EU Water Diplomacy
Water Peace and Security in the Sahel
EU Water Diplomacy

• Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy 19.11.2018
• Council Conclusions on EU Human Rights Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation 17 June 2019
• EU support to Transboundary Water Cooperation: EU Outreach in support to global scope of UNECE Water Convention
Water scarcity

Further deterioration of water resources and ecosystems

More conflicts and tensions over access to water

36% world population live in water-scarce regions

1.8 billion people lack access to safe drinking water
Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy

Water as a tool for Peace

Water a key global challenge of 21st century

New approach to water, reflecting the new challenges (climate change and growing water insecurity)

New developments: Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030
Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy

Water as a tool for Peace

- Water and Security
- Transboundary Water Cooperation and Governance
- Leaving no one behind
- Rights to water and sanitation
- Gender
- Climate Change
- Moving to enhanced Action
Water insecurity destabiliser of international peace and security
Water tool for peace and regional cooperation
Enhanced EU diplomatic engagement on water
EU condemns use of water as a weapon of war
Sharing of experience
Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Systems
Access to water and sanitation in humanitarian crisis
A key objective of EU water diplomacy is to engage in fostering cooperative approaches to address the transboundary challenges of water.

The EU will continue to promote accession to international agreements on water cooperation, in particular the Helsinki Water Convention 1992 (UNECE).

Support to strengthened water governance and IWRM.
Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy

Leaving no one behind

SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation: the world is not on track:

- Billions of people still lack safe water and sanitation
- Water pollution is worsening
- Lack of funding
- Governance structures are weak and fragmented
- Agriculture places enormous stress on water
- Insufficient Capacity (both institutional and human)
- Ecosystems in continuous decline

EU commitment to Implementation of SDG6
Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy

Rights to water and sanitation

EU recognition of human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

EU protection of human rights defenders addressing environmental issues

Gender: women and girls
Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy

Circular Economy § Climate Change

Water savings § reuse
Innovative solutions, nature based
Research
Partnerships involving public and private stakeholders
Link between Water and Climate Change
Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy
Moving to Enhanced Action

EU commitment to address Water challenges around the world

Integrated approach: political and security, developmental, humanitarian and environmental

Importance of water and sanitation in the next programming phase of EU financial and technical cooperation with partner countries

Encourage private sector investment and partnerships
One step further

- Recognise the EU commitment to human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
- EU support to environmental human rights defenders
- EU Guidelines on safe drinking water and sanitation
EU Outreach to promote accession to the UNECE Water Convention in March 2018

>20 countries have expressed interest

Chad and Senegal have become members

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria to follow
"Water is life. It is a fundamental condition to human survival and dignity, and it is the basis for the resilience of societies and of the natural environment. Unlike other natural resources, water has no substitute: the only substitute for water is water."


Maria del Carmen Marques Ruiz
EEAS – Global 2, Economic and Global Issues

*Water Diplomacy*