



Water and Beyond

EU transformative approaches for international partnerships

18 - 21 January 2021

AGENDA

This event is organised by:



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



European
Commission



UNECE



Water and Beyond



EU transformative approaches for international partnerships

Together, the Government of Slovenia and the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA – formerly DG DEVCO) are hosting the high-level event **‘Water and beyond – EU transformative approaches for international partnerships’**, from 18 – 21 January 2021.

‘Water and Beyond’ will deliver insights on how to strengthen transboundary cooperation, build broader partnerships and trigger water investments in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. It will create meaningful connections between thematic silos for the formulation and implementation of water policies, projects and programmes. It will also lay the groundwork for applying the European Union Priorities for International Partnerships in water alliances and initiatives and will make the link with programming.

The event will be hybrid (physical presence in Brussels & digital) and stretch over four days, with high-level panels, thematic sessions and networking opportunities to facilitate contacts between participants with common interests who wish to foster ongoing or future cooperation.

The 4-day hybrid event will gather:

- government representatives from the European Union institutions (Commission, Parliament, Delegations), from EU Member States and EU partner countries, including policy-makers from ministries addressing agriculture, energy, environment and water;
- national and international experts from private and public water entities, development agencies, financing institutions and civil society.

Seven technical sessions on various water-related topics will be flanked by a high-level opening and closing session led by relevant political leaders. Topics to be discussed include:

- Water as an equaliser: realising impact for human development
- Water as a catalyst for cooperation: fostering trust and peace
- Bridging the financial gap: investing in SDG 6
- The water-climate nexus: from extreme events to opportunities
- With knowledge and skills: water as the engine for economic development and jobs
- Water and environment: working to build resilience
- Water as a human right: working towards implementation with all partners

These sessions are co-hosted by prominent European and international partners in the water sector, namely UNESCO, UNECE, Women for Water Partnership, WaterAid, and Borda. Each session will feature a number of high-level technical keynote speakers, among which are the Slovenian Minister for Development, the Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, the UNECE Executive Secretary, the Associate Director for WASH at UNICEF and the CEO of Water and Sanitation for All.

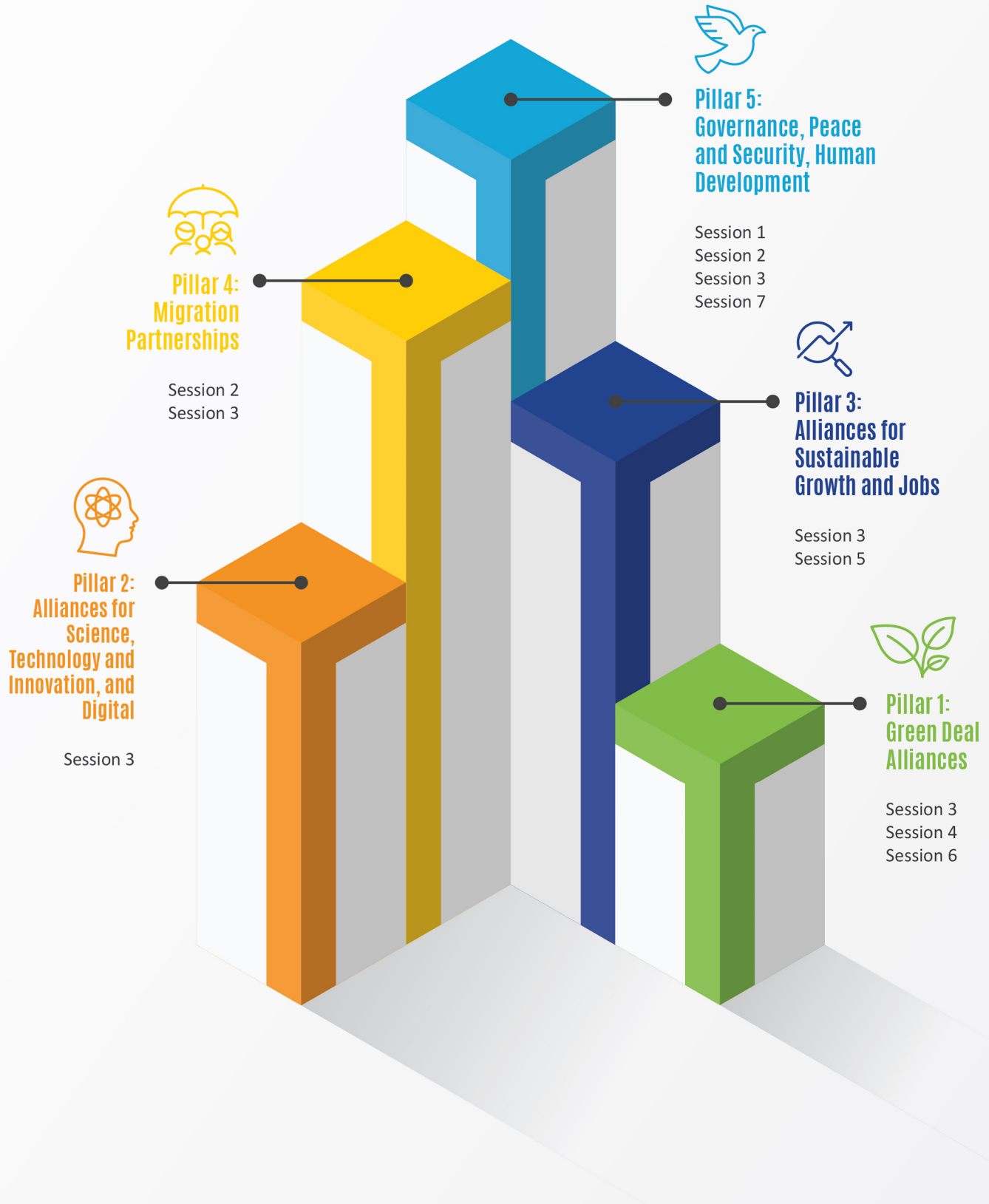
The event will be held in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.



ONLINE EVENT FROM THE BLOOM HOTEL, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.

European Commission International Partnership Pillars

Each session will address the pillars and priorities of the European Commission for international partnerships, as follows:



Monday 18 January

First day : High-level Opening and Session 1

12:00-12:30 Registration

12:30-13:45 High-level Opening session

Facilitator: NN

Welcome address

- European Commission

Keynote presentation by

- Water for cooperation, water in external relations by Stanislav Raščan, Minister of Development of Slovenia

Panel discussion on elements for a strategic approach on global and EU international partnerships in the water sector

Moderator: Tanja Miškova, Ambassador, MFA Slovenia

- Peter Burian, EEAS – EUSR for Central Asia
- NN, - EU Presidency Portugal
- NN, Senegal Ministry for Water - (TBC)
- Anna Nilsson, Chief Executive of WaterAid Sweden

Interaction with participants

13:45-14:00 Break

14:00 -15:30 Session 1- Water as an equaliser: realising impact for human development

Pillar 5: EC International Partnership Priority on 'Governance, Peace and Security

14:00-14:25 Introduction

Facilitator: Sara Ahari, Programme Manager, Simavi,

Keynote by Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, MEP, DEVE - (TBC)

14:25-15: 25 Panel discussion

- Kelly Ann Naylor, Associate Director, WASH, UNICEF
- NN, SUN Youth Champion
- Tripti Rai, Country Director of WaterAid Nepal
- Pilar Palmero Vaquero, Head of Unit – Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Burkina Faso
- María Neira, Director of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, WHO
- Ion Salaru, Deputy Director, National Public Health Agency, Republic of Moldova

15:25-15:30 Interaction with participants

15:30-16:00 ● Networking time

Tuesday 19 January

Second day: Sessions 2, 3 and 4

11:15-12:45 **Session 2 - Water as a catalyst for cooperation: fostering trust and peace**

Pillars 4 & 5: EC International Partnership Priority on 'Migration Partnerships' and 'Governance, Peace and Security'

11:15-11:40 **Introduction**

Facilitator: Monika Weber-Fahr, Senior Advisor, Water Global Solutions Group, World Bank

Keynote by Dominic Porter, Head of Division, Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service

Keynote by Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary

11:40-12:15 **Panel discussion**

- Ales Bizjak, Policy Officer, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia
- Ben Ampomah, Executive Secretary, Water Resources Commission, Ghana
- Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Commission
- Dina Ionesco, Head of Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM
- Hajer Sharief, co-founder of Together We Build It Foundation, Libya - (TBC)

12:15-12:45 **Interaction with the audience**

12:45-13:15 **● Networking time**

13:15-14:45 **Session 3 - Bridging the financial gap: investing in SDG 6**

Pillars 1-5: EC International Partnership Priorities

13:15-13:35 **Introduction**

Facilitator: Christian Severin, Coordinator International Waters, GEF

Bridging the current financial gap for SDG 6, keynote by Catarina de Albuquerque, CEO, Water and Sanitation for All

Financing SDG 6 means water and sanitation for all, keynote by Abdeslam Jorio, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco - (TBC)

13:35-13:40 **Questions and answers**

13:40-14:30 Parallel break-out groups: Setting the current context on finance for water and challenges and opportunities

Group 1: Setting the current context: finance for water and challenges and opportunities

- Chilufya Chileshe, Interim Global Policy Director, WaterAid Southern Africa
- Karine Measson, Head of the Water Management Division, EIB
- Celine Robert, Head of the Water and Sanitation Division, AFD
- Dominique Gatel, Vice President of Public Affairs/ Water, Veolia Environment

Group 2: Setting the current context: finance for water and challenges and opportunities

- Francis Bougaire, Manager, Water Coordination and Partnerships Division, African Development Bank
- Toma Yanakiev, Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank
- Markus Theobald, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Lesotho
- Leonard Shang-Quartey, Water Citizens, Ghana

14:45-15:20 ● Networking time

15:20-16:50 Session 4 - The water-climate nexus: how to address the cascading crises

Pillar 1: EC International Partnership Priorities on 'Green Deal alliances'

15:20-15:40 Introduction

Facilitators: Maggie White, Stockholm International Water Institute and Sonja Koepfel, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE

EU perspective on water and climate change interlinkages and introduction to the European Green Deal, keynote by Grace O Sullivan, MEP - (TBC)

How to mainstream water and transboundary cooperation into climate policies on the global and national levels, keynote by Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands

15:40-16:15 Panel discussion

- Elena Visnar Malinovska, Head of Unit, Adaptation to climate change, cities, international cooperation, DG Clima
- Hasin Jahan, Country Director of WaterAid in Bangladesh
- Antonio Cárdenas, Chief of the Technical Cabinet, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador
- Didier Zinsou, Director of the Niger Basin Observatory, Niger Basin
- Iryna Stavchuk, Deputy Minister on European Integration, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine

16:15-16:45 Interaction with participants

16:45-16:50 Conclusions

Conclusions by Tina Mlinaric, WaterAid, Advocacy Adviser on the water and climate campaign

16:50-17:20 ● Networking time

Wednesday 20 January

Third day: Sessions 5 and 6

12:30-14:00 **Session 5 - With knowledge and skills: water as the engine for economic development and jobs**

Pillar 3: EC International Partnership Priority on 'Alliances for Sustainable Growth and Jobs

12:30-12:55 **Introduction**

Facilitators: Murray Biedler, UNESCO and Lesha Witmer, Women for Water Partnership

Keynote on water and jobs by:

- Michela Miletto, Coordinator and Director a.i. UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme
- NN, African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) – (TBC)

Video: Human Capacity Development in Africa's Water Sector (2 minutes)

12:55-13:20 **Panel Discussion**

- Almotaz Abadi, Union for the Mediterranean – (TBC)
- César Carmona, Joint Research Centre (JRC), EU Science Hub
- Antonella Vagliente, Young Water Solutions (YWS)
- Pieter Hoekstra and Erna van der Werff, PoVE Water, vocational skills and competences in water sector
- NN, International Labour Organisation, ILO - (TBC)

13:20-13:25 **Questions and answers**

13:25-13:45 **Parallel break-out groups sessions on key thematic issues**

13:45-13:55 **Report back by group rapporteurs**

13:55-14:00 **Closing by Facilitators**

14:00-14:30 **● Networking time**

14:30-16:00 Session 6 - Water and environment: working to build resilience
Pillar 1: EC International Partnership Priorities on 'Green Deal alliances'

14:30-14:50 Introduction

Facilitator: Leshia Witmer, Women for Water Partnership

14:50-16:20 Parallel break-out groups:

Group 1: Green Deal Alliances? Not without water. How water is a driver of the Green Agenda.

- Moderator: NN
- Introduction focused on EU and international agreements, by NN, Women for Water Partnership
- 'Zero-pollution ambition' in farms and industry, by NN
- Integrated Solutions for water stressed regions, by NN

Group 2: Sanitation, essential to protect our 'natural' water resources (and oceans). How fecal sludge management improves quality-of-life - and of ecosystems.

- Introduction focused on EU and international agreements, by Fecal Sludge Management Alliance
- 'Zero-pollution ambition' in communities, by NN
- Integrated Solutions for water stressed regions, by Stanzin Tsephel, BORDA

16:10-16:20 Discussion with the audience

16:20-16:25 Conclusion by Facilitator

16:00-16:30 ● Networking time

Thursday 21 January

Fourth day: Session 7 and Closing of the event

12:30 -14:00 **Session 7 - Water as a human right: working towards implementation with all partners**
Pillar 5: EC International Partnership Priority on 'Governance, Peace and Security'

12:30-12:50 **Introduction**

Facilitator: Lesha Witmer, WFWP

Keynote by Pedro-Arrojo, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

12:50-13:45 **Panel discussion**

- NN, EEAS – (TBC)
- WaterAid Ethiopia
- Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, President Women for Water Partnership
- Neil Doth, Executive Director of Aquafed, International Federation of Private Water Operators

13:45-13:55 **Interaction with the audience**

13:55-14:00 **Conclusions**

14:00-14:30 ● **Networking time**

14:30-16:00 **Closing session**

14:30-14:50 **Key takeaways from the event sessions- and next steps/ timeline by DG INTPA unit F2**

14:30-14:50 **Panel discussion: How to promote water in international partnerships?**

14:50-15:30 **Closing remarks**
Reflections by: Ana Novak, Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU

14:50-15:30 **Closing of the event by DG INTPA**

