



Water for Peace Diplomacy and for Mediation

May 12th 2026 | 12:00

Scuola di Agraria, Aula Magna

Piazzale delle Cascine, 18, Firenze, and online

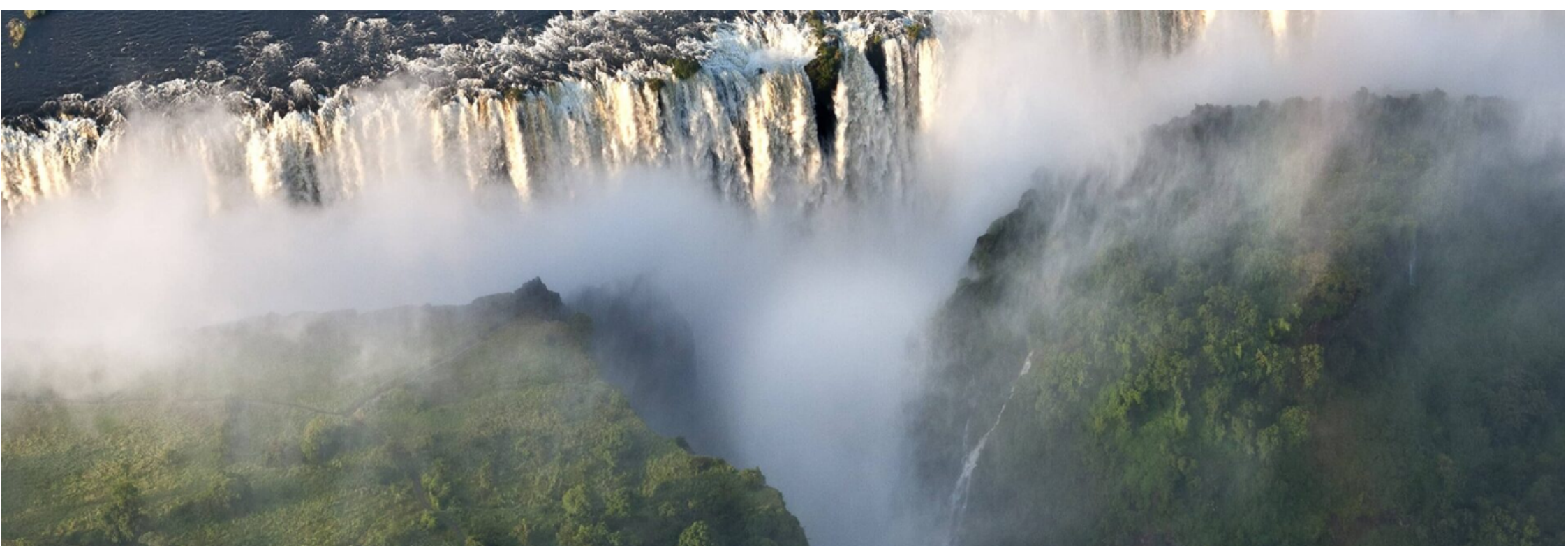
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Registration for attendance online: <https://forms.gle/PDA1TQpCmYTJpwD1A>



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Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Agrarie,
Alimentari, Ambientali e Forestali (DAGRI)

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In modern diplomacy, the role of preventive diplomacy in mitigating and/or limiting the escalation of disputes has been recognized by international and state actors. In 2017, the United Nations Security Council held a briefing on “Preventive Diplomacy and Transboundary Waters”, emphasizing the role of water diplomacy and cooperation in conflict prevention. At the same time, the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace published its report, “A Matter of Survival”, outlining recommendations to strengthen global efforts to prevent and address water-related conflicts while advancing water as a means to support peace and inform policy processes in the 21st century.

This seminar introduces the approach of the Geneva Water Hub as a centre of competence on Water for Peace. It examines how “Water for Peace Diplomacy” can contribute to fostering more stable and peaceful relations. Given current global risks, the rise of water conflicts, and the increasing weaponization of water in armed conflicts, the world needs a **game-changing shift in mindset when tackling water and peace challenges**: we all need to *Spare Water* and to *Share Water* – for **peace**. There is an urgent need to shift from purely technical water cooperation and water diplomacy to water for peace diplomacy, in which water is used to improve relations. We need to address water in conflict and fragile contexts as well as stable ones.

Through selected case studies, the seminar will explore how water can contribute to both established and emerging methods of peacebuilding, while critically assessing its potential as well as its limitations in these processes.