

## Water and Faith Showcase: 'Water and Faith: Acting in Partnership to achieve SDG 6'

### Description of the Event:

To achieve the SDGs in just 12 years requires strong partnerships. Faith and spirituality are foundational sources and drivers of behavior; shaping and inspiring individual and community worldviews, priorities, daily rituals and community structures – including relationship to and value of water resources. Moreover, in rural and remote locations, or where governments are unable or otherwise fail to provide essential services, faith-based organizations and networks are often relied upon to fill essential service gaps. This Showcase is the third edition of the Water and Faith initiatives originated at the World Water Week since 2016 (please see the report attached). This year's showcase will begin with short convocations from several high-level faith leaders active in championing wise water management towards SDG 6 including the Chairperson of Ecumenical Water Network of the World Council of Churches and President of All Africa Conference of Churches, the Mufti of Amman and also key leaders of the water sectors and the UN mechanism. The Showcase will present a 'People and Planet' marketplace to share experience, good practices, and lessons learnt. Case studies featured in the 'People and Planet' marketplace will be drawn from diverse geographical and social contexts, including indigenous communities, demonstrating diverse opportunities to actively bridge between secular/faith-based/interfaith-based communities - through water. Themes including ecological stewardship, wastewater reuse, poverty elimination and rural development will all be addressed through the showcase. A "way forward" strategy to be announced at the end of the showcase towards concrete joint action plans.

### Speakers:

- **Bishop Arnold Temple**, Chairperson, Ecumenical Water Network, WCC
- **Dr Mohammad Al-Zoubi**, Mufti of Amman
- **Prof. Stefan Uhlenbrook**, World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UNESCO Coordinator of the UN-Water Task Force to produce the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018
- **Dr Monika Weber - Fahr**, Executive Secretary, and CEO, Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- **Katarina Veem**, Director, Swedish Water House
- **Francois Brikke**, Senior Advisor, Global Water Partnership
- **Elizabeth Yaari**, Senior Programme Manager, Transboundary Water Management, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
- **Dinesh Suna**, Ecumenical Water Network of World Council of Churches

## **BRIEF BIOS OF THE SPEAKERS**

### **Bishop Arnold Temple**



Bishop Arnold Temple is the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone. He is a Central Committee of World Council of Churches. He teaches eco-theology at Freetown's College of Theology and Management in Sierra Leone. For a long time, he has been the representative of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) at the International Reference Group (IRG) of the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) of World Council of Churches. In July 2018 he was elected as the President of AACC at its Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda. Therefore, Bishop Temple is truly the voice of African Churches. Bishop Temple is a proponent of water justice and that of being a Blue Community!

### **Dr Mohammad Al-Zoubi, Mufti of Amman**



Dr. Mohammad Al-Zoubi serves the Jordanian Iftaa Department as Mufti of Amman since 2011. Prior to this position he was the Acting Secretary General of the Jordanian Iftaa Department. He has a PhD degree in Shari' Jurisdiction (AlQadaa alShari') from the University of Jordan. He is a member of the Jordanian Iftaa Council for Studies and Researches, and a member of several committees in the Iftaa Departments. He is a certified trainer for "Public Service Ethics" within the Jordanian Ministry of Public Sector Development and the Bureau of Auditing in Jordan. In addition he is an Advisor for projects on water from Islamic perspective including the GIZ supported 'Blue Mosque' programme.

### **Prof. Stefan Uhlenbrook, Coordinator and Director**



Since November 2015, Professor Stefan Uhlenbrook is the Coordinator of the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP, UNESCO programme) and the Director of the Programme Office on Global Water Assessment in Perugia, Italy. Prior to this position he has served the UNESCO in different capacities in the water sector). He did his Ph.D. (1999) and habilitation (2003) at the University of Freiburg, Germany. He is also a professor for experimental hydrology at the Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands ( since 2009).

Many of his research and development projects have demonstrated the impact of global changes on water cycle dynamics in different hydro-climate regions in Africa and Asia. Stefan is involved in supporting Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation. He was responsible for producing the Synthesis Report on SDG 6, a status report for the UN High-Level Political Forum, that reviewed the SDG 6 on 9 July 2018.

### Dr Monika Weber – Fahr



Dr Monika Weber – Fahr is the Executive Secretary and CEO, GlobalWater Partnership. The Global Water Partnership is a global action network working towards a water secure world by advancing governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development with over

3,000 Partner organisations in 180+countries.

With a background as an economist, Monika Weber-Fahr began working in development in 1994 with the World Bank. Building communities and partnerships around knowledge and collaboration became a passion that she pursued across multiple projects in areas related to sustainable development and the field of education. For the International Finance Corporation (IFC), she built the Global Business Line for Sustainable Business Advisory, working with the private sector to pursue people-planet-profit opportunities, including on water efficiency and new clean water technologies. Most recently, Monika Weber-Fahr worked as Chief Operating Officer at Sustainable Energy for ALL.

### Katarina Veem



Katarina is the Director of SIWI's Swedish Water House (SWH), a neutral platform for Swedish actors interested in international water issues. She also oversees the Sweden Textile Water Initiative (STWI), a programme that grew from one of the SWH cluster groups.

Katarina joined SIWI in 2012, after working with Baltic Sea 2020 and WWF Sweden among others. Katarina has more than 15 years of experience in water and development in Asia and Europe

### Kristina Johansson



Ms. Kristina Johansson is Programme Officer at SIWI Swedish Water House (SWH) and responsible for SWH activities on Water and Faith.

Kristina joined SIWI the first time in 2014 working with Stockholm Junior Water Prize. She holds a MSc in Rural Development and Natural Resource Management and a BA in International Relations. Her main field of study has been natural resource management from an interdisciplinary approach, focusing on gender, human rights, and food security. She has previous experience working with local organisations in India and Nepal, as well as with FAO's Nordic Information office.

### Francois Brikké



Francois Brikké is a Development Economist and a Sanitary Engineer, with 25 years' worldwide experience in the Water Sector. He has been coordinating numerous events on the issue of Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM), and is now GWP's focal point on Urban Water Security. He has hands-on experience in supporting the design

of Urban Water Management in complex environments such as Kinshasa in DRC, as well as in emerging environments cities such as Marondera in Zimbabwe. Before GWP, Francois Brikké has occupied several senior positions with UNICEF in Indonesia as Chief WASH, the World Bank as Senior Regional Team Leader of the Water and Sanitation for Latin America, and IRC, International Water and Sanitation Centre based in The Hague, as Senior Program Officer.

### Elizabeth A. Yaari



Ms Elizabeth A. Yaari serves as a Senior Programme Manager of the SIWI (Stockholm International Water Institute). She focuses on the Transboundary Water Management Department. In addition, Elizabeth serves as SIWI's Gender Equality Focal Point, supports SIWI's Africa Regional Center's Africa EU Water Partnership Program (AEWPP), and leads SIWI's Swedish Water House Water and Faith engagements.

Ms Yaari has over a decade of experience supporting informal and formal environmental peacebuilding, water diplomacy, water governance, and capacity building processes in conflict and post-conflict regions. Elizabeth has extensive experience supporting the engagement and leadership of a broad spectrum of stakeholders including government representatives, diplomats, development partners, local authorities, civil society, faith-based communities and academia. Elizabeth holds an MA in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy and BA in International Relations.

She has been the focal point from SIWI for the Faith and Water Initiative and has strong collaborations with the World Council of Churches during the World Water Week.

### Dinesh Suna



Mr Dinesh Suna is the Coordinator of the Ecumenical Water Network of World Council of Churches (WCC), Geneva since 2012. WCC is a global fellowship of 350 Protestant and Orthodox churches in 110 countries representing over half a billion Christians.

The Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) started in 2006 is a platform of Christian churches and organizations committed to increasing access to safe drinking water and a dignified sanitation worldwide. In partnership with its member churches, grassroots communities and civil society organizations the EWN raises awareness on the urgency of the water crisis and to strengthen the voice of Christian churches in the water debate. EWN primarily engaged in advocacy for water justice within a human rights framework.

Prior to joining the WCC-EWN, Mr Suna has been engaged in many ecumenical organization in his home country in India since the 1990s, including the National Council of Churches in India and worked with Church's Auxiliary for Social Action. Mr Suna has a Master's degree in Social Work.