

FOR THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE KAKHOVKA DAM

Discussion on Environmental Harm in Armed Conflict, Accountability and International Cooperation

And

Presentation of the Manual on Prosecuting International Environmental Crimes

Date and Venue:

24 June 2026

IDLO branch office, Hofweg 9-E, 2511 AA, The Hague, Netherlands.

Marking three years since the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam on 6 June 2023, this high-level event organised by the Ukrainian Embassy in The Hague will bring together Ukrainian authorities, international organisations, legal experts, investigators, scientists, civil society and practitioners working on accountability for environmental harm in armed conflict.

The day will combine two strands: a high-level discussion anchored on the Kakhovka Dam case, and the presentation of the *Manual on Prosecuting International Environmental Crimes* – inspired by the investigations in Ukraine and authored by Climate Counsel and UCLA's Promise Institute (Europe).

Together, the discussion and the Manual aim to translate hard-won experience from Ukraine into shared methodology – and to advance accountability for environmental war crimes through stronger international cooperation.

The discussion takes place against the backdrop of evolving international approaches to accountability for environmental harm in armed conflict, including recent policy developments of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court concerning environmental crimes and environmental damage under the Rome Statute framework.

Link to registration form: <https://forms.gle/m9em2TWebCXAWB6KA>

Please note that registration will remain open until 22 June 2026, COB. After this deadline, the registration form will be closed.

CONTEXT

As of May 2026, more than 11,223 incidents of environmental damage caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine have been documented, with total damage exceeding UAH 6.7 trillion. The consequences include large-scale destruction of ecosystems, contamination of land and water, damage to protected areas and species, and long-term risks to public health and biodiversity. The full scale, particularly in temporarily occupied territories, remains unknown.

The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam on 6 June 2023 is among the most severe documented cases. According to UNEP's Rapid Environmental Assessment, the breach is a far-reaching disaster reaching beyond Ukraine's borders, the magnitude of which may not be clear for years or even decades. Hundreds of square kilometres were flooded; thousands more of reservoir and wetland desiccated.

The case raises core questions for international humanitarian law and for the legal and practical pathways to accountability for environmental harm in war – and it is in this case that the methodologies set out in the Manual are being tested and refined.

OBJECTIVES

The event will present current investigations into the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and the Manual as a shared resource for practitioners, and open a structured dialogue on the broader accountability agenda. Specifically, it will:

- present challenges and investigative progress on the Kakhovka Dam case;
- present the Manual and introduce its methodology, scope and intended use
- examine legal qualification and the applicable international frameworks for environmental harm in armed conflict;
- address evidentiary standards, attribution challenges and investigative methodologies;
- convene Ukrainian authorities, international experts and partner institutions for direct exchange;
- identify concrete avenues for cooperation on documentation, investigation and prosecution;
- discuss cooperation between international institutions, domestic jurisdictions and civil society in advancing accountability efforts and supporting national investigations;
- explore how accountability efforts may contribute to the prevention and deterrence of environmental harm in armed conflict.

PARTICIPANTS

- Ukrainian prosecutorial and investigative authorities
- Representatives of the International Criminal Court
- Ukrainian environmental experts, scientists and eyewitnesses, including ecologists and first responders
- International experts in international criminal and environmental law
- Representatives of international organizations
- Civil society organizations
- Diplomatic missions and policy experts working on accountability and environmental protection in armed conflict

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The event is organised by the *Embassy of Ukraine in the Kingdom of the Netherlands in partnership with Climate Counsel, UCLA's The Promise Institute - Europe, IDLO, and UAnimals*, in coordination with Ukrainian and international partners engaged in accountability, environmental protection and international justice initiatives.

AGENDA

24 June 2026 · The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands

09:00 – 09:30

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND WELCOME COFFEE

09:30 – 10:00

OPENING

Welcoming Remarks

- **Dr. Fabricio Guariglia**, Director, The Hague Office, IDLO

Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Andriy Kostin**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- **Dr. Nout van Woudenberg**, Cluster Coordinator for ‘Accountability for Ukraine’ at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

10:00 – 11:00

Panel 1: The Destruction of the Kakhovka Dam: A Landmark Case for Accountability for Environmental Harm in Armed Conflict

Focus: A practice-oriented discussion centred on the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam as one of the most significant contemporary cases of environmental harm in armed conflict, focusing on investigative progress, evidentiary challenges, documentation methodologies and pathways to accountability.

Moderator

- **Xuchen Zhang**, Legal Advisor, UCLA’s The Promise Institute - Europe

Speakers

- **Serhii Mukha**, Prosecutor, Department for Counteracting the Crimes Committed in the Context of the Armed Conflict, Prosecutor General’s Office (Ukraine)
- **Maryna Dubenets**, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine
- **Dr. Fabricio Guariglia**, Director, The Hague Office, IDLO

11:00 – 12:00

Panel 2: Lessons from Ukraine: Presentation of the "Manual on Prosecuting International Environmental Crimes"

Focus: Presentation of the Manual on Prosecuting International Environmental Crimes and discussion of methodologies developed through investigative practice in Ukraine, including their relevance for future investigations of environmental harm in other conflict settings.

Moderator

- **Maksym Popov**, First Secretary, Embassy of Ukraine in the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Speakers

- **Kate Mackintosh**, Executive Director, UCLA’s The Promise Institute - Europe
- **Richard Rogers**, Executive Director, Climate Counsel

12:00 – 12:30

Coffee Break

12:30 – 13:30

Panel 3: Environmental Harm in Armed Conflict: Advancing Pathways to Accountability

Focus: A broader discussion on evolving international approaches to accountability for environmental harm during armed conflict, including the implementation of emerging policy frameworks, complementarity, support to domestic investigations, reparations and compensation mechanisms for environmental damage, international cooperation and pathways toward prevention and deterrence.

Moderator

– **Dr. Nataliia Hendel**, NGO Fund for Support of Fundamental Research

Speakers

– **Reinhold Gallmetzer**, Appeals Counsel and Focal Point for Environmental Crimes in the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

– **Yulia Ovchinnikova**, Member of Parliament of Ukraine

– **Markiyan Kliuchkovskiy**, Executive Director, Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

13:30 – 13:45

CLOSING REMARKS

– **H.E. Andriy Kostin**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Kingdom of the Netherlands