HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

Programme

Wednesday, 29 September 2021
Hybrid format (Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva and online) | Central European Time (CET)

10:00 – 10:45 OPENING (Agenda item 1)

Ardak Zebeshev, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties, Acting Chair of the Investment Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Video message by H.E. Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia

H.E. Tõnis Mölder, Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Estonia

H.E. Serikkali Brekeshev, Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Message by António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Adoption of the agenda

10:45 – 11:00 PROGRESS IN THE GLOBAL OPENING OF THE WATER CONVENTION (Agenda item 2)

Status of ratification of the Water Convention

Statements by new Parties to the Water Convention
**Moderator: H.E. Danilo Türk**, Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, former President of the Republic of Slovenia

### 11:00 – 13:00  PART I - TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION: A CATALYST FOR PEACE

**Panel discussion 1 – Transboundary water cooperation as a key for regional peace and stability**

- **H.E. Pekka Haavisto**  
  Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- **Jüri Ratas**  
  President of the Parliament, Estonia
- **H.E. Serigne Mbaye Thiam**  
  Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senegal
- **H.E. Mahdi Rashid Al-Hamdani**  
  Minister of Water Resources, Iraq
- **Abderahim Bireme Hamid**  
  Executive Secretary, Niger Basin Authority

*High-level interventions from the floor* in relation to issues addressed by the panellists (*3 minutes per statement*)

**Panel discussion 2 – The role of the Water Convention in fostering peace**

- **H.E. Cecilia Abena Dapaah**  
  Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana
- **H.E. Shavkat Khamraev**  
  Minister of Water Resources, Uzbekistan
- **Florika Fink-Hooijer**  
  Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission
- **Dario Soto-Abril**  
  Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership
- **Attila Tanzi**  
  Chair, Implementation Committee of the Water Convention

*High-level interventions from the floor* in relation to issues addressed by the panellists (*3 minutes per statement*)

### 13:00 – 15:00  LUNCH BREAK
Efforts to accelerate achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6

Gilbert F. Houngbo, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Chair of UN-Water

Progress on transboundary water cooperation (SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting)

Main messages of the “Second report on SDG indicator 6.5.2: Accelerating progress on transboundary water cooperation to achieve Target 6.5”

Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary and United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Xing Qu, UNESCO Deputy Director-General

Panel discussion 3 – Accelerating progress on transboundary water cooperation

H.E. David Choquehuanca Céspedes
Vice President of Bolivia

Peter Thomson
United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean

Jennifer Sara
Global Director, Water Global Practice, World Bank

Tatyana Bokova
Deputy Head, Federal Agency for Water Resources, Russian Federation

High-level interventions from the floor in relation to issues addressed by the panellists (3 minutes per statement)

Conclusions of the high-level Special session

H.E. Tõnis Mölder, Minister of the Environment of Estonia