

ON THE ROAD TO THE 2026 UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

WEBINAR 3 : Preparing for Dakar and beyond



**United
Nations**



United Nations Water Conference
United Arab Emirates, 2026



**Global Youth Movement for
Water**



Webinar 3 – Overview



1. Opening remarks
2. Reminder - Main take aways from previous webinars
3. Updates
4. Water for Peace across the ID
5. Next steps and post Dakar road map
6. Q&A
7. Closing

Moderators



Coline Arnoux
Advocacy and
Communication Officer



Alix Debray
Youth Sector Coordinator

International Secretariat for Water

Opening remarks



Handel Mux Roquel
LAC WYPW

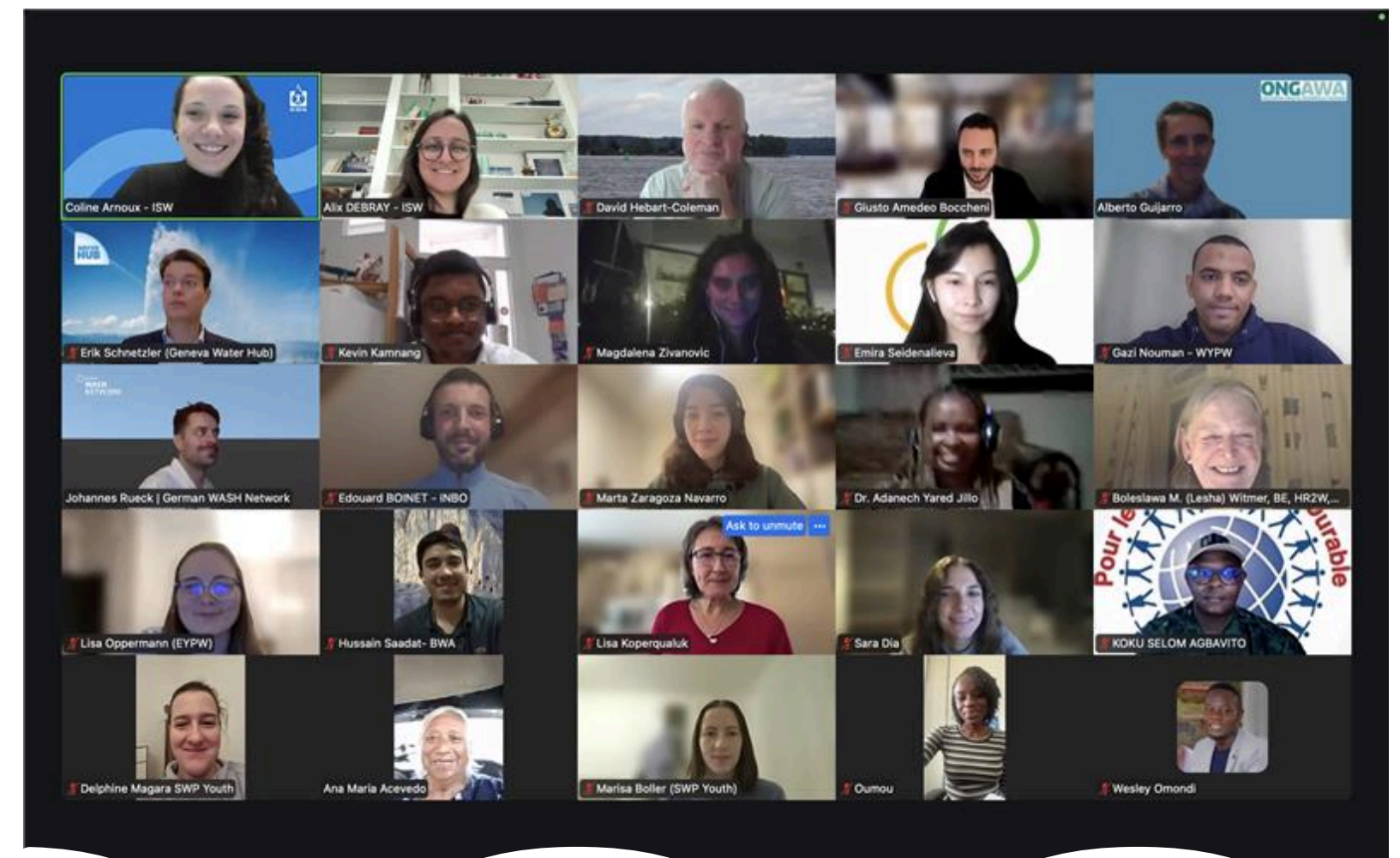


Maitreyi Koduganti
UN MGCY, SDG 6 WYN

ON THE ROAD TO THE 2026 UN WATER CONFERENCE

MAIN TAKE AWAYS OF THE PREVIOUS WEBINAR

- December 10, second webinar of the series
- +60 participants split into break-out rooms to co-construct youth and civil society advocacy messages for each of the interactive dialogue
- Aim: strengthening the coordination and impact of interventions at the high-level preparatory meeting (26-27 January)



MAIN TAKE AWAYS OF THE PREVIOUS WEBINAR

1

Water for people

- Water as fundamental human right
- Prerequisite for health, dignity and resilience particularly in humanitarian contexts
- devastating effects of water scarcity in crisis situations
- gap in sanitation and access for marginalised communities
- Youth education, career paths and meaningful participation for all stakeholder
- accountability mechanisms
- better funding for local action

2

Water for prosperity

- Poor water management harms the economy, employment, food systems and social stability
- inefficiencies in agriculture, cities and industry identified
- Insufficient implementation of integrated water resources management
- outdated infrastructure
- pollution
- Innovation must be goal-oriented, inclusive
- Prosperity depends on strong basin governance & data

3

Water for the planet

- Call for a fundamental change in the way humanity relates to water and nature
- Climate risks are intensifying while economic pressures are eroding our connection to ecosystems
- Dialogue emphasised holistic, nature-centred approaches
- Protecting freshwater ecosystems requires moving beyond extractive models towards science-based & community-rooted governance that prioritises the planet

MAIN TAKE AWAYS OF THE PREVIOUS WEBINAR

4

Water for cooperation

- Cooperation as a means for establishing peace, justice, dignity and equity
- challenges posed by colonial legacies, geopolitical tensions and competing priorities in transboundary basins
- Water knows no political boundaries
- Water shouldn't be used as a weapon
- Meaningful cooperation requires inclusive governance, gender equality, institutionalisation of youth
- Transparency & sustained investment

5

Water in multilateral processes

- Need to keep water at the top of the global political agenda beyond 2030
- Multilateral water governance must be continuous, inclusive and accountable
- Youth and civil society called for structured participation, better coordination, disaggregated data and closer links between water, climate and other international processes
- Special Envoy and UN systemwide strategies as key vehicles, if inclusive

6

Investments for water

- Dialogue revealed a serious water financing crisis & untapped opportunities
- Effective investment starts with communities, shared knowledge, transparency and financial literacy
- Innovations were redefined as a social and financial process, rather than just technology
- Key findings: existing funds often remain unused due to a lack of capacity, clarity, and access, making better use of current resources a priority

HIGH-LEVEL PREPARATORY MEETING

Updates

- **Concept notes** of the IDs will be drafted based on the discussions held in Dakar
- UN agencies in charge (cf table)
- No information yet on the co-chairs
- **Registration** closed on 10th
- Participant guide is available
- Free services (shuttle) are available

Themes of the Interactive Dialogues for UN26	Co-conveners of IPWG
Water for People	WHO, UNICEF
Water for Prosperity	UNDP, FAO, UNIDO
Water for Planet	UNEP, WMO
Water for Cooperation	UNECE, UNESCO
Water in Multilateral Processes	DESA, UNDRR
Investments for Water	World Bank Group, UNITAR, IFAD

General information

- Meeting **venue**: Abou DIOUF International Conference Centre (CICAD) in Diamniadio (35 min by car from Dakar)
- Around 2,000 **participants** from over 190 countries expected to attend
- To enter Senegal: valid passeport for at least 6 months, free entry **visa**, return ticket, international vaccination certificates

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

TIME	DAY 1 - 26 January 2026	DAY 2 - 27 January 2026
8.00-9.00	Arrival of participants & registration	Side meetings Dialogue space [3]
9.00-12.30	High-level Opening Segment - Arrival of Dignitaries - Opening ceremony - High-level Panel discussion - Presentation: Conference vision, Meeting objectives & agenda - Launch of the UN-Water GLAAS 2025 report	Round table 'kick-off' discussions on Interactive Dialogue themes (e) and (f) - (90 mins) ID (e): Water in multilateral processes
12.30-14.00	Lunch	Coffee & networking ID (f): Investments for water
14.00-18.30	Round table 'kick-off' discussions on Interactive Dialogue themes (a) to (d) - (90 mins) ID (a): Water for people ID (b): Water for prosperity Coffee & networking break ID (c): Water for planet ID (d): Water for cooperation Interactive Session 1 - (60 mins) - Strengthening multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral and intergenerational engagement	Interactive Session 2 - (90 mins) - Reporting back & reflections on the round table 'kick-off' discussions on the six interactive dialogue themes - Shaping a collective ambition for the 2026 UN Water Conference Coffee & networking break High-level Segment "On the road from Senegal to the UAE" - Synthesis of the results of the meeting - Overview of the roadmap ahead and concluding remarks
18.30-19.30	Side meetings Dialogue space [2]	Press conference
	Cultural experience (TBC)	Cultural experience (TBC)

ONE-DAY STAKEHOLDER MEETING

TIME	SESSION
8:30 - 9:15	Welcome & Cafe + registration
9:30 - 10:00	Welcome remarks
10:00 - 11:00	Strengthening participation: action points and collaboration for an inclusive 2026 UN Water Conference
11:00 - 11:30	Refill and reflect - networking break
11:30 - 12:30	Panel discussion: critical issues and innovative approaches for accelerating SDG 6 from 2023 to 2026
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break

TIME	SESSION
13:00 - 13:30	Advocacy skills lab
13:30 - 14:30	Working groups on the interactive dialogues
14:30 - 14:45	Refill and reflect - networking break
14:45 - 15:30	Report back from working groups
15:30 - 16:00	Consolidation plenary: reflections & recommendations
16:00 - 16:30	Closing session

General information

- Special event in connection with the Dakar meeting
- Aim: bring together diverse voices and perspectives & provide a platform to rally and mobilize
- Supported by the Special Envoy
- Organized by ANEW & the German WASH Network in collaboration with UN DESA
- Location: Azalai Hotel - Dakar
- Up to 3 representatives per organisation
- Registration until January 19
- Official UN DESA webinar on the One-Day Stakeholder Meeting on the 20th



General information

High-level speakers



Mrs. Retno L.P. Marsudi
UN Special Envoy on Water



Mr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo,
UN Special Rapporteur on the
Human Rights on Water and
Sanitation



Ms. Shaima Gargash, UAEs
Sherpa for the 2026 UN Water
Conference



Dr. Mohamed C.B.C. Diatta,
Senegal's Sherpa for the 2026
UN Water Conference



Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee,
Chief, Natural Resources and
Interlinkages Branch, UN
DESA



Ms. Sareen Malik, Executive
Secretary of African Civil
Society Network on Water and
Sanitation

Interactive Dialogue: [Water for People](#)

Role	Stakeholder Network / Institution	Focal Point
Lead Facilitator	Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA)	Lajana Manandhar
Co-Facilitator	Senegalese Water Justice Network (SWJN)	Fatou Diouf
Rapporteur	International Water Association - Young Water Professional Chapter of Burkina Faso	August Abdon Kinglo

Interactive Dialogue: [Water for Prosperity](#)

Role	Stakeholder Network / Institution	Focal Point
Lead Facilitator	Sustainable Sanitation Allcance	Maren Heuvels
Co-Facilitator	Women in Water Diplomacy Network Indigenous Science	Yolanda Lopez-Maldonado
Rapporteur	Kenya National Association of Water Resources Users' Association (KeNAWRUA)	Enock S. Kiminta

Interactive Dialogue: [Water for Planet](#)

Role	Stakeholder Network / Institution	Focal Point
Lead Facilitator	Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands	Musonda Mumba
Co-Facilitator	Ecumenical Water Network of World Council of Churches	Dinesh Suna
Rapporteur	International Student Environmental Coalition/Children and Youth group	Kossi-Messan Jacques Agboka

Interactive Dialogue: [Water for Cooperation](#)

Role	Stakeholder Network / Institution	Focal Point
Lead Facilitator	United Cities and local governments	Kader Makhoulouf
Co-Facilitator	International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)	Jean-Marie Kileshye Onema
Rapporteur	Women in Water Diplomacy Network	Jeanene Mitchell

Interactive Dialogue: [Water in Multilateral Processes](#)

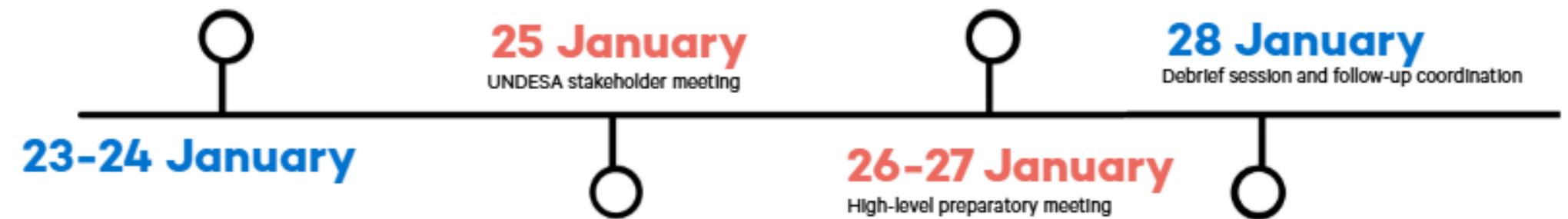
Role	Stakeholder Network / Institution	Focal Point
Lead Facilitator	Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)	Ingrid Timboe
Co-Facilitator	International Secretariat for Water / Butterfly Effect NGO Coalition	Coline Arnoux
Rapporteur	Te Kura Taka Pini	Connor Redmile

Interactive Dialogue: [Investments for Water](#)

Role	Stakeholder Network / Institution	Focal Point
Lead Facilitator	Global Water Partnership	Alex Simalabwi
Co-Facilitator	Water.org	Jeso O'Neill
Rapporteur	African Water and Sanitation Association (AFWASA)	Djalia Umutangampundu

YOUTH INTERACTIVE DAYS

General information



- ISW, AJPEAS, MGCY, GYMW will organize workshops to enhance capacity of youth and civil society ahead of the official meetings and a debrief session afterwards
- Location: CICAD (same as the official conference on 26 & 27)
- FYI: Women in water diplomacy event on the 24th



YOUTH ON THE ROAD TO 2026 UN WATER CONFERENCE

JANUARY
23, 24 & 28 2026

 **DAKAR**
(HYBRID)



YOUTH INTERACTIVE DAYS

Prepare, coordinate, and amplify youth voices for SDG 6

ON THE AGENDA

23 : KICK-OFF MEETING (16:00-17:30)

- Understanding the challenges of youth engagement
- Engaging with youth leaders, associations and committed stakeholders

24: THEMATIC WORKSHOP WATER & PEACE (9:00-16:00)

- Gaining practical tools to influence decision-making spaces
- Thematic discussion through the six Interactive Dialogues
- Building collective proposals and strong key messages

28: YOUTH DEBRIEF SESSION (10:00-12:00)

- Review of learnings and alignment of youth messages
- Debrief and roadmap from Dakar to Abu Dhabi

REGISTER : HERE !



Global Youth Movement
for Water



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Water for Peace throughout the Interactive Dialogues



Erik Schnetzler
Geneva Water Hub

Blue Peace

GENEVA
**WATER
HUB**

**Centre of Competence on
Water for Peace**

**Towards the 2026 UN Water
Conference – Webinar #3**

Erik Schnetzler

Project Manager

14 January 2026

The Geneva Water Hub – Who We Are



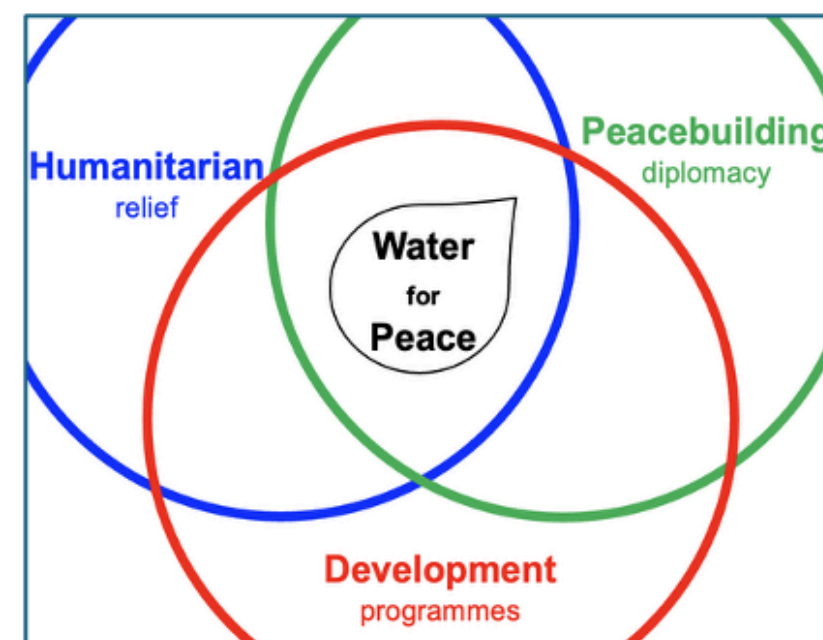
Established in 2014



Co-Center of UNIGE & IHEID



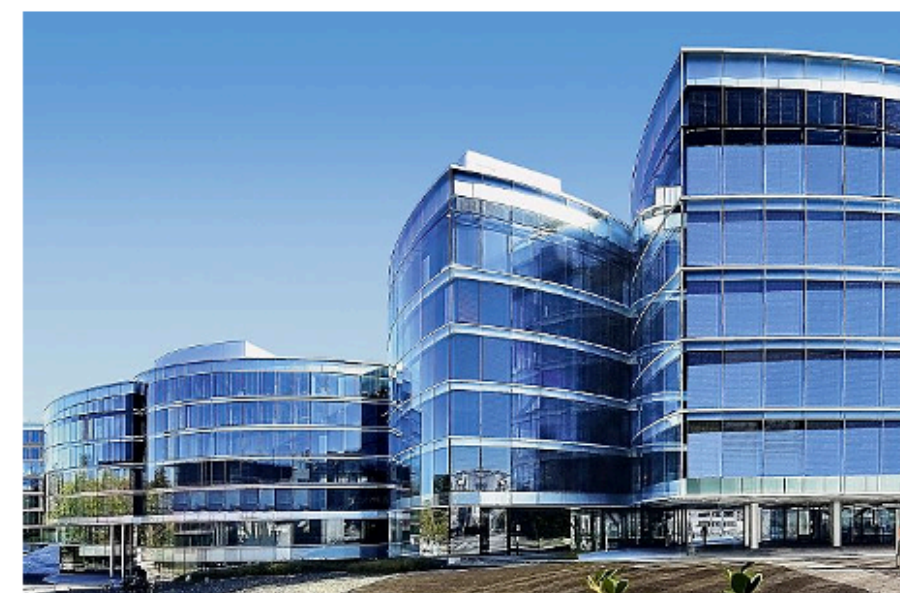
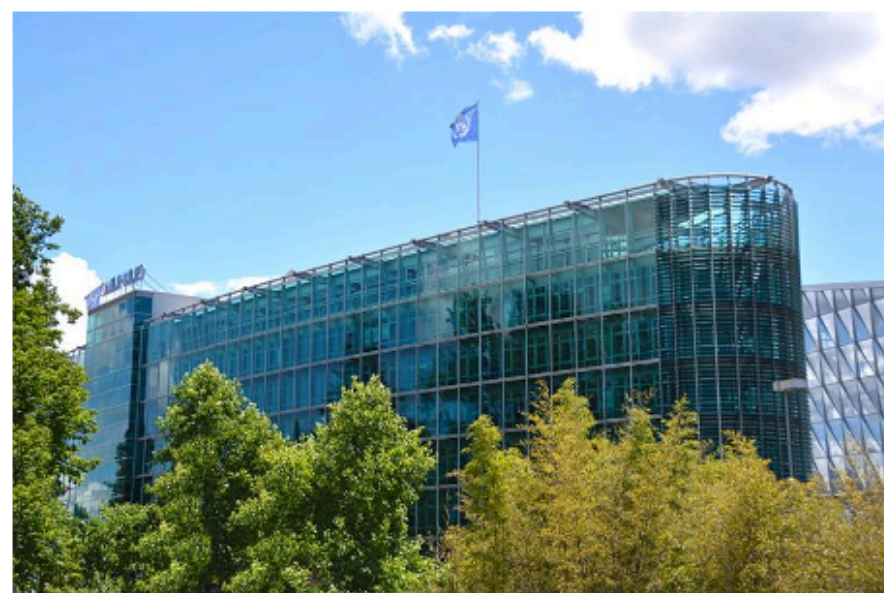
15 Staff



to advance the use of water for peace in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts.



Offices in 3 locations in Geneva and operating all around the world



Sharing & Sparing Water – for *Peace*

When water is shared equitably and spared from the ravages of pollution and armed conflict, peace *can* prevail.



What Water for Peace *is* and *is not*



- Not just the absence of violence (negative peace)
- Not just cooperation
- Not conflict prevention only

→ About power, justice, inclusion, and relationships around water

Why youth & civil society matter for UN2026:

- You influence narratives *before* Member States lock positions

Interactive Dialogues & Peace Dimension(s)?

PROPOSALS FOR THE THEMES OF THE SIX INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES RESULTING FROM CONSULTATIONS



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED

Technology and Innovation



Finance and Investment



Governance



Pollution



Human Rights



Conflict Prevention and Peace



Capacity Building



Science and Knowledge



Climate



Gender



Wastewater



Guiding Questions

- How can youth/CSOs advocate for Water for Peace within each ID?
- What water-related initiatives or projects have you been involved in or observed that have contributed to fostering peace? What made them effective or ineffective?
- What messages should we bring to UN Member States ahead of the UN 2026 Water Conference?

ID4: Water for Cooperation

2023

WATER FOR COOPERATION:

TRANSBOUNDARY AND INTERNATIONAL WATER COOPERATION, CROSS SECTORAL COOPERATION,
INCLUDING SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, AND WATER ACROSS THE 2030 AGENDA



Peace Dimensions:

- water cooperation generates benefits that accelerate progress across all SDGs, in particular promoting peace (SDG16).
- Sharing water-related data and information can help in trust building.
- Int. water law provides a framework to guide negotiations, resolve conflicts, and establish durable joint basin institutions.

Importance to Youth & CSO



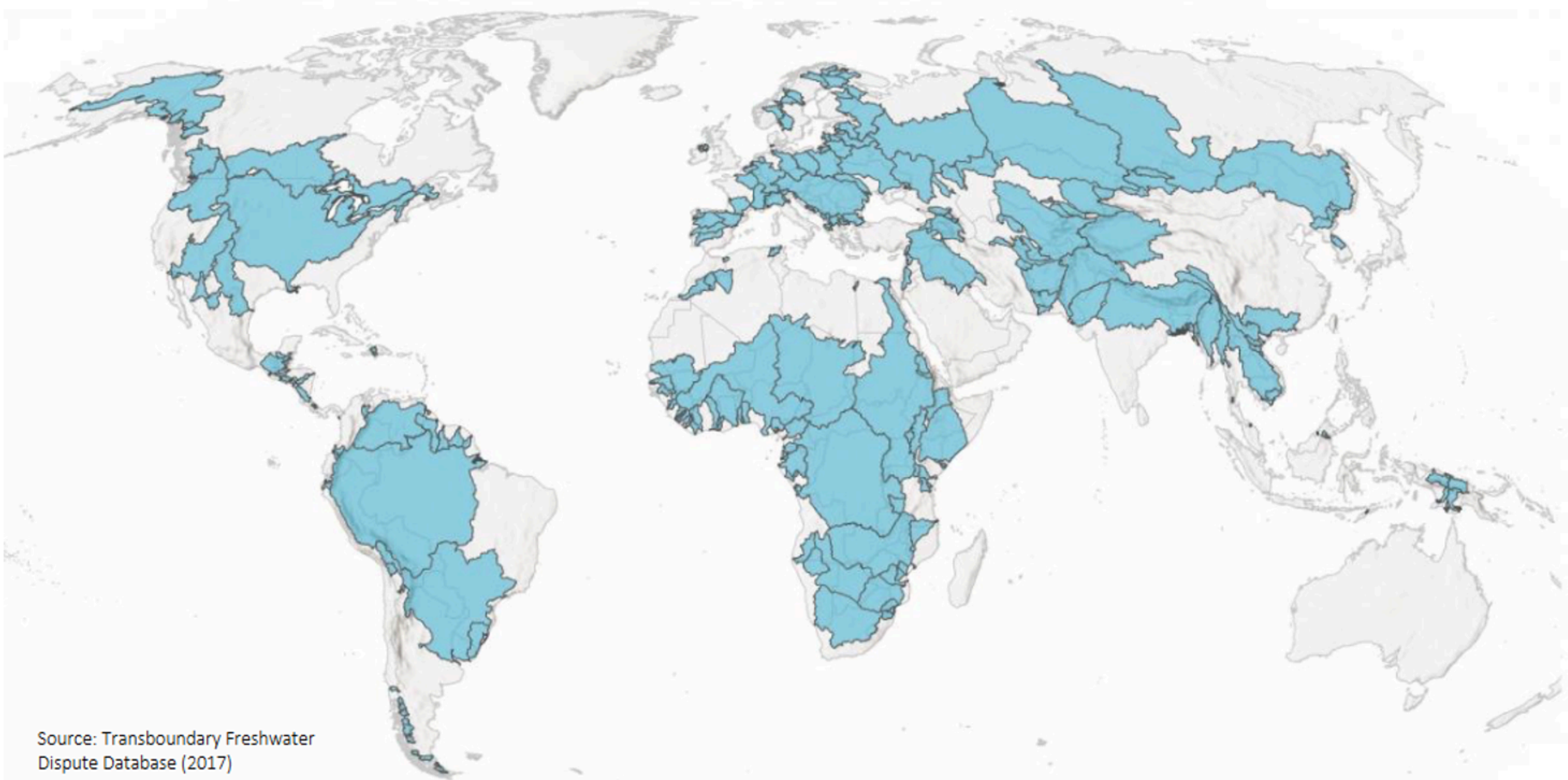
16th European Youth Parliament for Water in Hungary

Source: <https://sava-youthparliament.com/>

- Youth/CSOs are excluded from most basin governance.
- Young people (under 30) constitute over 50% of the population in most shared basins, yet their future is decided without their direct representation in water diplomacy.
- Efforts to foster cooperation and knowledge sharing, especially among youth and experts from diverse regions, are further strained by funding limitations and the slow nature of building consensus and trust across borders. (Water Action Agenda Progress Report, 2024).

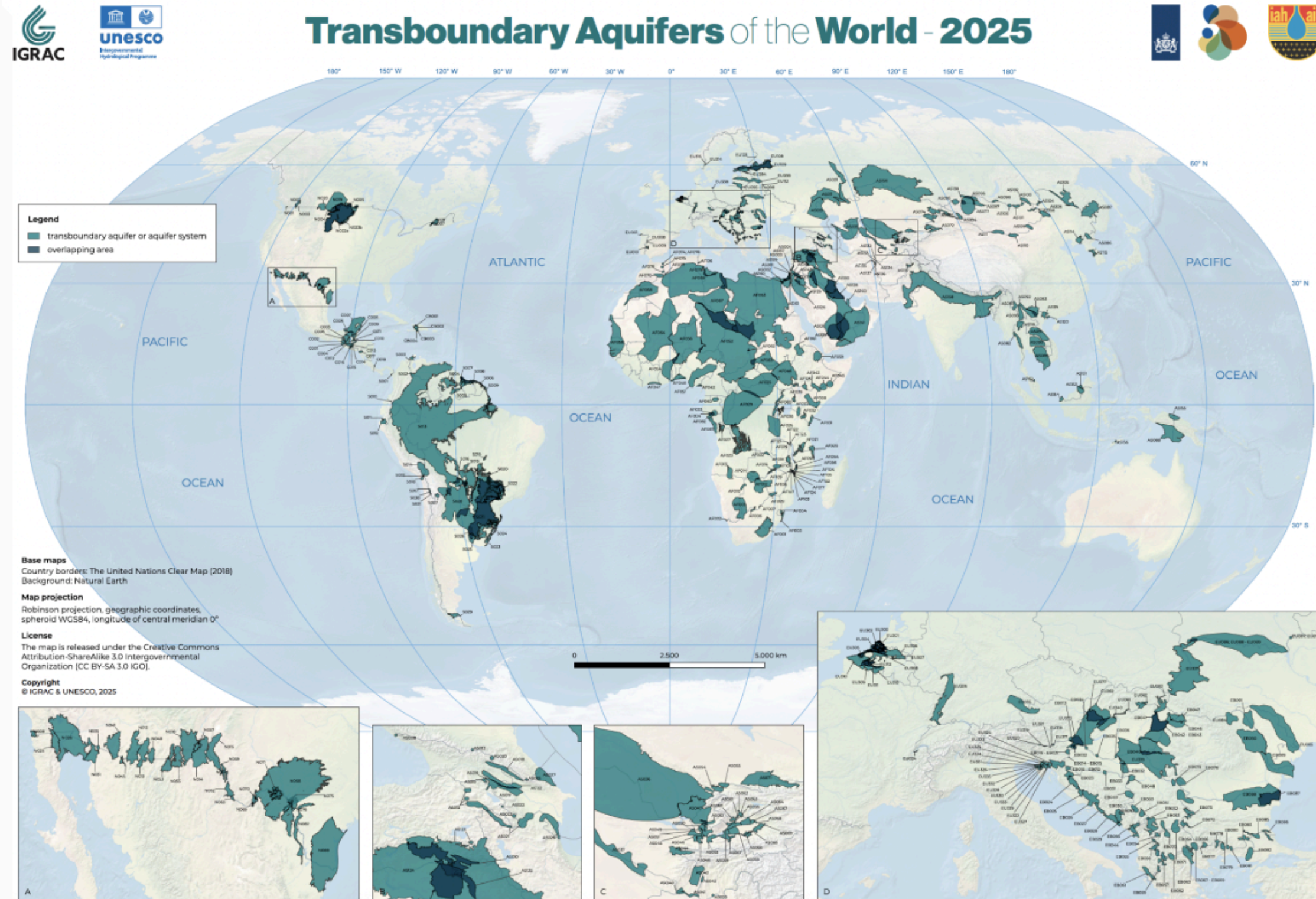
Transboundary River Basins

- 310 transboundary river basins.



Source: Transboundary Freshwater
Dispute Database (2017)

Transboundary Aquifers

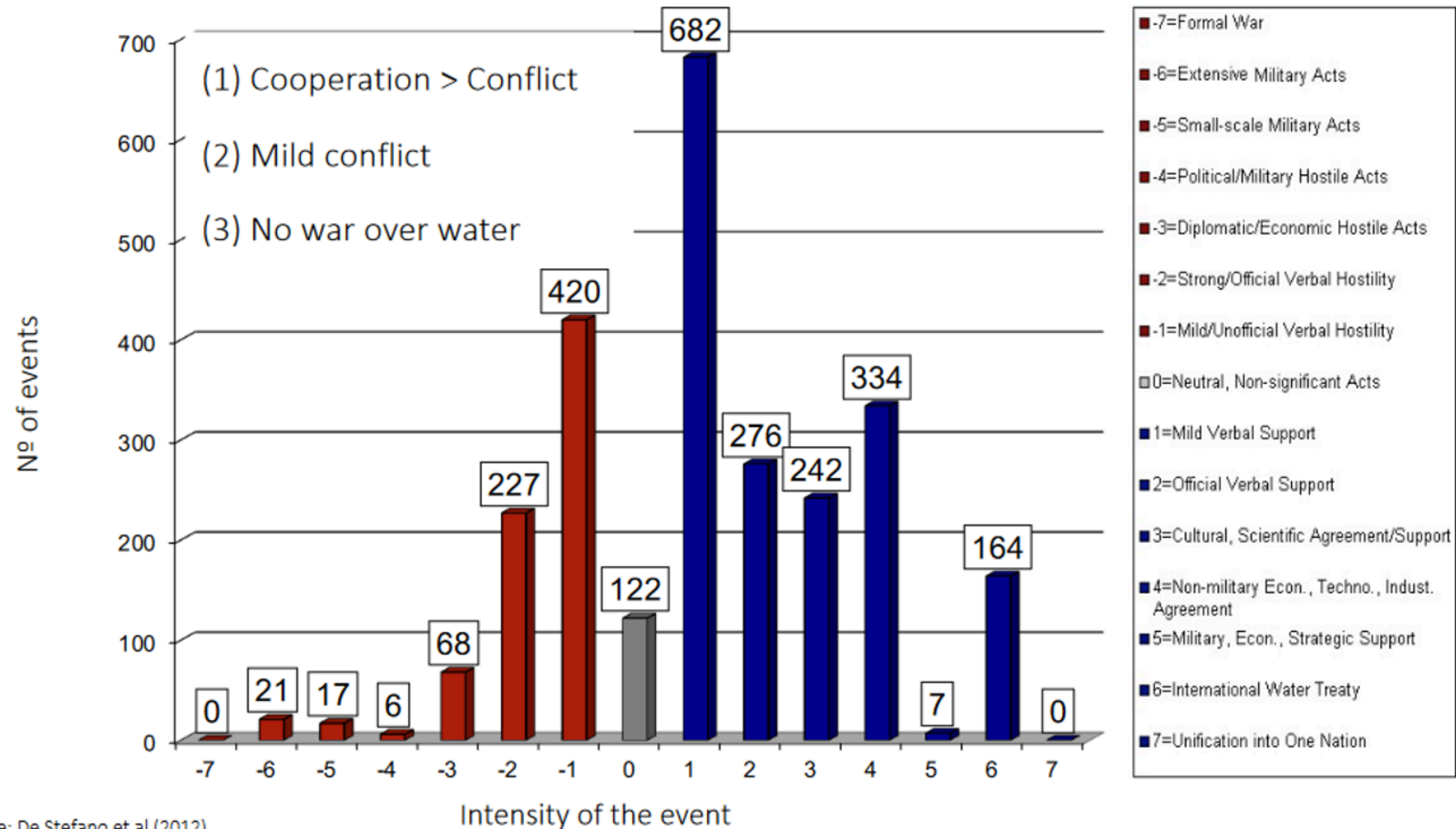


Water Conflict or Water Cooperation?

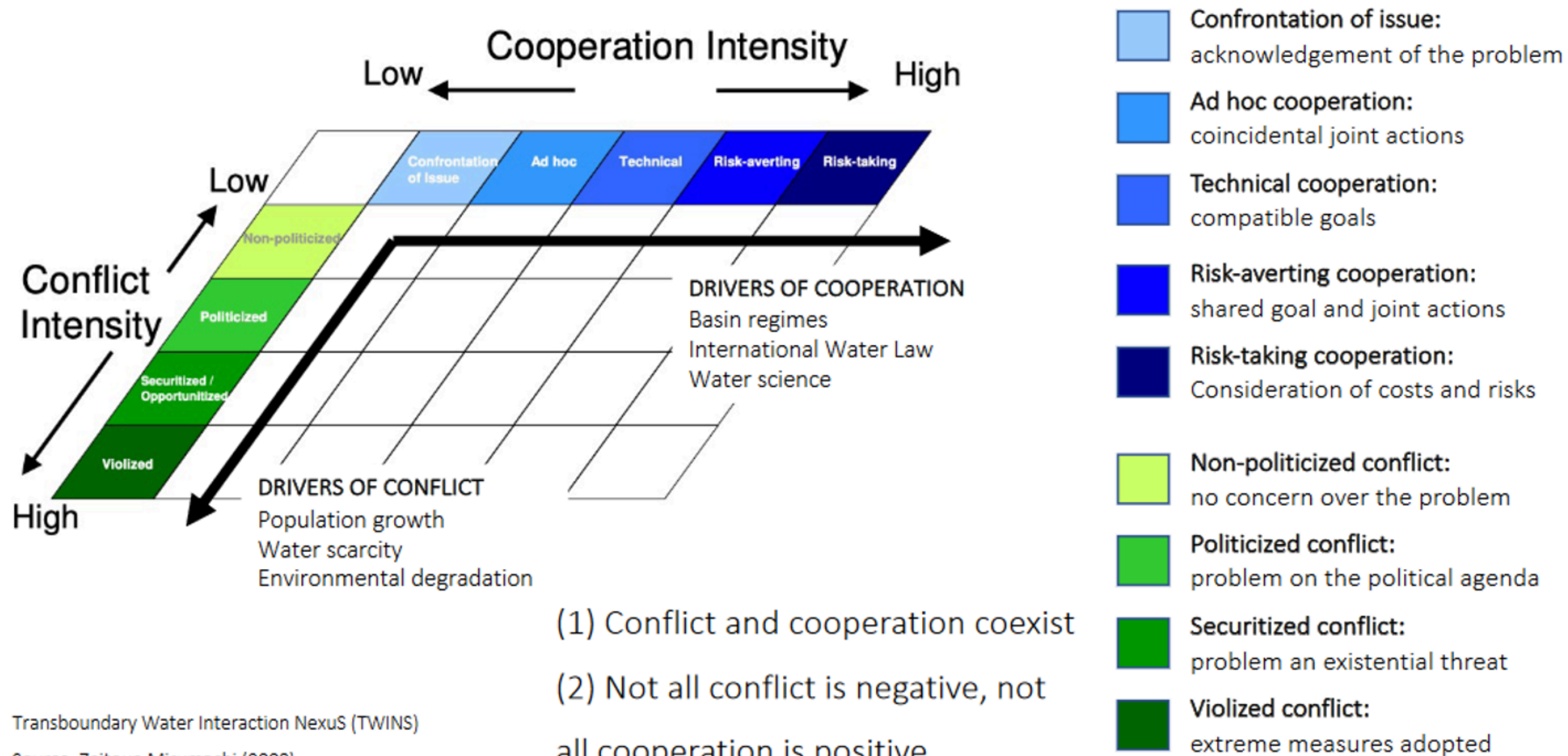
- Narrative 1: Water Conflict
 - Water is a strategic resource
 - Water demands are increasing
 - Water is limited and ignites tensions
- Narrative 2: Water Cooperation
 - Cooperation is more cost-effective
 - Cooperation leads to a broad range of benefits
 - Cooperation is more resilient



Water Conflict or Water Cooperation?



Water Conflict *AND* Water Cooperation



Transboundary Water Interaction NexuS (TWINS)

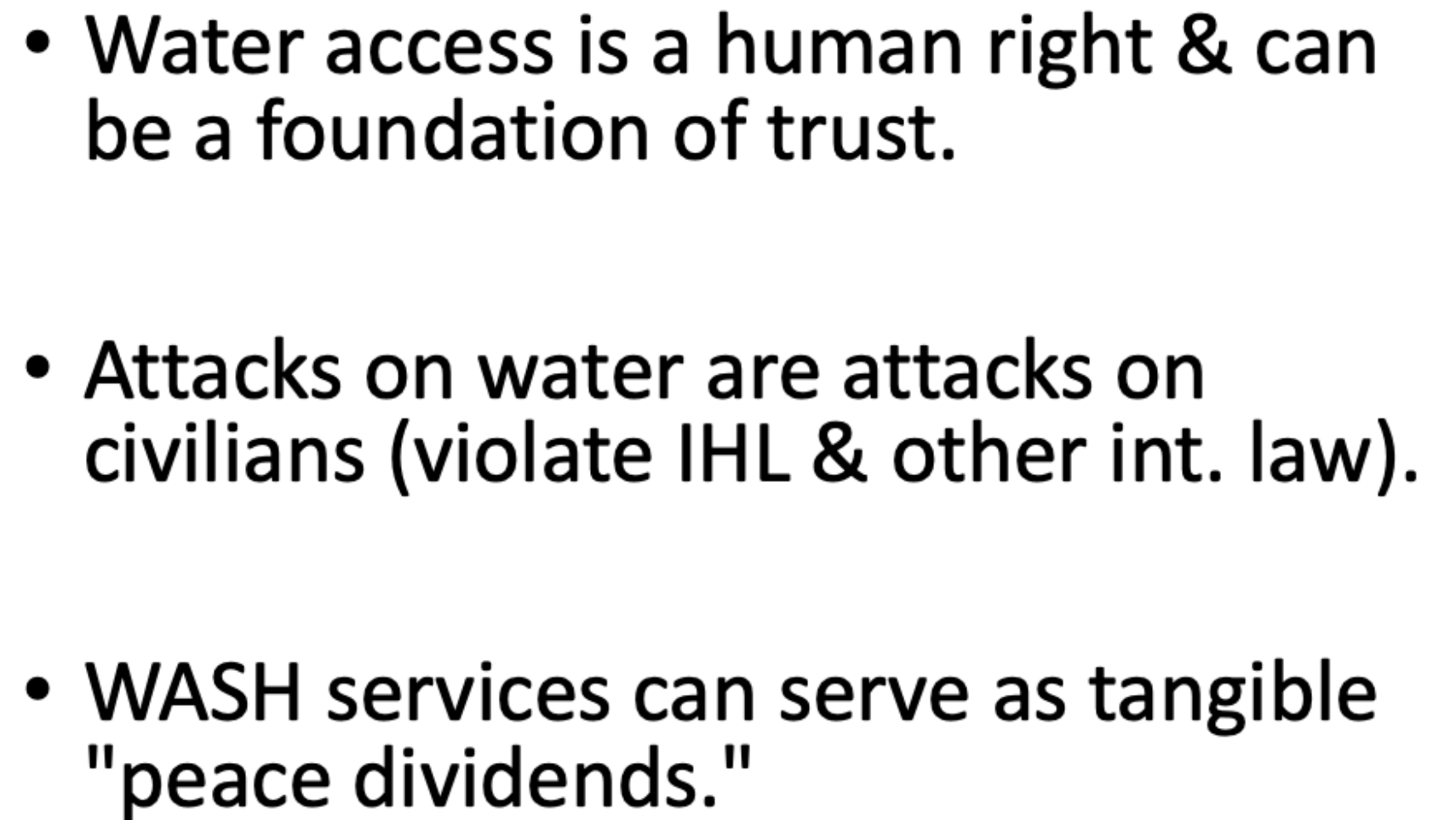
Source: Zeitoun Mirumachi (2008)

Mentimeter

Name one action or key message you would convey to UN Member States from a youth or civil society perspective on water for peace in the ID on "Water for Cooperation."



Peace Dimensions:



Importance to Youth & CSO



Yemeni people fill their plastic bottles with water in Sanaa, Yemen on August 21, 2015. People meet the daily water requirements from water tanks after a water cut off occurred in Sanaa due to clashes.

© Mohammed Hamoud/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

- In conflicts, children are 3x more likely to die from water-borne diseases than direct violence (UNICEF).
- CSOs/youth are first responders when systems fail.
- In fragile contexts, safely managed drinking water coverage is 38 percentage points lower than in other countries, highlighting stark inequalities (UNICEF).
- You hold power as witnesses and advocates for protection.

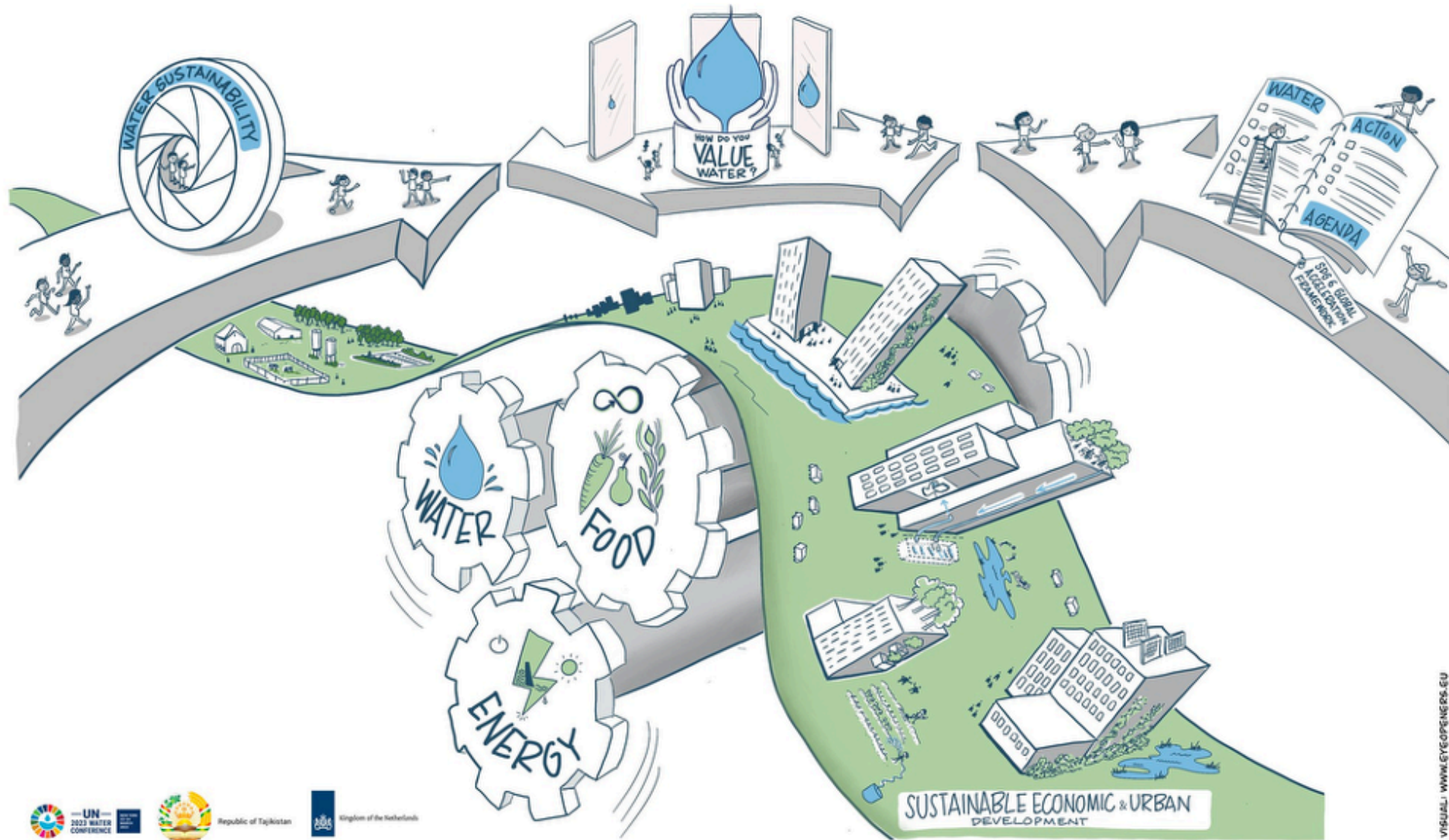
Mentimeter

Name one action or key message you would convey to UN Member States from a youth or civil society perspective on water for peace in the ID on "Water for People."

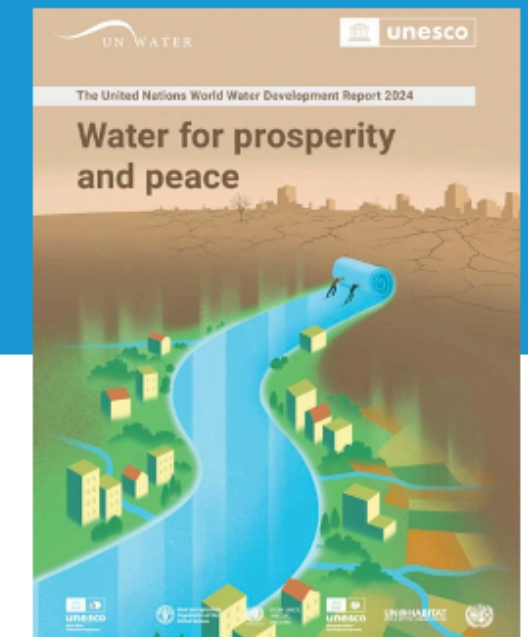
ID2: Water for Prosperity

2023

WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
VALUING WATER, WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



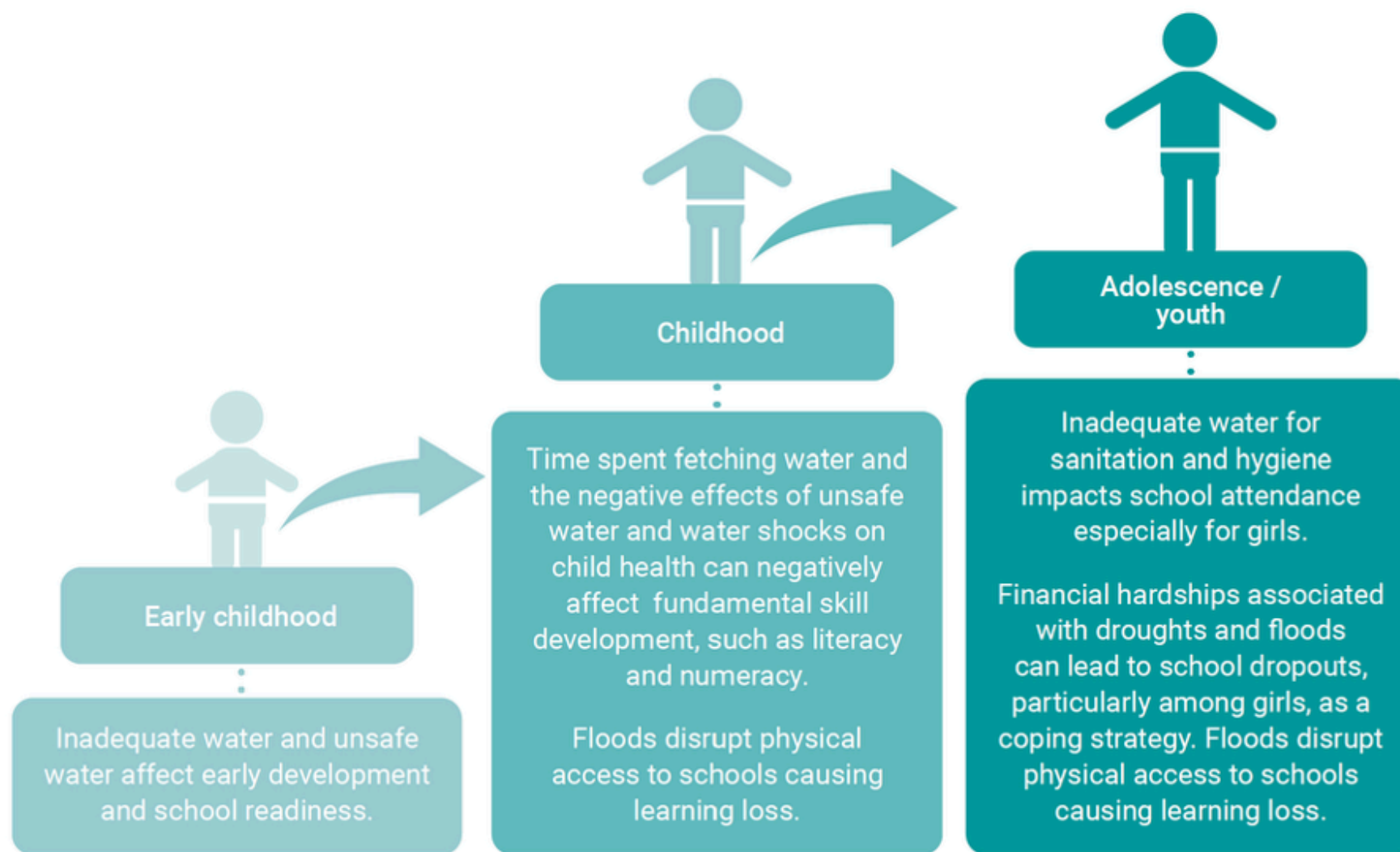
VISUALS: WWW.EYEOPENERS.EU



Peace Dimensions:

- Prosperity cannot just be measured in economic metrics → dignity needs to be ensured.
- Water projects must share benefits equitably to avoid conflict.
- A human rights-based approach can help in guiding water use prioritization.

Importance to Youth & CSO



Source: World Bank

- Insufficient access to water impacts education and the economy negatively.
- Water scarcity and inequality often overlap with poverty, climate vulnerability and weak governance, deepening socio-economic divides faced by young people.
- Youth networks report limited institutional support and access to resources for water innovation, constraining their role in prosperity solutions.
- ODA for water is declining (OECD, 2025).

Mentimeter

Name one action or key message you would convey to UN Member States from a youth or civil society perspective on water for peace in the ID on "Water for Prosperity."

ID3: Water for Planet

Peace Dimensions:

- 90% of climate disasters are water-related. Droughts and floods destroy livelihoods, displace populations, and intensify competition for resources, directly fueling instability.
- Healthy watersheds and biodiversity are critical for stable water access and conflict prevention.
- Nature-based solutions and adaptive water management can build community cohesion and reduce disaster risk.

2023

WATER FOR CLIMATE, RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT:
SOURCE TO SEA, BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE, RESILIENCE AND DRR



Importance to Youth & CSO

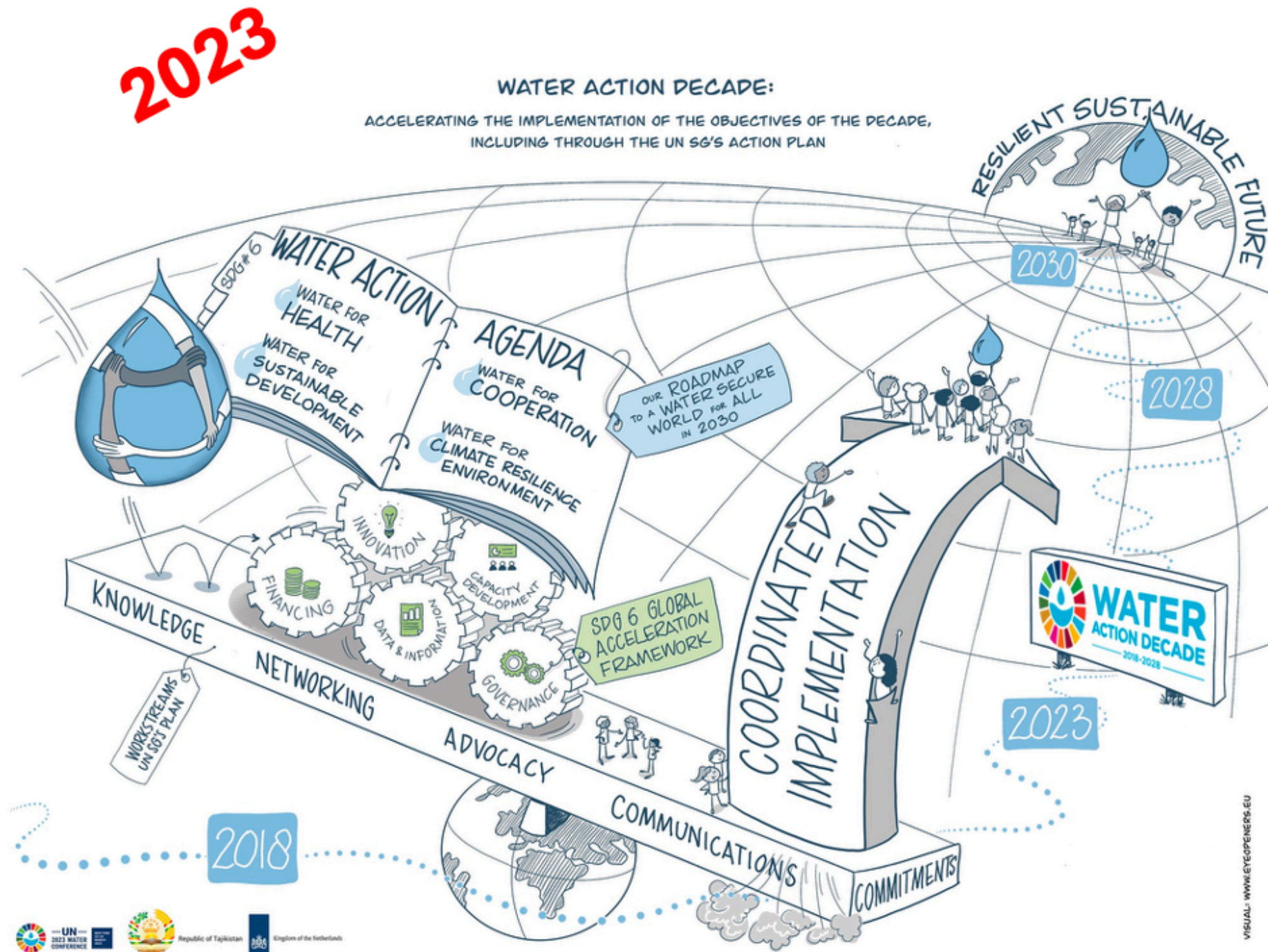


- 1 in 3 children exposed to severe water scarcity (UNICEF).
- Youth constitute most of the 30.7 million people displaced by weather-related disasters in 2023 (floods, storms). (Source: IDMC, 2024).
- Children bear the brunt of the impacts of the climate crisis –including disease, air pollution, and extreme weather events such as floods and droughts (UNICEF).

Mentimeter

Name one action or key message you would convey to UN Member States from a youth or civil society perspective on water for peace in the ID on "Water for Planet."

ID5: Water in Multilateral Processes



Peace Dimensions:

- Water is now a topic at the UN Security Council and major security forums (e.g., Munich, OSCE), recognizing its role in stability and conflict prevention.
- Despite this, water's peacebuilding potential is under-leveraged in UN peace & climate security mechanisms, missing key opportunities.
- The Pact for the Future signals that water must be central to the post-SDG framework to sustain development, cohesion, and peace → but uncertainty about water's role post 2030 persists...

Importance to Youth & CSO



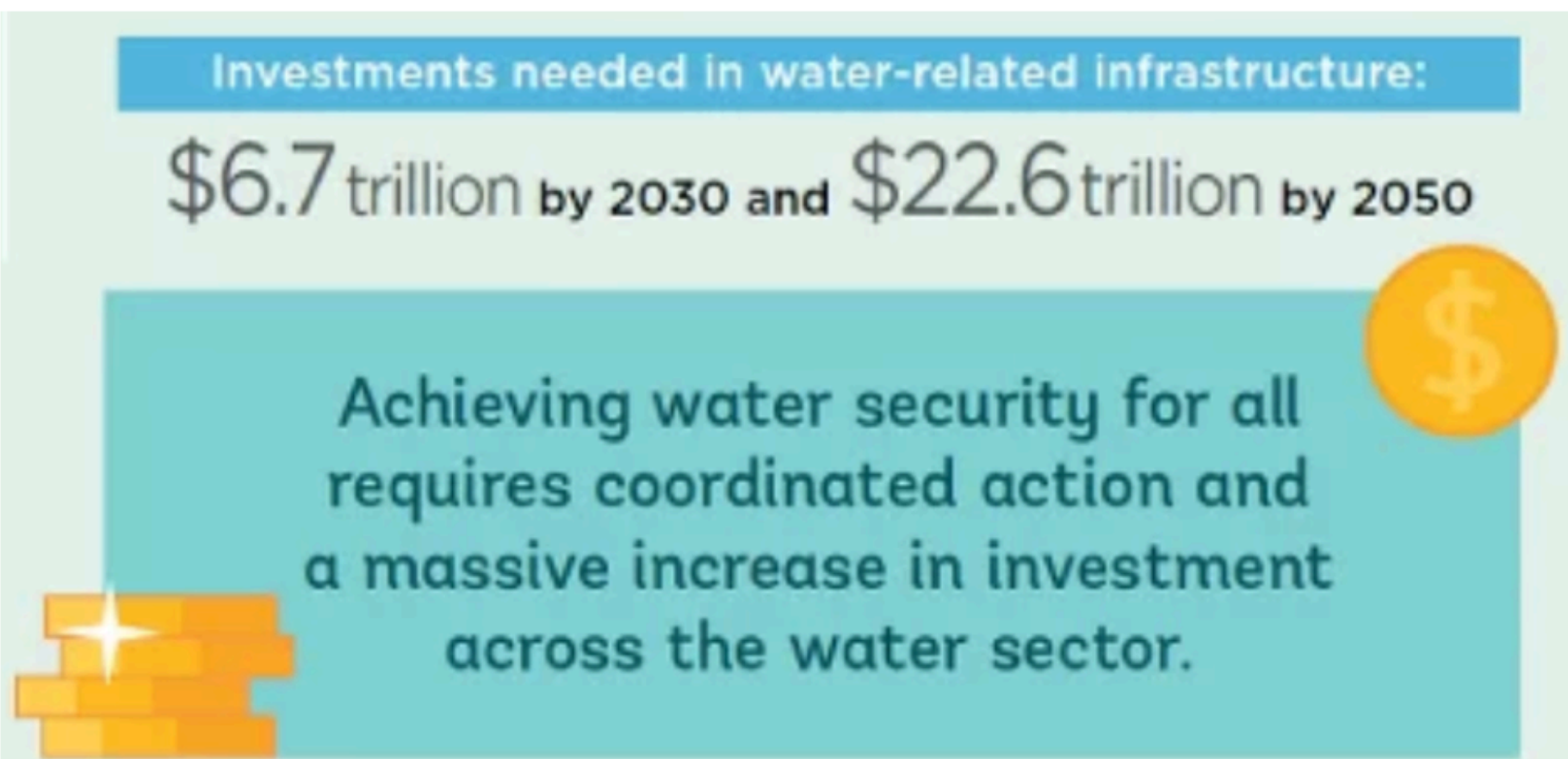
Youth-Led Action at Dushanbe Water Conference 2024

- An analysis of 2016-2021 UN High-Level Political Forum delegations found youth constituted less than 2% of official government delegations deciding the SDGs. (Source: UN Major Group for Children and Youth, 2022).
- UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) recognizes youth as critical partners in peacebuilding, yet they remain sidelined in many multilateral water and security dialogues.
- While 90% of SDG 6 targets require local action, less than 15% of national SDG reports meaningfully include data from local CSOs. (Source: Global Taskforce of Local & Regional Governments, 2023).

Mentimeter

Name one action or key message you would convey to UN Member States from a youth or civil society perspective on water for peace in the ID on "Water in Multilateral Processes."

ID6: Investments for Water



- Official development assistance disbursements to the water sector decreased by 15 per cent between 2015 and 2021, from \$9.6 billion to \$8.1 billion.
- Military spending on the rise:

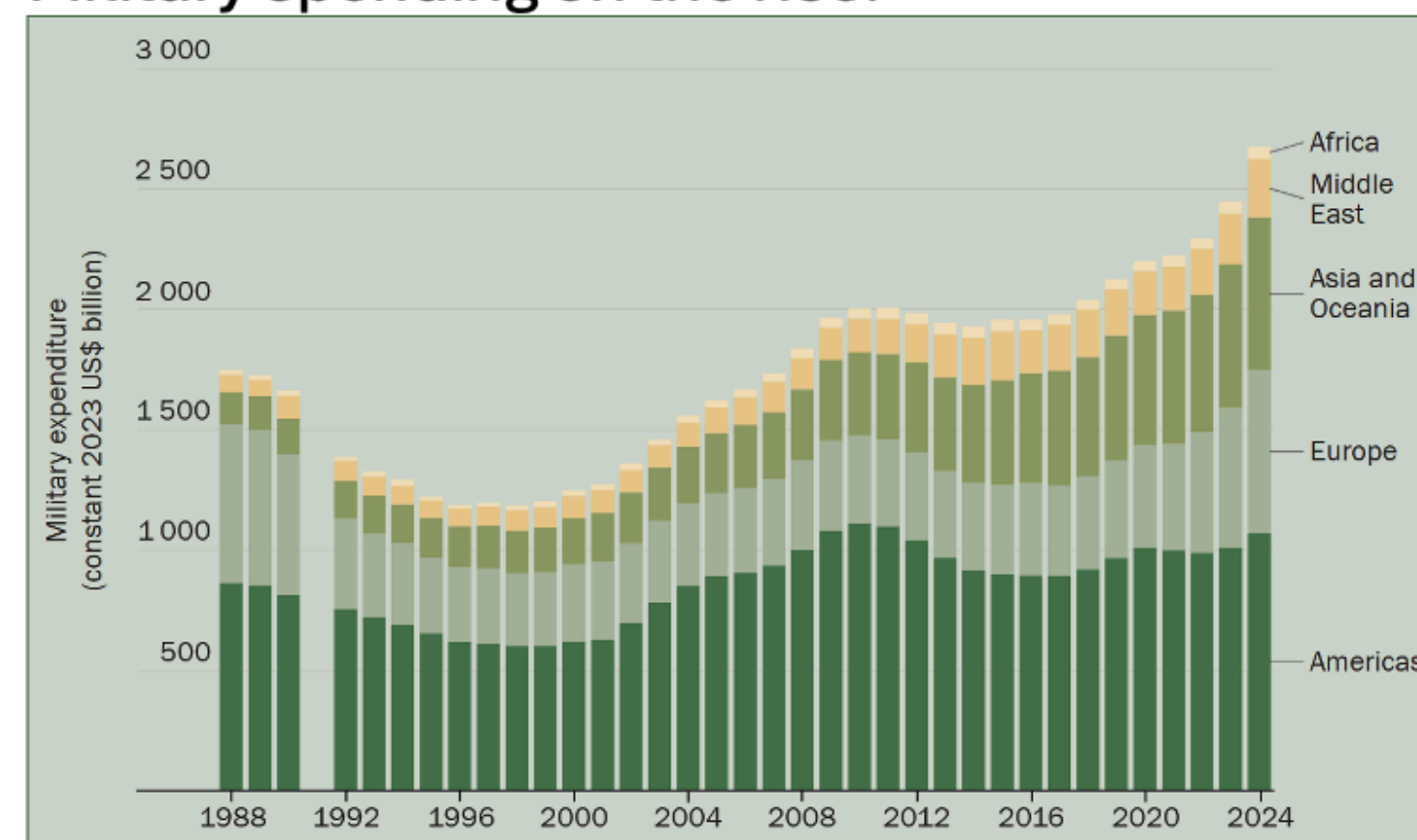


Figure 1. World military expenditure, by region, 1988–2024
SIPRI, 2024

Khemka, Rochi; Lopez, Patricia; Jensen, Olivia. 2023. Scaling Up Finance for Water: A WBG Strategic Framework and Roadmap for Action. © World Bank.

Importance to Youth & CSO



Source: Charcops Wetlands. <https://foodplanetprize.org/initiatives/charcops-wetlands-turning-wastewater-and-agricultural-residues-into-a-lifeline-for-farmers-in-ghana/>.

- Youth-led initiatives and innovation are emerging as critical for filling investment gaps, but young people still face barriers to formal financing mechanisms and decision-making spaces, limiting their ability to shape water investment priorities that affect their futures.
- Water access underpins 75 % of the global workforce, yet young people remain largely excluded from related sectors and decent jobs.

Mentimeter

Name one action or key message you would convey to UN Member States from a youth or civil society perspective on water for peace in the ID on “Investments for Water.”

A scenic landscape photograph featuring a vibrant turquoise lake nestled in a mountain valley. In the foreground, two small, light blue wooden boats with red trim are moored at a rocky, sandy shore. The background is dominated by steep, rugged mountains, some with patches of snow and glaciers. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The text "Thank you for your Attention!" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Thank you for your Attention!

NEXT STEPS

Where we stand and where we go



On the road to the 2026 UNWC

Zooming in... from Dakar to the Emirates

Jan 2026

Webinar 3

Dakar preparatory meeting



Capacity building
Advocacy campaign built on
SDG 6 solutions



United Nations Water Conference
United Arab Emirates, 2026

2028, 2030

4th UN WC, Tajikistan
Beyond 2030

Dec 2026

The image features a central white rectangular area containing the text "Q&A". The letters are in a bold, rounded, sans-serif font, colored in a light cream or off-white. Each letter is set within a circular gold-colored background that overlaps with the others. The top and bottom of the image are decorated with wavy, layered borders. The top border consists of two shades of green, while the bottom border consists of two shades of red. The overall design is clean and modern.

Q&A

THE END... For now

Thank you for your participation!

Want to reach out?

Civil Society

Coline Arnoux carnoux@see-swe.org

Youth Sector

Alix Debray adebray@sie-isw.org



[@InternSecrWater](https://www.facebook.com/InternSecrWater)



<https://www.sie-see.org/en/>



info@sie-isw.org



Capacity building for effective participation and enhanced experience

- Security, behavior (baseline respect of sex, age, ethnicity, ...), dress code, cultural sensitivities, ...
- BE / GYMW x UNMGCY and partners: gather and coordinate → responsibility, content, tools and fun
- Advo messages, actors ...