





Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) has launched a number of global and regional initiatives to use water as a force for peace. There are 286 shared river basins in the world. Over 2 billion people live in shared river basins of the developing world. Substantial improvements in trans-boundary water relations can lead to better utilisation of this vital natural resource, reduce the risk of conflict, and generate a peace dividend of several billion dollars.

SFG has played a critical role in recognition of the strategic importance of water by important countries including the convening of the first ever debate on water, peace and security in the **United Nations Security Council**. It has created the **Water Cooperation Quotient** to measure the intensity of cooperation between countries sharing water resources. It cooperated with the Government of Switzerland to establish the **Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace**, co-convened by 15 countries, that recommended a new architecture for positive water and peace linkages. SFG has collaborated with the Brazzaville Foundation for Peace and Conservation to conceive the **Congo Basin Blue Fund** for water cooperation among 11 countries of the Congo Basin in Africa. It has formed the **Blue Peace Community** of champions of trans-boundary water cooperation in the Middle East at a time when violent conflicts have engulfed the region. It has sensitised several million people from all continents through articles on water cooperation in over **100 different newspapers** in various languages. It has also been engaged in regional initiatives for water diplomacy in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Strategic Foresight Group is an international think-tank based in Mumbai which is known for creating new forms of intellectual capital. Its recommendations have been discussed in the United Nations, World Bank, World Economic Forum (Davos), European Parliament, Indian Parliament, UK House of Commons and House of Lords, UN Alliance of Civilizations, among other institutions from around the world.

In addition to water diplomacy, SFG is known for its pioneering work in conflict resolution, deconstructing terror, scenario planning, and mapping global paradigm shifts.

United Nations Security Council

Strategic Foresight Group was invited to brief at the historic United Nations Security Council meeting 7818 on 22 November 2016 in New York, when for the first time the UNSC convened an open debate on “water, peace and security”. Strategic Foresight Group worked closely with the Government of Senegal, Member of the UNSC for 2016-2017 and Chair for November 2016, to develop international understanding on the linkages between water and peace. The open debate lasted for the entire day, with the participation of 69 Member States of the United Nations.

SFG President Sundeep Waslekar was one of the four briefers along with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.



UN Security Council Meeting 7818 in Progress



Sundeep Waslekar urged the Security Council to negotiate occasional ceasefires in conflict zones to restore and repair water systems. He advocated a Blue Fund to incentivise cooperation in building large water-related infrastructure. Some of the Member States of the UN Security Council welcomed his suggestions.

The success of the UNSC Meeting 7818 led to Bolivia convening another meeting of the Security Council on Water and Peace on 6 June 2017, addressed by the UN Secretary General António Guterres. Also, UNSC Resolution 2341 on international cooperation to protect critical infrastructure from terrorism included water installations.

Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace

A group of 15 countries launched the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace at a ministerial gathering in Geneva in November 2015. The 15 Co-convening Countries were: Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Estonia, France, Ghana, Hungary, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Oman, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland. The Panel was an independent body, chaired by Dr Danilo Turk, former President of Slovenia. Geneva Water Hub was the secretariat of the Panel.

Strategic Foresight Group cooperated with Switzerland to establish the panel and prepare its recommendations in a unique partnership between a sovereign state in the West and intellectual capital from the Global South.

The Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace met in Switzerland, Senegal, Costa Rica and Jordan and consulted with officials and experts from around the world to prepare its report, which was presented to the United Nations and the international community in September 2017. The report offers concrete proposals, on financial incentives to promote trans-boundary cooperation, measures to secure water assets from violent conflicts and acts of terrorism, harmonisation of the global legal regime to prevent water conflicts over quantity and quality of water courses, creation of hydro-diplomacy mechanisms to resolve water conflicts at an early threshold, and engagement of high level political decision makers in the water discourse to enable bold solutions, among others.



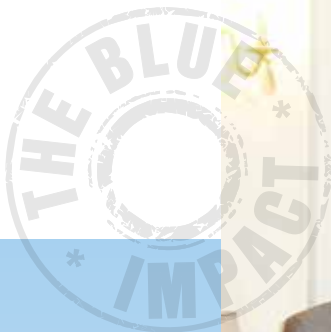
HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan speaks after Danilo Turk launches the report

Water Cooperation Quotient

Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) has invented the Water Cooperation Quotient, which is the first measure in the world that quantifies the quality of cooperation within trans-boundary river basins on a global basis. The Quotient was first introduced to global audiences in August 2015. The second edition of the Water Cooperation Quotient is being launched by the InterAction Council in November 2017. It covers all 286 shared river basins from 146 countries.

The scientific criteria used by SFG to develop the Quotient include ten technical, economic and political parameters. They distinguish measures to evaluate the day-to-day management of trans-boundary river basins from those that assess high political will.

The Water Cooperation Quotient demonstrates that any two countries engaged in active water cooperation do not go to war for any reason. Thus, strong cooperation in collaborative and sustainable management of water resources can lead to comprehensive peace, reduce military expenditure and improve living conditions of poor people.



President Macky Sall of Senegal receiving the Water Cooperation Quotient; with Danilo Turk, former President of Slovenia; Kabine Komara, former Prime Minister of Guinea and Senegal Water Minister Mansour Faye.

“This ground-breaking report is the only document that offers analysis on the risk of conflict and potential for cooperation among the 146 countries that have shared or transboundary rivers. The Water Cooperation Quotient is an effective decision-making tool for water cooperation and a badly needed barometer for assessing risks of war; one that the InterAction Council urges be employed around the world to promote peace, ensure security and improve human and planetary health through cooperation over shared waters, now and in the future.”

Olusegun Obasanjo
President of Nigeria, 1999-2007

Bertie Ahern
Prime Minister of Ireland, 1997-2008

Co-chairs of the InterAction Council

“This fascinating report provides a unique insight into the state of transboundary water cooperation worldwide and offers a valuable instrument for management of disputes and prevention of conflict. It should become a standard manual in the “toolbox” of policy makers and diplomats and serve in their efforts to devise effective conflict prevention strategies. Moreover, the water cooperation quotient should inspire policy makers to think and use the full potential of water cooperation for the well being of their peoples.”

Danilo Turk
President of Slovenia, 2007-2012
Chairman of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace

“This report offers detailed and unassailable analysis on the risk of conflict and same time outlines possibilities for potential cooperation among the 146 countries that share transboundary rivers. The Water Cooperation Quotient is an effective conflict prevention and peace-making tool for water cooperation and it should be present on the mind and action of every decision-making authority around the world.”

J. Ramos-Horta
President of Timor-Leste, 2007-2012
Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, 2006-2007
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 1996

Blue Peace in the Middle East



HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan and the Rt. Hon. Lord Alderdice leading Blue Peace meeting at the House of Lords

Strategic Foresight Group, in cooperation with the Swiss and Swedish Governments, has formed the Blue Peace Community of champions of trans-boundary water cooperation in the Middle East. Beginning with a handful of experts dealing with this subject in 2010, the Community has expanded to include more than 200 policy makers, serving and former ministers, senior government officials, Members of Parliament, media leaders, scientists and experts. At a time when multiple conflicts have led to the breakdown of communications between governments in the region, the Blue Peace Community has emerged as a soft infrastructure of dialogue in the Middle East. The initiative has made it possible to reach an agreement between Iraq and Turkey on joint monitoring of the Tigris River.

Nile Basin

The Nile Basin countries had approached SFG and the Swiss Government to consider the Blue Peace Process in their region. With active participation of the Chair of the Nile-Com and representatives of governments, parliaments and academics from 11 countries in the basin, a set of recommendations were prepared. The World Bank held discussions on the *Blue Peace on the Nile* report with international donors involved in the basin. Currently, Heads of Government of three countries in the Eastern Nile Basin are directly involved in exploring solutions.

Eastern Himalayas

SFG has facilitated dialogue between key stakeholders between countries of the Eastern Himalayan river basins covering Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India and China. Its recommendations have been discussed in ministerial and parliamentary forums. In particular, SFG has prepared a 3-dimensional Blue Peace Formula for the Teesta River in a consensus building process involving both government and opposition parties in Bangladesh and India. The outcome was sought by decision makers in the two governments for further action.



Roundtable on India-Bangladesh Water Relations



Congo Basin Blue Fund



President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo launching the Blue Fund

Strategic Foresight Group has supported the Brazzaville Foundation for Peace and Conservation in conceiving the Congo Basin Blue Fund. The proposal was introduced by the President of Republic of Congo at the Africa Action Summit of COP 22. It was endorsed by African Heads of States.

In March 2017, the founding document of the Congo Basin Blue Fund was signed by Ministers of the countries in the Basin. The World Bank and other multilateral organisations declared support to the Blue Fund concept.

The Congo Basin Blue Fund is an innovative financial instrument to promote peace through water cooperation between 11 countries of the Congo River basin and its tributaries. It aims to shift the base of their economies from forestry to harnessing the blue economy of water resources. Such a shift can generate new forms of livelihood, reduce deforestation and help fight climate change.

“This financial instrument is intended to ensure a better quality of life for our peoples and protect the forests of the Congo Basin, the world’s second green lung after the Amazon.”

Denis Sassou Nguesso

President of Republic of Congo

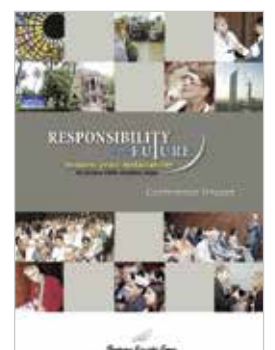
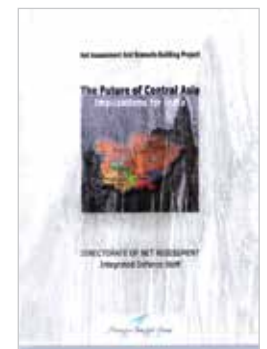
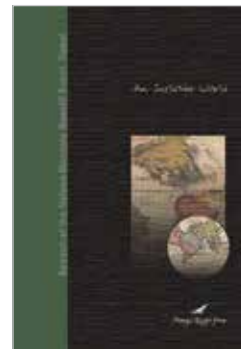
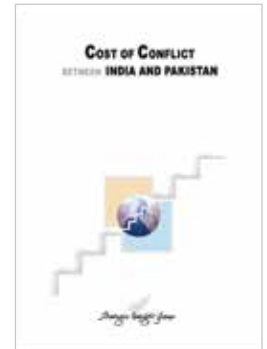
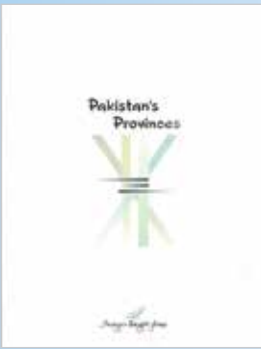
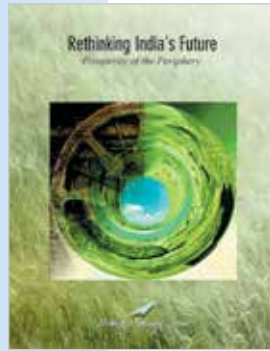
Address to the United Nations General Assembly, 21 September 2017

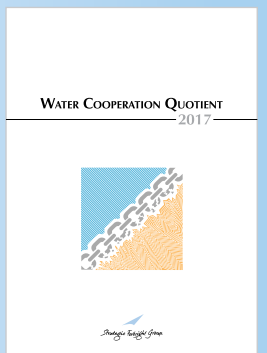
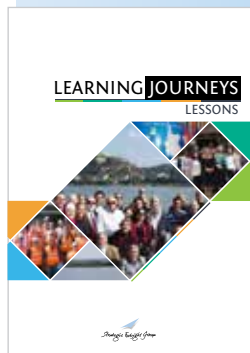
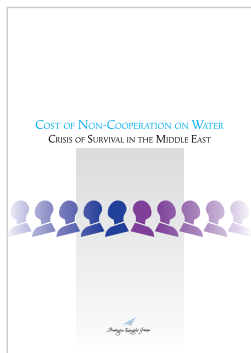
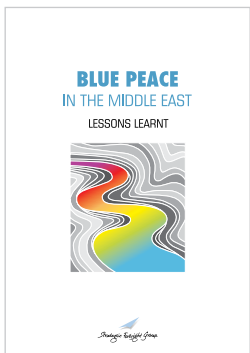
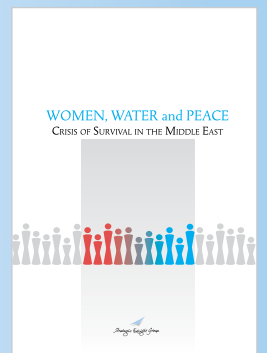
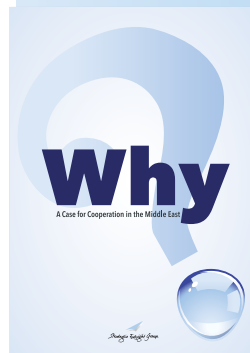
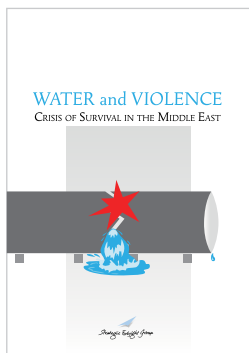
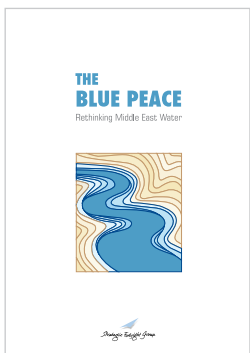
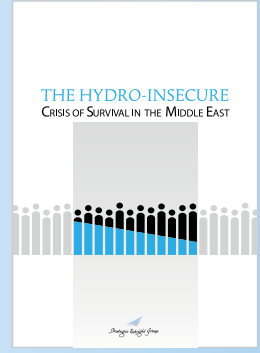
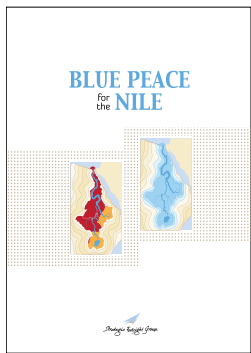
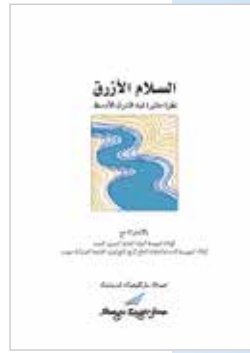
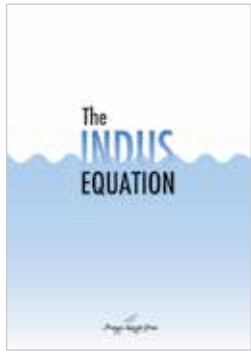
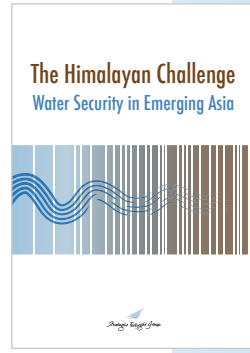
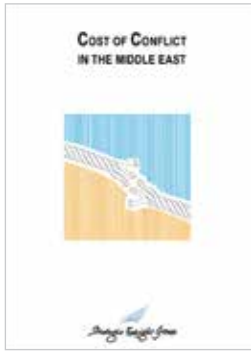
Global Advocacy

Since December 2015, more than 100 newspapers and media sources from all parts of the world carried op-ed articles by SFG President, articulating the importance of water for global security and proposing new concepts and instruments for protecting water resources and harnessing it for peace and cooperation. The articles were originally written in English and were published in English, French, German, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Turkish, Kurdish, Spanish, and Indonesian among other languages. The following is an illustrative list of newspapers and media sources which published the op-ed articles.

- Project Syndicate (Worldwide)
- The Guardian (UK)
- Neue Zurcher Zeitung (Switzerland)
- South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)
- Shanghai Daily (China)
- Business Times (Singapore)
- Bangkok Post (Thailand)
- Japan Times
- Live Mint (India)
- Dhaka Tribune (Bangladesh)
- The Daily Star (Lebanon)
- L'orient Le Jour (Lebanon)
- Jordan Times
- Gulf News (UAE)
- Gulf Times (Qatar)
- Daily Sabah (Turkey)
- La Nacion (Costa Rica)
- The Daily Inquirer (The Philippines)
- Abudhabienv
- ADB
- Addustour
- Al Mada
- Al Rai
- Albadell
- Albayan
- Alghad
- Aljournhouria
- All4Syria
- Almendron
- Alwasatnews
- Al-Watan
- Arab News
- Azer News
- Baghdadiabian
- Business Asia One
- Bisnis Indonesia
- China Business Blog
- Devex News
- DNA
- Duurzaamnieuws
- Eco business
- Environmental Peacebuilding
- Food First
- Gera news
- Gerasa News
- Global Health Hub.org
- Globalheadlines.UK
- Governance Focus Blog
- Green Prophet
- Green Watch
- Hajar Press
- Hydropolitical Academy
- In USA News
- Inosmi
- Inquirer.net
- Inventors Global Village
- John Lothian News
- Jordan Business Magazine
- Jordan Vista
- Jornal De Negocios
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- Kataeb.org
- Khaleej Times
- Khumaer
- Kurdish News Agency
- Lankanewspapers.com
- Lebanon24
- L'indro
- Les Echos (France)
- Longitudes.UPS
- Madan.org
- Make my feed
- Malta Water Association
- Marco buzz
- Mareeg (Somalia)
- Marocenv
- Medias 24
- Milliyet
- Modern Diplomacy
- Mostly Economic Blog
- My Plan IQ
- New Europe
- News Agency Baghdad International
- News Alkassah
- Nigeria Today
- NVS24
- Ooska News
- Policy Innovations
- Rasd24
- Reporter (Albania)
- Salom
- Scoopnest
- Scroll.in
- Shafaqna
- Snewsi.com
- Taipei Times
- The Levant
- The Reporter (Ethiopia)
- Today's Zaman
- Tokyo Buzz
- Tusmo.net
- UNDPI
- Yemen Observer

PUBLICATIONS





Partnerships

Since its inception in 2002, SFG has partnered with several institutions, including the following:

- United Nations Security Council, New York
- United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, New York
- United Nations Global Compact, New York
- The Government of Norway - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo
- The Government of Switzerland –Political Directorate of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Bern
- The Government of Sweden - Swedish Emergency Management Agency, Stockholm
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Stockholm
- The Government of Senegal
- The Government of India - Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence, New Delhi
- The Government of Canada - Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa
- El Majlis El Hassan at the Royal Palace, Amman
- Liberal Democratic Party Chairmanship in the House of Lords, London
- World Economic Forum, Geneva
- InterAction Council, Toronto



SFG with World Leaders at the InterAction Council

- General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI), Ankara
- Senegal River Basin Organisation (OMVS), Dakar
- Nile Basin Initiative, Entebbe
- Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament, Brussels
- The League of Arab States, Cairo
- Qatar Foundation, Doha
- Public Utilities Board, Singapore
- A K Party of Turkey, Ankara
- Royal Scientific Society, Amman
- Brazzaville Foundation for Peace and Conservation, London
- John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, Chicago
- Rockefeller Foundation, New York
- Ploughshares Fund, San Francisco
- Asia Europe Foundation, Singapore
- Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, Potsdam
- Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, Mumbai
- Oxford University - Oxford Union, Oxford
- Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflicts at Harris Manchester College, Oxford
- University of Geneva, Geneva
- The Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria
- S. Rajaratnam School for International Studies (RSIS), Singapore
- Geneva Water Hub, Geneva
- Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Geneva
- MEF University, Istanbul
- University of Mumbai, Mumbai
- Bangladesh Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Dhaka
- European Institute of the Mediterranean, Barcelona
- Booz Allen Hamilton, Washington DC
- Global Peace Index, Sydney
- Horasis - Global Visions Community, Geneva
- Research in Motion, Waterloo
- Malaysian Institute of Management and Urban Forum Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

“Any two countries engaged in active water cooperation do not go to war for any reason.”



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