

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS' FORUM FOR WATER AND ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

A voluntary global platform for diplomats to champion
water diplomacy, cooperation, and investment

Convened by the Global Water Partnership Organisation, in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the World Meteorological Organization, the Governments of Namibia and South Africa, and partners advancing the Global Water Investment Platform

The world faces a USD140 billion annual shortfall in water investment for water and sanitation alone if we are to achieve water security for all by 2030. Closing this gap is both urgent and achievable, offering major gains in economic growth, health, food security, and climate resilience.

Water diplomacy can help overcome political and institutional barriers, strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing, elevate water in national and international agendas, and connect political commitments with finance and implementation.

The Global Ambassadors' Forum for Water and Economic Diplomacy builds on global commitments and processes, including the UN Pact for the Future, the 2025 G20 Leaders' Declaration on Water, the UN Financing for Development Agenda and Sevilla Commitment, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Global Oceans Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and successive UN Water Conferences.

"Fully aware of the importance of protecting, conserving, and restoring water-related ecosystems, we commit to work towards constructive outcomes of the 2026 UN Water Conference."

— G20 Leaders' Declaration, November 2025

Mobilising diplomatic leadership for water investment

The Global Ambassadors' Forum for Water and Economic Diplomacy has three key objectives:

- 1. Mobilise diplomatic leadership** by strengthening political commitment and international cooperation on water and sustaining water as a strategic priority.
- 2. Position water at the centre of global agendas** on sustainable development, climate, land and drought, oceans, peace, and financing.
- 3. Connect diplomacy with delivery** by linking country-led water priorities and investment pipelines with governments and the development finance ecosystem, including the Global Water Investment Forum.

A voluntary and non-binding platform for action

The Forum is not bound to a single meeting, presidency, or conference. It is an ongoing, voluntary, and non-binding platform that will convene alongside major development and water-related events worldwide.

Participating in the Forum does not create new legal, financial, or institutional obligations. It provides diplomatic champions with a practical space for peer exchange, coalition-building, partnership development, and sustained advocacy for a water-secure future.

About GWPO: The forum's convener and secretariat

The Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) convenes and serves as secretariat to the Global Ambassadors' Forum. GWPO is an intergovernmental organisation supporting countries in the financing, governance and management of water resources for sustainable, climate-resilient, and equitable development. GWPO is also the Global Secretariat and headquarters of the Global Water Partnership Network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, more than 75 Country Water Partnerships, and over 2,800 institutions.

As a convenor and secretariat of the Forum, GWPO will support diplomatic champions with evidence-based guidance and possible pathways for policy and investment priorities; connect country-led investment pipelines with development and climate finance actors; and guide continuity between diplomatic commitments and practical partnerships, finance, and implementation.

Global Water Partnership began in 1996, established by the World Bank, UNDP, and Sweden's Sida to champion integrated water resources management. As the network grew, GWPO was formed in 2002 as an intergovernmental organisation to serve as its permanent institutional home.

Since June 2025, GWPO has opened its founding Memorandum of Understanding to new States and Governments, inviting them to join as Sponsoring Partners. Accession broadens governmental ownership of GWPO and offers participating States a direct role in shaping its governance and strategic direction.

Contact

To enquire about the Global Ambassadors' Forum for Water and Economic Diplomacy or to request to stay up to date on its activities, please email ambassadors@gwp.org

All general queries may be directed to gwp@gwp.org

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in collaboration with:

