



The Water Game Changers Award – Programme

22 January 2026 14h30 – 17h30

Swiss Residence

14h00 – 14h30 | Arrival

14h30 – 14h55 | Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Opening by moderator: Embassy of Switzerland – Ms Jacqueline Friedenthal
- Welcome address from the Attaché of Switzerland – Mr Pascal Blickle
- Brief remarks from partner embassies and the UN OHCHR Regional Representative for Southern Africa – Mrs Krivani Pillay: Public Information officer

14h55 – 15h10 | Context Setting: Urban Water Security Challenges in South Africa

- Dr. Ida Breed / OTHER University of Pretoria

The Role of Human Rights, Gender, and Ecotechnologies

- Prof. Elvis Fokala, University of Pretoria

15h10 – 15h55 | Student Presentations – Water Game Changers Finalists

Each student presents an 8-minute summary of their competition submission and questions from the audience allowed.

1. *Verushka Govender*
2. *Danielle Nigrini*
3. *Daramz Vandi*
4. *Magda Cilliers*

15h55 – 16h10 | Jury Reflections and Award Announcement

- Brief comments from the judging panel (5-7 min)
- Presentation of awards and winner by the Ambassador of Mexico: **H.E. Sara Valdés Bolaño**

16h10 – 16h20 | Closing Remarks - Ambassador of Mexico: H.E. Sara Valdés Bolaño

- Chargée d'affaires a.i. at the Embassy of Denmark: **Mrs Eva Bjerre Carstensen**

16h20 – 17h30 | Light Cocktail snacks and Networking