

Speaker Bios

High Level Panel on Water Diplomacy

Monday 27th August 14:00-15:30, Room: NL Auditorium

In speaking order:

Dr Therese Sjömander Magnusson, *Chief Operating Officer* at SIWI. She manages day-to-day operations and supports the Executive Director in the strategic development of SIWI.

Dr Sjömander Magnusson is responsible for the action plans to implement the SIWI's strategy, and improving operational effectiveness and efficiency. She also oversees the monitoring and evaluation of SIWI's overall results. A Swedish national, she has over 20 years of experience working with water and sanitation, and transboundary water management in Sweden, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. She joined SIWI in 2013 after working with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Stockholm University. Dr Sjömander Magnusson has a PhD from Linköping University in Sweden and speaks English and Swedish. Therese currently sits on the WWF International Advisory Committee to the Basin Report Cards project and is SIWI's focal point for engagement with UN water. Previously, she has been actively involved in the Expert Group on Aid Studies in Sweden, and contributed to the work of UNESCO's International Hydrological programme.

Mr Torgny Holmgren, *Executive Director*, SIWI. Former Ambassador at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Head of the Department for Development Policy, Mr. Torgny Holmgren became SIWI's Executive Director in 2012. Mr Holmgren has served as an expert or board member on the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Water, the World Water Council (Permanent Observer in the Board of Governors), the European Advisory Group of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and with Water Aid (Sweden). A Swedish national, he has extensive experience working in East Africa, South Asia, Europe and North America. Before joining SIWI, he worked for the World Bank and the Swedish Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance. He has recently served as Sherpa in UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability. Mr Holmgren studied at the Stockholm School of Economics and has over 30 years of experience in economic and development issues.

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, *Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations*. Ms. Mohammed was Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from November 2015 to December 2016, where she steered the country's efforts on climate action, protecting the natural environment and conserving resources for sustainable development. Prior to this, she served as Special Adviser to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Post-2015 Development Planning, where she was instrumental in bringing about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Before joining the UN, Ms. Mohammed worked for three successive administrations in Nigeria, serving as Special Advisor on the Millennium Development Goals, providing advice on issues including poverty, public sector reform and sustainable development, and coordinating programmes worth \$1 billion annually for MDG-related interventions. She is also an Adjunct Professor in Development Practice at Columbia University, and served on numerous international advisory boards and panels, including the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, the Global Development Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the African Women's Millennium Initiative, Girl Effect, 2016 African Union Reform and the ActionAid International Right to Education Project. Ms. Mohammed began her 35-year career in the private sector with architects and engineers responsible for the project management of health, education and public sector buildings.

Dr. Danilo Türk, *Chairman of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace/Former President of Slovenia*. Dr. Türk has a BA in Law from the University of Ljubljana, an MA from the University of Belgrade, and a PhD from the University of Ljubljana. In 1983 he became Director of the Institute on International Law at the University of Ljubljana. In 1984 -1992 he was member of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a UN body of independent experts. In that capacity he served, in 1986-1992, as the UN Special Rapporteur on the realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In 1996-1997 he also served as member of the Human Rights Committee. In 1990-1991 he took part in the drafting of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia by preparing the draft chapter of the Constitution related to human rights and fundamental freedoms. From 1992 to 2000, Dr. Türk was the first Slovene Permanent Representative to the UN in New York and represented Slovenia on the UN Security Council in 1998 -1999. In 2000 he was invited by Mr. Kofi Annan, the then Secretary-General of the UN, to serve as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs (2000 – 20005). In that capacity he worked on a variety of situations on the UN agenda, including the Middle East, Balkans (Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina), Myanmar, Korean Peninsula, Haiti and Colombia. He was also involved in preparation of the Secretary-General's reports on prevention of armed conflicts (2002) and on reform of the UN (2005).

Ms. Maria Vink, is the Director of the Transboundary Water Management Department, SIWI. She is also the Director of the Shared Waters Partnership (SWP) and the International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC), under the auspices of UNESCO – both of which are hosted at SIWI. She leads SIWI's work on water diplomacy, supporting governments and development partners to enhance cooperation on transboundary waters. Maria joined SIWI in 2015 and has over 15 years' experience of working with development cooperation and diplomacy, representing Sweden and EU in international settings, and extensive experience of diplomatic work, negotiations and managing cooperation between governments, regional organisations, academia, NGO's and the private sector. She also has long experience in developing and managing programs related to water diplomacy and in providing advisory services for policy development and facilitation of dialogues in transboundary settings. Maria is an engineer with a M.Sc from the Royal Institute in Technology in Stockholm. She speaks Swedish, English and Portuguese.

Dr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources (MoWR), Republic of Iraq. Prior to his incumbent position he was Iraq's Ambassador to Japan. Dr. Janabi also served as the Head of the Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served as Iraq's Ambassador to the Rome-based agencies the Food and Agriculture Organization -FAO, the World Food Program- WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development - IFAD. His other positions in Iraq included Advisor to the Ministry of Water Resources and Senior Advisor to the Water & Public Works Sector in Baghdad overseeing the donors countries funded water and public works project after 2003. Before moving back to Iraq in 2003, Dr. Janabi worked as experienced hydrologist and water quality modeler for Sydney Catchment Authority in Australia. He has extensive knowledge in the management, planning and development of major projects in the area of natural resources, environment and public works. He possesses in depth understanding of natural processes, river basin hydrology, trans-boundary river management, ecosystems, watershed management, hydraulic modeling and GIS applications. Dr. Janabi graduated from the University of Baghdad - College of Engineering and he obtained postgraduate qualifications from the University of Warsaw-Poland and the University of Technology in Sydney- Australia.

Ms. Adela Raz, *Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Affairs (MoFA)*, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Ms. Adela Raz holds an MA degree in Law and Diplomacy with a focus on Economic Development from the Fletcher School/Tufts University and a BA with honors with triple majors in International Relations, Political Science, and Economics from Simmons College in Boston, USA. She also holds a certificate in International Development from the Fletcher School/ Tufts University. Ms. Raz possess eight years of extensive experience in the fields of political and economic analysis, policy development, media and communication and governance, with various governmental and non governmental, local and international organizations. She started her career with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). She identified policy areas where UNAMA Central Field Office could help the Ministry of Women Affairs and its regional offices adopting approaches about women participation in economic and social arenas. She helped running the Political Rights Verification Campaign during the first presidential and parliamentary elections. In 2013, Ms. Adela Raz was appointed as a -first female- Deputy Spokesperson and Director of Communications for the President. She moved into a new position as the Chief of Staff at the Administrative Office of the President in November 2014, and in March 2016, she assumed her current post as the new Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Cooperation. Her notable work in Afghanistan includes; completing an assessment of Afghanistan's Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) law. The aim of this evaluation was to identify clauses that required amendments for accurately responding to the needs of CSO and NGOs in Afghanistan. Ms. Raz liaised with the government, UN agencies, and NGOs to create baseline data on the human rights, political and development situations and gender equality. Also she co-authored a study about "Public Private Cooperation in Fragile States". From 2010 to early 2013, Ms. Raz has worked with an international development organization in the United States, with projects focused on Afghanistan and Central Asia. Adela Raz is also on the board of directors of a US based non-profit organization, helping to educate Afghan women with providing scholarships for undergraduate degrees in the US. Also, she has been a frequent commentator on the Af-Pak regional affairs.

Mr. Mutaz Musa Abdullah Salim, *Minister for Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity*. Mr Salim was born in 1967 and graduated from the University of Khartoum's Faculty of Economics in the early 1990s. He holds two master's degrees, one in translation from the University of Khartoum, and the other in political science from the Al-Zaim al-Azhary University. Mr Salim was assigned minister of electricity and water resources in December 2013. Prior to this, he was one of the founders of the National Centre for Media Production and the Dam Construction Unit in the early 1990s. In a previous position at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he worked in Sudan's embassy to Germany before becoming an ambassador. He facilitated dam construction work outside Sudan, and contributed to a great deal to the cooperation with the Arab, Saudi, and Kuwaiti funds and in aiding the funding of dam projects in Sudan as head of funding and then head of projects.

Ms. Annika Söder, *State Secretary*, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden. Ms Söder has a long-standing experience of international affairs. Prior to joining the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Annika was a Senior Manager in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, responsible for external relations, partnerships and communications. Previously, she served in the Swedish Government offices as State Secretary for International Development Cooperation, spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry, and as foreign policy advisor to the prime minister and several foreign ministers. Annika has a background in communications, security policy and development cooperation. Annika has also served on several boards and councils of international institutions and organizations and studied journalism at Stockholm University.

Mr. Henk W.J. Ovink, *Special Envoy for International Water Affairs*, Kingdom of The Netherlands Sherpa to the UN/WB High Level Panel on Water. Mr Ovink was appointed by the Dutch Cabinet as the first Special Envoy for International Water Affairs (2015). As the Ambassador for Water, he is responsible for advocating water awareness around the world, focusing on building institutional capacity and coalitions among governments, multilateral organizations, private sector and NGO's to address the world's stressing needs on water and help initiate transformative interventions. Ovink is also Sherpa to the High Level Panel on Water, installed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and President of the World Bank Jim Kim with 10 Heads of State / Heads of Government including Prime Minister Rutte from The Netherlands to catalyse change in water awareness and implementation. Henk is Principal for Rebuild by Design, the resilience innovation competition he developed and led for President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force where he was Senior Advisor to the Chair. He has been Director General for Planning and Water Affairs and Director for National Spatial Planning in The Netherlands. Ovink teaches at the London School of Economics and at Harvard GSD and is member of the International Advisory Board for the City of Rotterdam. He was Curator for the 5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam 2012 'Making City', and curated the debate series 'Design and Politics: the next phase' for Aedes network Campus Berlin. He initiated the research program and is chief editor of the series of publications with NAI010 Publishers on Design and Politics.

Amb. Jan Eliasson, *Chair of the Governing Board*, Sipri/Former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. Ambassador Eliasson is a Swedish diplomat and, as of 1 June 2017, the Chair of the SIPRI Governing Board. He was Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations from July 2012 to December 2016 and Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2006. Furthermore, he was President of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly in 2005–06; the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Darfur in 2007–08; the first UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, 1992–94; and participated, 1980–86, in the UN mission mediating in the Iran–Iraq War, which was headed by former Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden.

Prof. Peter Wallensteen, *Senior Professor of Peace and Conflict Research*, Uppsala University. Prof. Wallensteen is Senior Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University (since 2012) and Richard G. Starmann Sr. Research Professor of Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame, USA (since 2006). From 1985 to 2012 Wallensteen was the first holder of the Dag Hammarskjöld Chair in Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University. He was also the Head of Department from 1972-1999, thus being heavily involved in the creation of all aspects of the Department. Prior to this he was setting up (together with Lena Wallensteen and Bo Schiller) the first courses in Development Studies, and leading the unit for its first years. In addition to the affiliations with Uppsala University and the University of Notre Dame he is also an Associate of the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, and a Senior Research Fellow of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala. Presently he is also a member of Advisory Council (Insynrådet) of the Folke Bernadotte Academy, and member of the Advisory Council for the project on Varieties of Peace (Umeå University) as well as coordinator for chapter 10 in the forthcoming report of the International Panel on Social Progress (with Prof. Michel Wieviorka, Paris).