



Church of Sweden 

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SIWI SOFA: Water and Faith: Acting in Partnership to achieve SDG 6

Since 2016 Faith communities and the water sector have been collaborating to build bridges and generate synergies to work together in achieving the SDG 6. This SIWI Sofa brings together prominent faith leaders and water professionals on the SIWI Sofa to discuss where and how to forge a deeper partnership for a more effective impact supporting communities 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. There are several good practices promoted by the faith communities to achieve the SDG 6.

The SIWI Sofa will give opportunities to highlight some of those good practices, particularly about the campaign of World Council of Churches to become Blue Communities and the national effort to reduce water use in religious institutions in Jordan through the “Blue Mosques” campaign. The ‘Sofa’ discussion will provide an opportunity to highlight the development of a SIWI Swedish Water House Cluster Group on Water and Faith which aims to engage Swedish stakeholders, including faith based actors, around a common agenda to achieve SDG 6.

Speakers:

- **Bishop Arnold Temple**, Chairperson, Ecumenical Water Network, WCC
- **Dr Mohammad Al-Zoubi**, Mufti of Amman
- **Katarina Veem**, Director, Swedish Water House
- **Dr Dag Hedin**, Church of Sweden

BRIEF BIOS OF SPEAKERS for the SIWI SOFA ON FAITH AND WATER

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 strong 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.

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.

Dr Dag Hedin



Dr Dag Hedin works for the Church of Sweden as a Program Manager on Sustainability and Theology focused on environmental and legal rights of indigenous peoples from within the Diocese of Luleå. He completed his doctoral studies on existential phenomenology at Uppsala University. Dag is engaged in the process of developing the Swedish cluster group on behalf of the Church of Sweden in partnership with SIWI's Swedish Water House.