

Stockholm World Water Week Event

WATER DIPLOMACY: PROMOTING PEACE AND EQUITY

Wednesday 28 August | 16h–17h30 | Room: L12



Photo: Ari Mäkelä

Water diplomacy can strengthen water cooperation and promote equitable water management in two ways: by providing diplomatic instruments for water-related settings, and by bringing water into broader (geo)political discussions. Diplomatic instruments such as negotiations, mediations and arbitrations should therefore be actively deployed to prevent water-related conflicts.

This event introduces EU's recent Council Conclusion on Water Diplomacy, and discusses the possibilities that water diplomacy can bring to complement existing transboundary water cooperation mechanisms such as those under UNECE Water Convention.

The event also includes practical examples of water diplomacy in regions like Western Africa and South America.

The event includes keynote speeches as well as panel discussion, with sufficient time for interactive discussions.

PROGRAMME

16:00 Welcome by moderator **Seppo Rekolainen**, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

16:05 EU's Council Conclusion on Water Diplomacy: **Carmen Marques Ruiz**, EEAS, EU

16:15 Good practices and lessons learned in water diplomacy under the Water Convention: **Sonja Koepfel**, UNECE

16:25 Role of diplomacy in building transboundary water cooperation in Western Africa: **Niokhor Ndour**, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Senegal

16:35 Small Group Discussion

16:45 Panel Discussion: How to 'do' Water Diplomacy?

Facilitator:

- **Antti Rautavaara**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

Panelists:

- **Carmen Marques Ruiz**, EEAS, EU
- **Claudio Bacigalupi**, DG DEVCO, EU
- **Sonja Koepfel**, UNECE
- **Juan Carlos Pomareda Muñoz**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru
- **Niokhor Ndour**, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Senegal

17:15 General Discussion with audience

- Moderator: **Marko Keskinen**, Aalto University, Finland

17:25 Summary and wrap-up by moderator **Seppo Rekolainen**

17:30 End of session

Conveners: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland | Aalto University Water & Development Research Group | European Commission Directorate General Environment | European Commission Directorate General International Cooperation and Development | European External Action Service | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe | Government of Senegal | Government of Peru

PROMOTING WATER DIPLOMACY

Water diplomacy provides a means to prevent and mitigate water-related political tensions by making simultaneous use of water know-how and diplomatic tools and mechanisms. Water diplomacy combines foreign and security policy with development policy and peace mediation, with focus on water and related resources under changing climate.

Water diplomacy is increasingly promoted by different actors, and its importance is also noted in recent EU Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy. Yet, there is a limited amount of approaches for actually recognising possible water diplomacy actions.

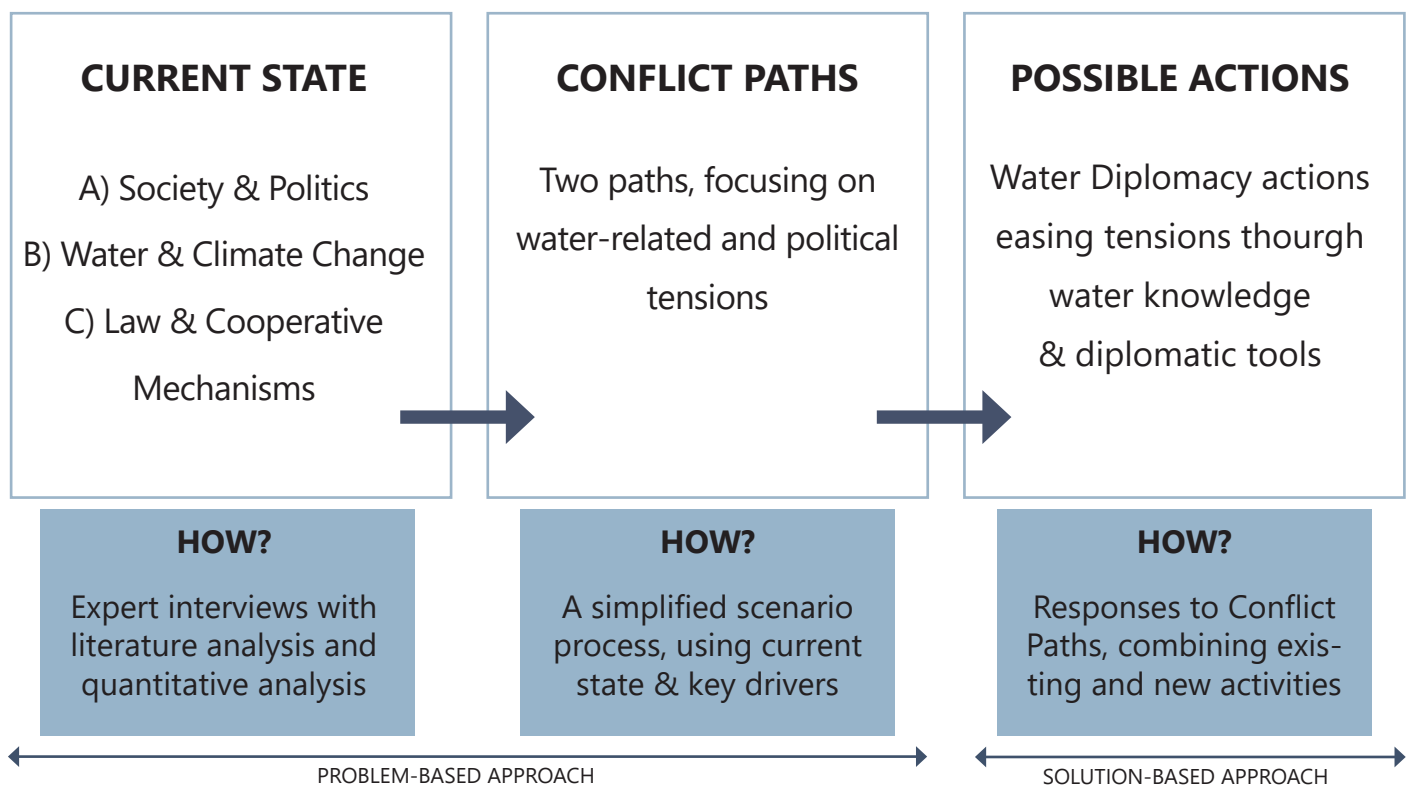
The concept of water diplomacy was discussed and further developed in a recent study done by Aalto University and the University of Eastern Finland:

The study notes that water diplomacy is not synonymous with water cooperation, although they are strongly complementary. While water cooperation typically builds upon the assumption of shared objectives and mutual interests, water diplomacy concentrates on the 'political' related to water and its use, and therefore takes potential tensions as given. For this reason, water diplomacy also makes active use of diplomatic tools and mechanisms.

The study also developed a three-step analytical framework for water diplomacy and tested it in two case study areas: Iraq and Central Asia.

Finnish peace mediation, foreign policy and water actors have also established an informal Water Diplomacy Network, which brings together both Finnish and international actors to promote water diplomacy.

For more information: Marko Keskinen (@aalto.fi) | Seppo Rekolainen (@mmm.fi) | Antti Rautavaara (@formin.fi)



For more information, see the Water Diplomacy Brief: <http://bit.ly/Waterdiplomacy>