Clean water is essential for all functions in life including food production, energy, sanitation, health, and livelihood. Increased demand for water from development and climate change pose severe challenges to water security. This tension is especially pronounced among trans-boundary rivers. The water conflicts of the day cannot be solved without trans-boundary cooperation.

The Trans-boundary Water In-Cooperation Network (“TWIN” or the “Network”) is an unincorporated network of networks developed by the Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA) at Bennington College and the Institute for Environmental Diplomacy (IEDS) at the University of Vermont to advance the Mission, Vision and Objectives described below. This Charter is created to summarize TWIN’s purposes and how organizations and individuals can engage with and support TWIN in these purposes.

I. Mission

TWIN’s mission is to strengthen and mobilize existing organizational networks that work locally, nationally and globally towards ‘equitable and reasonable’ sharing water resources across borders. TWIN is committed to addressing not only water scarcity but also the degradation of water quality from anthropogenic sources, and the growing impacts of climate
change. TWIN promotes co-operation and collaboration among all network stakeholders who have trans-boundary water challenges.

II. Vision

TWIN’s vision is to promote water cooperation among countries, regions, municipalities and villages that share trans-boundary water resources in ways that are equitable and reasonable for all stakeholders. TWIN works to improve border relations, water use practices, water quality, ecosystem services, and public health on both sides of the border and to build resilience to climate change. TWIN’s activities are committed to conforming to the values of all international conventions and treaties on equitable sharing of resources and the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal #6 that addresses the access to clean water.

III. Objectives

TWIN’s objectives are to facilitate dialogue in support of Track II and Track III Diplomacy by 1) helping organizations identify the necessary information such as data, research, reports and mutually beneficial technical solutions to improve the quality of water resources, 2) convening meetings to promote bilateral/multilateral communication across borders on managing water resources and 3) encouraging community engagement and capacity building to promote water cooperation. TWIN fosters collaboration among all organizations that are focused on shared transboundary water resources and safe access to clean water for all.
IV. Participation in TWIN

Organizations, social movements and individuals that are not government bodies and are willing and able to commit and adhere to the principles and goals of the Network are welcome to apply to participate in TWIN. The following organizations, or individuals affiliated with these organizations, are not eligible to participate in TWIN: governmental or intergovernmental organizations, funding agencies, profit-seeking organizations, and media outlets.

a. Categories of TWIN:

• **Curators:** The Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA) at Bennington College and the Institute for Environmental Diplomacy (IEDS) at the University of Vermont are the Curators. In the event that one or both of the Curators chooses to no longer serve as a curator, TWIN will be dissolved. A new network of networks can be established by the remaining participants but it must use a name that is not confusingly similar to TWIN.

• **Original participants:** Provided that they accept the network agreement, the following organizations involved in this process from its inception in 2016, some of them present at a meeting held in Montreal on March 11-18, 2018 are considered to be original participants not subject to the approval process set forth below: Community Motivation and Development and Organization (CMDO), Coordination of Afghan Relief (COAR), House of Afghans, Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), German Development Bank (KFW), Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES), i.GREENS, Institute of Environmental Diplomacy and Security (IEDS) at the
University of Vermont, and the Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA) at Bennington College.

- **Organizational participation** is available for nongovernmental organizations, social movements and grassroots groups. Organizations eligible for participation in TWIN must be formed to represent civil society for the public good, have an established track record of work to advance environmental, social and cultural rights, make use of human rights to advance social justice goals.

- **Individual participation** is available to scientists, water managers, engineers, human rights experts, community leaders and activists, economic development experts and academics with an established track record of work to advance economic, social and cultural rights but who are not affiliated with an Organizational participant.

b. **Application for participation and approval process**

Applications should be directed to Curators. Requests should include information to demonstrate a track record of work related to the Mission and Vision of the network. A Curator or Original participant of the network must present potential participants. The Curators will make approval determinations for new participants.

c. **TWIN participation termination:** Curators can decide, in consultation with Original participants, to expel any Network participant if they do not abide by the present charter or otherwise engage in activities or projects that do not connect with the vision and mission of the Network.

d. **Implications of TWIN participation:**

   **All TWIN participants have the right to:**

   - access information provided through and/or by the Network,
• participate in Working Groups,
• present proposals and give feedback on specific projects for the Network and Working Groups

**TWIN participants are expected to:**
• adhere to the principles and goals of the Network,
• share and exchange information that advances the mission of the Network,
• actively engage in the activities of TWIN, including actively participating in at least one Working Group.

TWIN consists of its participants, whose contributions to joint advocacy, strategic exchanges and workshops, and solidarity actions are vital to the Network and its collective impact. Many participants work on collaborative projects in their own organization’s work plans relating to the mission of TWIN, and some organizations contribute financially to the realization of those projects. However, as a network of networks, TWIN does not receive or distribute any funding, or have any property interest in the projects taken on by participants.

**V. Methods of work**

TWIN promotes communication among organizations and individuals that are engaged in work over trans-boundary shared water resources. This can be over the Internet and in person.

All participants of TWIN (Organizations and individuals) can share the mission and vision on behalf of TWIN. They cannot raise money, create intellectual property, form policy or implement projects on behalf of TWIN. Grants, projects, intellectual property and public action shall be established, conducted and owned by the participant organizations.
TWIN is prohibited from attempting to influence or participate in electoral politics, or endorsing candidates for public office. Lobbying and advocacy efforts are strictly limited to non-partisan education of participants and policy makers.

The Curators are in charge of all operational aspects of the Network including but not limited to: approving new participants, building and maintaining the website, facilitating meetings on behalf of the Network, handling all public relations on behalf of the Network, approving content to publish on behalf of the Network, and any other duties arising from this Charter. No Network participant or group of participants may use the TWIN name without the approval of both of the Curators.