



GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO SPARE WATER FROM ARMED CONFLICTS

- **Advocate and influence:** Alliance members will ensure the knowledge is used to shape decision-making and policy processes aimed to mitigate civilian harm. They will initiate collaboration to develop appropriate UN resolutions, inter-governmental political declarations, or other instruments deemed necessary to protect water from armed conflicts. They will advocate for better protection of water in armed conflicts and better implementation of the relevant legal frameworks related to freshwater and water infrastructure.
- **Promote partnerships:** The Alliance will promote collaboration within and outside its network, engaging with key stakeholders and other coalitions, such as the WASH Road Map, the Joint Operational Framework initiative, and the Political Declaration on the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA). It will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise among partners to share lessons about successful protection at international, national and local levels.

WHO CAN JOIN THE ALLIANCE?

The Global Alliance to Spare Water from Armed Conflicts is open to States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, think tanks and civil society willing to enhance the protection of water and mitigate civilian harm. Financial or in-kind contributions from members would be welcome. All members of the Alliance support *The Call for an Alliance to Spare Water from Armed Conflicts*.

Should you be willing to join the Global Alliance, please write to: cpellaton@genevawaterhub.org.

For more information, please see our website at www.genevawaterhub.org/GASWAC



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“The use and abuse of water in war is a growing trend which must be reversed. Water must be protected from war.”



Global Alliance

TO SPARE WATER FROM ARMED CONFLICTS

The Global Alliance to Spare Water from Armed Conflicts is initiated by:



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS





GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO SPARE WATER FROM ARMED CONFLICTS

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO SPARE WATER FROM ARMED CONFLICTS?

The Alliance is a community of member states, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia and think tanks committed to protect water systems from armed conflict. Aware that such protection mitigates civilian harm, the Alliance will marshal the expertise of its members towards a defined set of goals to promote respect for relevant international law, and best practice on resilience-building and preventative measures to avoid the immediate and long-term humanitarian consequences of using water as a weapon.



WHY DO WE NEED AN ALLIANCE?

The impact of armed conflicts on freshwater, water-related installations and other essential services (e.g. health care, sanitation, electricity and education) is severe and long lasting, and poses grave humanitarian, development and environmental challenges. While all civilians are affected by disruptions of access to water and sanitation during armed conflicts, children, women, older people, and persons with disabilities, are particularly vulnerable.

The significance of sparing water from armed conflicts extends well beyond its delivery; it encompasses the most vital aspects of civilian well-being and dignity. Addressing the challenges faced by civilians during armed conflicts may not only alleviate their hardships but also lead to reconciliation, and development. These goals are achievable only through collaboration between key stakeholders, which the alliance is designed to facilitate.

Freshwater and other essential services are protected by several legal instruments codified or developing under international law. For example, the UN Security Council (UNSC) also adopted resolutions 2417 (2018) and 2573 (2021) to better define the notion of objects and services indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. However, challenges with the implementation of international norms and law, and in particular international humanitarian law, persist. As armed conflicts evolve and urbanize, international law and other efforts to regulate war must adapt to ensure the protection of civilians, infrastructure, and services.

WHAT WILL THE ALLIANCE DO?

The Global Alliance to Spare Water from Armed Conflicts will:

- **Produce and disseminate knowledge:** Alliance members will deepen understanding of the impact of armed conflict on water services, and other services they are interdependent with. They will devote special attention to long-term consequences of attacks on water infrastructure, and reverberating and cumulative impacts on the livelihoods, public health, social cohesion, displacement and the environment. Members will develop a toolkit to facilitate policy implementation and make data and analysis available to the relevant institutions and governments. Members will also harness the expertise from the humanitarian and development sector to improve pre-conflict preparedness and resilience of water infrastructure and essential services.
- **Strengthen legal frameworks** of IHL and other and norms law offering protection of water, by identifying ways to address the challenges with their implementation. The Alliance will fill gaps, clarifying uncertainties, and developing water-related standards. Members will also develop the Geneva Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure, and support the Principles on protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict; the political declaration on the use of explosives in populated areas; and the ICRC Guidelines on the protection of the natural environment in armed conflict.
- **Build the capacity** of humanitarian, development, and military actors. The Alliance will provide custom training for key actors in the related fields of international law, economics, society and the environment.