

WORKSHOP
Food and Water Security

Wednesday, 21 June 2017
From 16:00 to 20:30

Population growth, climate change, environmental degradation and economic development place increasing challenges on food systems and on finite supplies of freshwater resources. Water is an essential resource for public health, agriculture, food security, livelihoods, energy generation, industrial production and ecosystem maintenance: essential, but not inexhaustible. Moreover, the global state of hunger and malnutrition remains a source of concern; approximately one billion people are hungry, two billion lack sufficient nutrients, and over two billion are overweight or obese. 70% of global freshwater is used in agriculture, strongly affecting the quantity and quality of water that can be used for other purposes. In about half of the world, agriculture provides 50% of jobs and in poorer countries this can rise to 70%. Many of the world's poorest people depend directly on natural resources for their survival. Thus, knowledge of international principles and norms that govern the use, management and protection of freshwater resources and understanding of food-nutrition-and-health-related challenges are necessary for promoting sustainable development, tackling malnutrition and fostering equitable use and effective protection of water resources.

The aims of the Workshop are the following:

- To assess the challenges and possible responses associated with water and food security, including in emergency contexts;
- To identify the major patterns of change that food systems are undergoing and discuss strategies to reduce the risks of water conflicts;
- To examine policy options to tackle malnutrition and lack of access to water.

PROGRAM

Welcome remarks: *Oreste Foppiani*, Associate Professor of International History & Politics, Head of the Department of International Relations, Webster University Geneva.

Chairs: *Michel Veuthey*, Associate Professor of International Law, Webster University Geneva; Vice-President, International Institute of Humanitarian Law; *Jubin Goodarzi*, Associate Professor of International Relations, Webster University Geneva

- 1) The Challenges of Water Security in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – *Mara Tignino*, Platform for International Water Law/Geneva Water Hub, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva.
- 2) Food and Nutrition Security: Emergencies and Failings in the Global Food System – *Fiorella Nastaran Picchioni*, SOAS, University of London.

Questions and answers

17:00 – 17:15

- 3) The World Nutrition Challenges and the International Response – *Marzella Wüstefeld*, World Health Organization (WHO).

- 4) Freshwater Resources, Water Rights and the Right to Water – **Tobias Schmitz**, Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health (GIWEH).

Questions and answers

18:15 – 18:30

- 5) Tackling Malnutrition: Strategies to Respond to Changing Food Systems and Reach the Most Vulnerable – **Valerie Friesen**, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).
- 6) The Intersection of Water Scarcity and Humanitarian Aid – **James Ray**, MEDAIR.

Reception