

Special WRRC Water Webinar

The “How” of Water Diplomacy: An Introduction to the Routledge Handbook of Water Diplomacy

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Speaker Bios:



Burcu Çallı is a Water Diplomacy Expert at the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), a think tank under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye. With 15 years of experience, she focuses on transboundary water policy, cooperation, diplomacy, and the links between water and migration. She has played active roles in various regional and international initiatives, represents Türkiye in bilateral and multilateral negotiations and global policy platforms, and delivers lectures and speeches in national and international programmes. She is also a member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.



Zodwa Dlamini is a seasoned international transboundary water management specialist, development professional, and senior infrastructure projects manager. As South Africa's former Chief Delegate and Permanent Representative on the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission, she oversaw the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and its implementation. Dlamini is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile (2017) and has served as a member of the Network's Leadership Council since 2021.



Shafiqul Islam is a professor of civil and environmental engineering in the School of Engineering and a professor of water diplomacy at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, where he directs the Water Diplomacy Program. His work focuses on the availability, access, and allocation of water in the context of climate stress, public health, data-driven decision-making, and engineering diplomacy. He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and five books. As a Harvard Radcliffe Fellow, he is developing the Engineering Diplomacy Framework—an actionable synthesis of scientific insight and negotiated problem-solving.



Sogol Jafarzadeh is an environmental scientist with 15+ years' experience in environmental policy, climate and water diplomacy, and inclusive governance. As UNU-INWEH's UN and Government Relations Coordinator & Gender and Capacity Building Focal Point for Africa, she advances gender-responsive water and climate solutions and serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Process Support Team.



Martina Klimes is Senior Manager and Advisor on Climate, Water, and Peace at Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), with over 15 years of experience in dialogue facilitation, conflict resolution, and political-security analysis. She combines research with informal diplomacy worldwide and is co-editor of the 2025 Routledge Water Diplomacy Handbook.



Sharon B. Megdal is Director of the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center. She bridges the academic, practitioner, and civil society communities through research, education, and engagement programs. Her research includes analysis of water management, policy, and governance in water-scarce regions and transboundary aquifer assessment. Megdal serves on the Board of Governors for the Kasser Joint Institute for Food, Water, and Energy Security, the Leadership Team for the Colorado River Basin Water & Tribes Initiative, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council, and Arizona Governor Hobbs' Water Policy Council.



Aaron Salzberg is a consultant specializing in policy advice, strategic planning, and facilitation for government, private sector, and non-profit clients. His work centers on strengthening discourse and decision making on complex science, environment, and security issues.



Yumiko Yasuda is an independent consultant and researcher on water and environmental governance. She is currently a visiting researcher at Research School on Water Cooperation, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, and an affiliate of Wuhan International Water Law Association. She has experience working in multiple sectors in the fields of water and environment. Her research on the Mekong has culminated in the publication of a book, *Rules, Norms and NGO Advocacy Strategies: Hydropower Development on the Mekong River*, by Routledge.