

A High Level Group chaired by HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal has been launched to transform water into an instrument of cooperation between Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey.

Dr YasarYakis, former Foreign Minister of Turkey, and Dr Mohammad Chatah, former Finance Minister of Lebanon, are the other two members of the High Level Group, which will be expanded to include eminent persons from Iraq and Syria in due course.

The Group and its work is supported by the Government of Switzerland, in cooperation with Strategic Foresight Group, a think tank based in Mumbai.

The High Level Group is formed on the background of the Blue Peace report, published by Strategic Foresight Group, which analyses dangers arising from depletion of water resources. The report has proposed the formation of a cooperation mechanism for sustainable management of water resources between five countries, exchange and calibration of hydrometric data, development and dissemination of new technologies, among other measures. The High Level Group will promote these objectives by mobilizing its collective experience, intellectual capital and moral authority.

The High Level Group is independent where members serve in their personal capacity. It is not a negotiating forum. The mandate of the Group is to develop a vision for regional cooperation, taking into account and respecting agreements and efforts between governments.