

5 April 2016

Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace

Second Meeting

Dakar, Senegal, 5-7 April 2016

The purpose of the meeting is to advance the development of concrete proposals to prevent and resolve water-related tensions internationally. The event was opened by the Prime Minister of Senegal, M. Mahammad Dionne, and will provide multiple opportunities for exchanges between panellists and regional actors. An audience of about 300 people is expected at the opening ceremony on 5 April at the King Fahd Palace in Dakar, including representatives of the diplomatic corps.



Day One Summary: 5 April

The meeting was opened in music, with the [Symphony for Water and Peace](#) playing for the 200 participants arriving for the opening ceremony of the Global Panel meeting, held today at the King Fahd Palace Hotel in Dakar. Then, it was time for the inaugural speeches (see full list, below), including the participation of the Prime Minister of Senegal, M. Mahammad Dionne.

The different speakers notably insisted on the growing strategic importance of water in the current context of strong demographic growth and climate change. The potential to build on water-related cooperation to strengthen peace was also put forward as a significant opportunity to be seized. In this regard, Senegal's experience alongside the other Member countries of the [Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du fleuve Sénégal \(OMVS\)](#) was often mentioned as a particularly promising example of good cooperation around transboundary water resources.



For more information, contact

The Geneva Water Hub

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In the afternoon, the 15 panelists set to work in a closed session to advance on some of the priority themes identified during their previous meeting: financial incentives for transboundary water collaboration, protection of infrastructure during violent conflicts and against terrorism, and intersectorial conflicts.

Agenda

(click on hyperlinks to download speeches)

Opening ceremony

- [Mr Sundeep Waslekar](#), Strategic Foresight Group, Director
- Mr Danilo Türk, High Level Panel on Water and Peace, Chair and former President of Slovenia
- [Mr Mahammad Dionne, Senegal Prime Minister](#)

Ministerial session

- Mr Mankeur Ndiaye, Senegal Minister of Foreign Affairs
- [Ambassador Mr. Pio Wennubst](#), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Deputy Director
- Mr Jean-François Donzier, Secrétaire Permanent du Réseau International des Organismes de Bassins (RIOB)
- Mr Alvaro Umaña, High Level Panel on Water and Peace, Vice-Chair
- [Mr Mansour Faye, High Level Panel on Water and Peace, Vice-Chair](#)

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Day Three Summary: 7 April

The third and final day of the meeting provided the Panel with the opportunity to travel to the northern part of Senegal and visit the Diama dam, located on the border with Mauritania. This anti-salt dam, built in 1986, serves to prevent saltwater intrusion upstream, and is operated in close coordination with the Manantali dam, located in Mali.

In their final evening together, the Panel enjoyed a meal by the river in St. Louis, hosted by the mayor of the city. Just as the meeting began in music with the Symphony for Water and Peace, so did it conclude: a live band provided entertainment throughout the evening and even brought the panelists to their feet for a few dance steps before returning to the hotel for the final night of a truly memorable and highly successful three-day meeting in Senegal.

