



Water Peace and Security in the Sahel

EU Water Diplomacy



European
Commission

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Water Peace and Security in the Sahel

EU Water Diplomacy

- [Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy](#) 19 November 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)

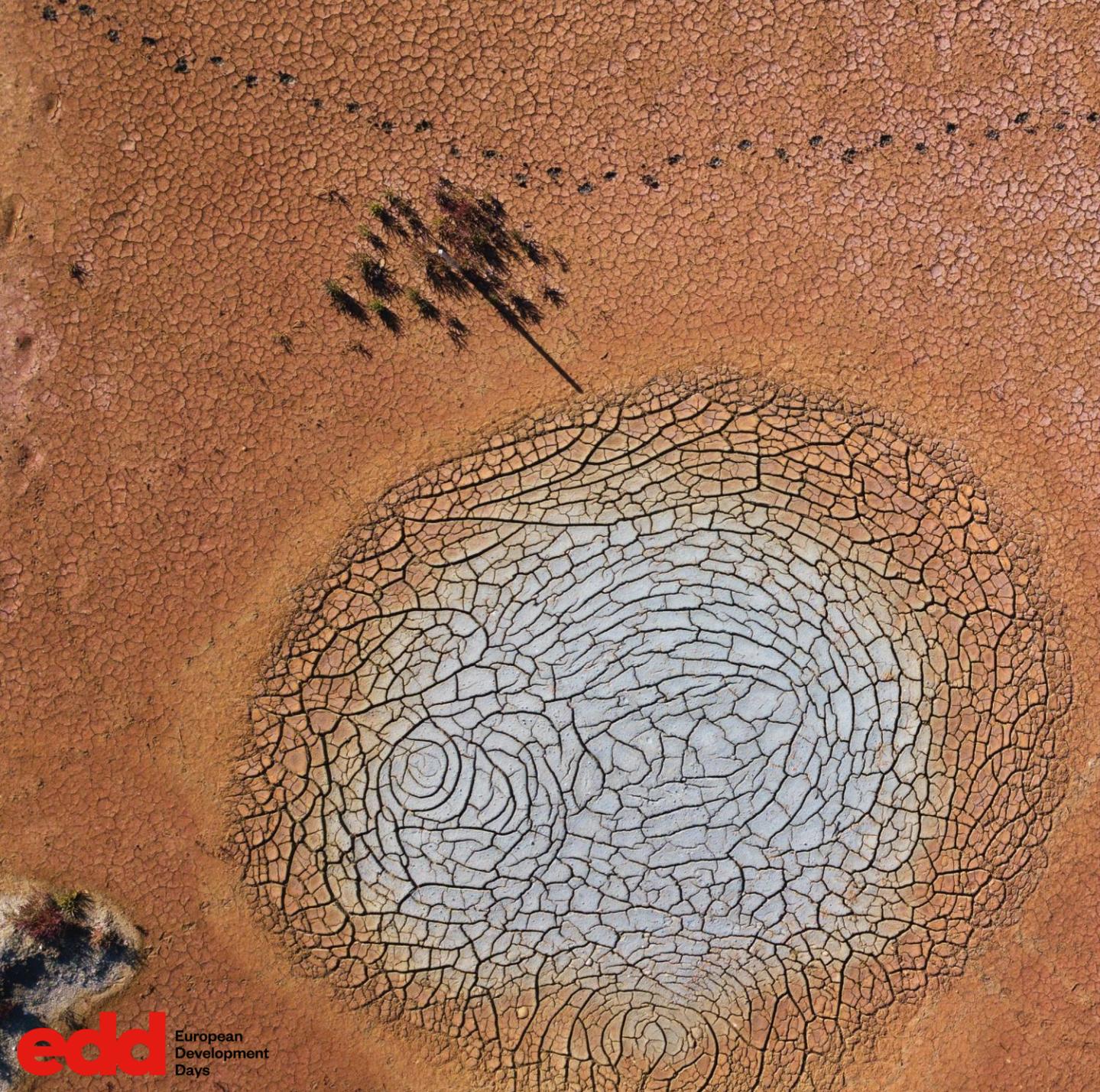
New developments: Paris
Agreement and Agenda 2030



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



Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy

Water and Security

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

An aerial photograph of a large, winding reservoir or dam system set in a lush, mountainous landscape. The water is a deep greenish-blue, and the surrounding hills are covered in dense green vegetation. The sky is clear and blue, with some light clouds in the distance.

Council Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy

Transboundary Water Cooperation & Governance

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



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Leaving no one behind

2030 Agenda: 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



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Circular Economy & Climate Change

Water savings & reuse

Innovative solutions, nature based
Research

Partnerships involving public and
private stakeholders

Link between Water and Climate
Change



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Working multilaterally

UN Security Council recent discussions on water, climate, peace and security

2018 High Level Political Forum on SDG6 and SDGs Summit 2019

Need of coordination of UN work

UN Decade on Water 2018-2028



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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



Council Conclusions on EU Human Rights Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation – 17 June 2019

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



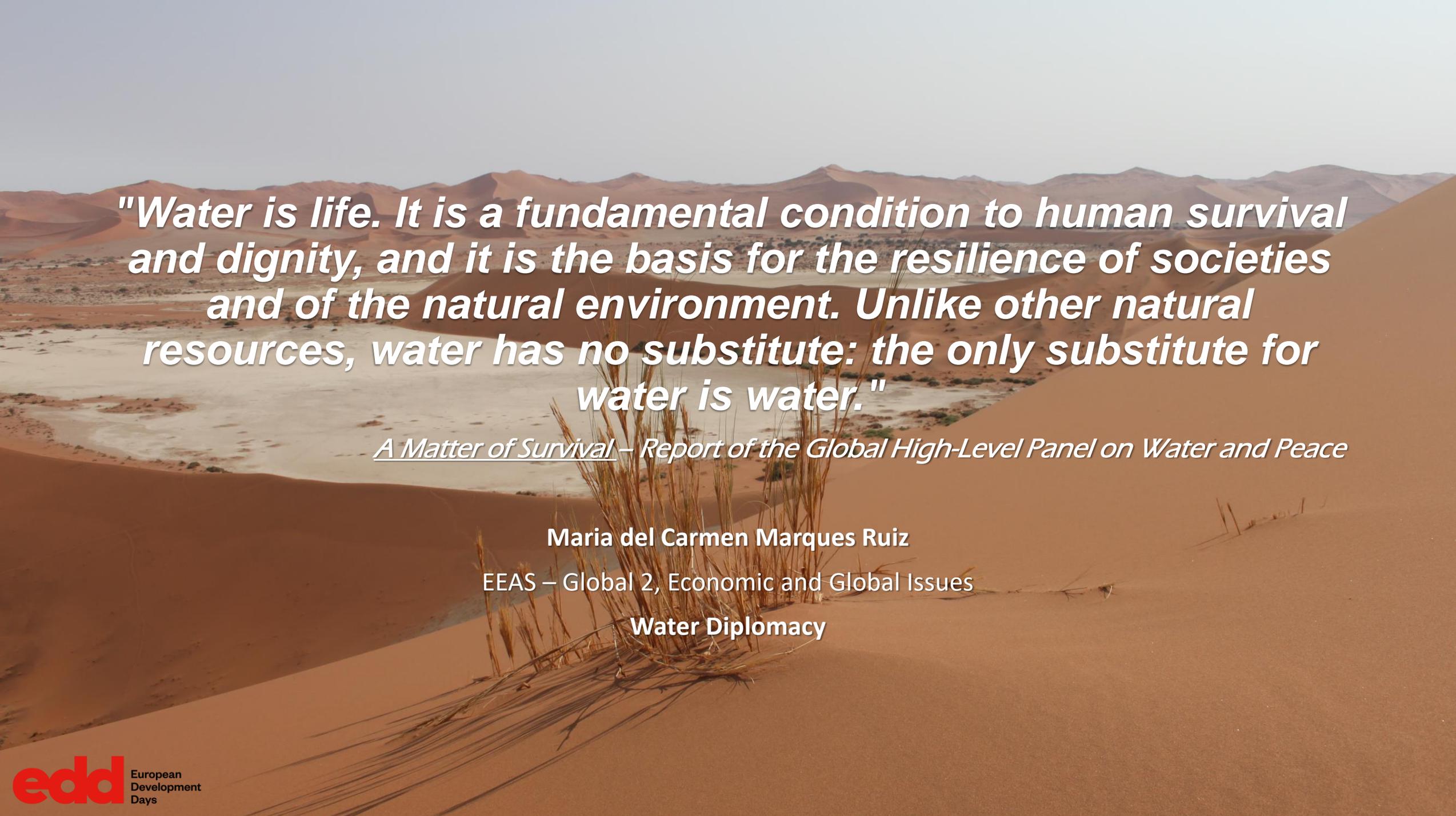
EU support to Transboundary Water Cooperation **UNECE Water Convention**

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."

A Matter of Survival – Report of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace

Maria del Carmen Marques Ruiz

EEAS – Global 2, Economic and Global Issues

Water Diplomacy