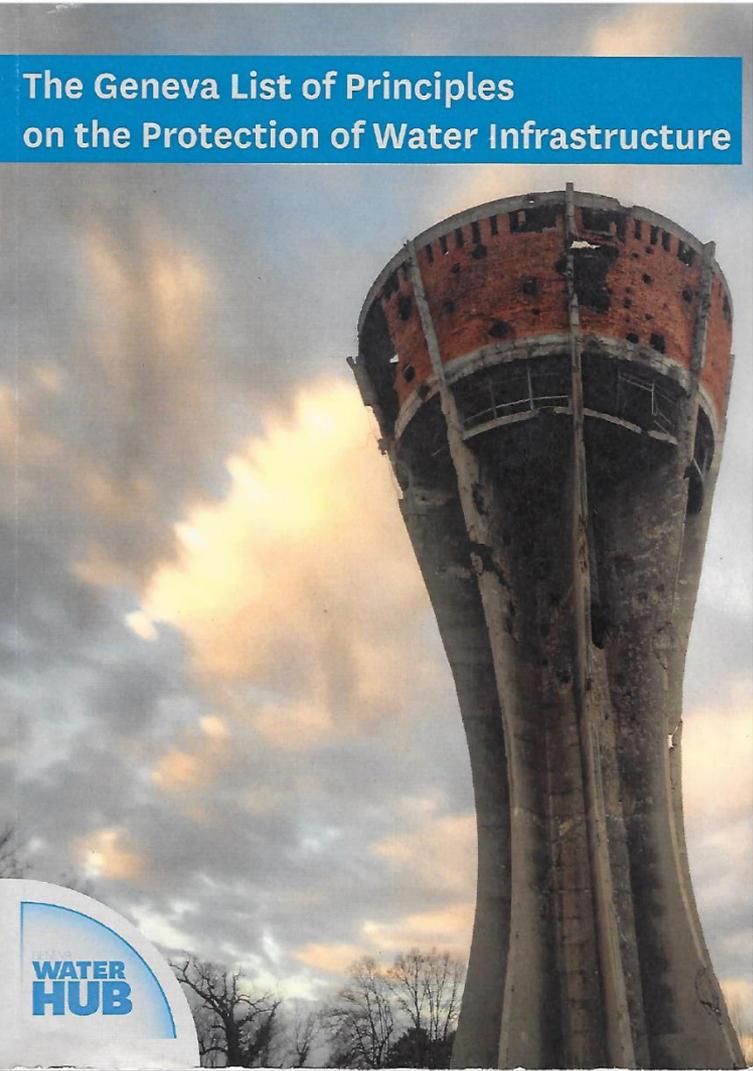
December 2019

An innovative “envoy” for peace:

The
GLOBAL
OBSERVATORY
for WATER
and PEACE

At the Water, Peace and Security Interface: The Global Observatory for Water and Peace

- The GOWP is a network of nodes of different natures which reflect the **analysis and strategic foresight capability** on water and peace in their “specific context”; this reflection is carried out in a creative dynamic exchange and contributes to **creating a discreet “global space” (Safe Space)** to progress on the key themes for their regional/societal context, of a generic scope, or of global scope.



The Geneva List of Principles
on the Protection of Water Infrastructure

Enforcing a legal framework on water in armed conflicts

- Dialogues on the implementation of the Geneva Water Principles;
- Strengthening of a monitoring mechanism related to threats on water infrastructure;
- Definition of compliance mechanism related to the protection of water infrastructures

Art and Culture to serve Blue Peace

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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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