Launch of the
Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace
16 November 2015
8:30-11:00am
WIPO Main Conference Hall
Place des Nations, Geneva

8:30am Welcome coffee
9:00am Opening by:
  › Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter,
    Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
  › Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva
  › Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and Chair of UN-Water

Registration until 6 November 2015 at:
www.genevawaterhub.org/panel-launch
Sustainable water resources management is one of the global challenges of the 21st century. Water issues are a growing cause of social, economic and political instability, with significant impact on security and peace in the world.

Despite the complexity of the challenges, water can be transformed from a source of potential crisis into an instrument of peace. It is with this positive vision that Switzerland is engaged in global water issues in partnership with UN organizations, bilateral partners and NGOs, to help prevent water conflicts at an early stage and to promote water as an instrument of peace and cooperation.

Broad consultations with political leaders, diplomats and water experts have shown the need for a high-level political debate on how to prevent water conflicts. For this reason, Switzerland is pleased to launch, together with fifteen co-convening countries from all the world’s regions, the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace. The panel will include eminent persons with political experience from national authorities and/or from civil society, academia, international organisations and/or private sector. The Geneva Water Hub will act as the Panel’s Secretariat.

The Global High-Level Panel will be launched by co-convening countries at ministerial level in Geneva on November 16, 2015 from 8:30am to 11:00am. The launch event shall start with opening remarks by Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the WMO and Chair of UN-Water. Co-convening countries will then present their vision for the Panel, and Panelists will be introduced.

During the event, international renowned musician Mich Gerber, who is also one of the Ferrymen on the Aare River, will begin creating the so-called “Water for Peace Symphony”. This artwork will be step by step co-created by different musicians of the world in parallel of the work done by the High Level Panel and shall be finalised for the presentation of the Panel's results.

Registration is needed to attend this event and can be done online at www.genevawaterhub.org/panel-launch

Venue is the Main Conference Hall of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) which is located at 34, chemin des Colombettes, on the northern side of the Place des Nations in Geneva. See map at: www.wipo.int/tools/en/contacts/map.jsp

For enquiries regarding the event, please email: contact@genevawaterhub.org