



WATER ACTION DECADE

2018 - 2028

**HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE
INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION “WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”
2018-2028
6-9 June 2022, Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

TEMPLATE FOR THE WRITTEN REPORT OF SESSIONS

*to be completed by co-organizers by 16 June 2022
(5 pages maximum)*

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| Title | <i>The same as in the Conference Program</i> |
| Moving out of the Water Box and Promoting Cooperation at all levels. | |
| Subtitle | <i>If any</i> |
| How can tools and standards enhance cross sectorial engagement? | |
| Co-organizers or Co-conveners | <i>Up to four main co-organizers *</i> |
| Arizona State University (ASU) Women for Water Partnership (WFWP) Government of Switzerland Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) Partner : UNESCO-WWAP | |
| Background information and rationale | <i>2-3 paragraphs maximum *</i> |
| From food (nutrition) and energy security through to decent work, cities and rural development, transport, mining to human and environmental health, sustainable property rights – good water management sustains and improves livelihoods, social wellbeing, equality and inclusive growth. This event will emphasise the cross-cutting importance of water, and stress the need for the water community to reach out beyond its sector and engage with actors and processes. Integration enables any potential conflict within and between SDGs to be managed, thus ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and sustainable social and economic development. To achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda This session will highlight how water contributes to the goals and pursuits of those sectors, actors, and processes. The session will also showcase the necessity of decision-makers in all areas to give due consideration to the water implications of their plans, in order to make them implementable in a sustainable manner without hindering other societal, economic and environmental needs that are water dependent and subject to climate change. For achieving the above there is no reason to re-invent the wheel. There are numerous standards and tools. available that guide decision makers in different sectors towards improved water governance and thus better water outcomes, for example water stewardship standards, ISO standards, international trade rules and frameworks for inclusion of water and/or ecosystems in accounting and risk management. This session therefore aspires to spread the recognition | |

and use of these tools and standards, as well as complementing with additional ones where needed and appropriate, would be a concrete step towards improved cross-sectoral action on water.

Main questions for discussion

3-4 questions maximum

- What is needed to make cross-sectoral actions on water successful. What actions do the water communities need to take? What actions can other groups take to reach out and coordinated the needs?
- What are some of the emerging issues with water implications that would benefit from cooperative action across sectors?
- What additional tools and standards, including data collection, are needed or missing?
- How do we go from short term crises management to long term solutions in cooperation?

List of interventions

Please include a short summary of each intervention, if possible

Co-chairs

Guy Bonvin, Ambassador, Swiss Special Envoy for Water in Central Asia, Switzerland.

Dr. Olcay Unver, Professor of Practice, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, Polytechnic School, Environmental and Resource Management Program, Arizona State University, Mesa, Arizona, USA.

Moderator

Dr. Josh Newton, International Policy Consultant, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

Lesha Witmer, Steering Committee Member (Advocacy Portfolio), Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, president Women for Water Partnership (contact for online participation)

Keynote speaker

Lifeng Li, Director, Land & Water Division, FAO

Panelists

Adrian Sym, Executive Director, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS).

Alex Campbell, International Hydropower Association (IHA).

Dr. Laura Imburgia, Senior Water and Gender Programme Specialist, UNESCO-WWAP.

Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner, Water Resources Planning and Regulation, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda.

Mercedes Castro, Member, Water Policy Group, and Director and CEO at NGO Agualimpia, Peru.

Karin Krchnak, Managing Director of Sustainability and Market Outreach, American Chemistry Council.

Carolina Tornesi MacKinnon, President, World Youth Water Parliament for Water (WYPW)

Rapporteur

Dr. Gary Grossman, Associate Director and Faculty, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, College of Global Futures, Arizona State University, USA.

Key messages

- Urgently establish, through decisive government action and corporate stewardship, structures promoting cross-sectoral governance and coordination to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and other global processes. At the same time, strengthen water policy and investment plans across sectors to improve institutional coordination and policy integration. This above all, must be prioritized.
- Actively engage participation of those in sectors outside of the water domain, including governments, NGOs, and resource users in the private sector by drawing from a variety of social groups and diverse geographies, the youth, most particularly including a full and meaningful inclusion of women in all contexts and in all decision-making forums. For water policy to be effective, it must address issues in

real life, benefitting real people. The engagement of women is crucial toward establishing a more conducive and practical environment to make policy that matters.

- Work towards the explicit incorporation of water in all criteria for climate funding and green bonds, including the involvement of member states as well as public and financial institutions, to take steps to incentivise credible, verified corporate action on water. This will ensure that good water stewardship is acknowledged, and green washing is exposed.
- Work directly with sector representatives outside of the water community to develop policy and practice that enhances mutual understanding by merging perspectives, terminology and conceptual approaches toward the creation of clear communication of plans and procedures. To achieve this, building understanding and trust between and among all parties is necessary.
- Enhance and support efforts in the development of National Water Road Maps that incorporate strategies involving other issues, most notably food security and energy.
- Organize coordinated water policy and planning institutions and structures across sectors and governance levels in every community, nation, and region. This incorporates water into such topics as risk-mitigation, climate change, and food security. These efforts should begin immediately, directed toward potentially providing input to the 2023 UN Water Conference.

Follow-up actions and partnerships

*Please indicate all major proposals (1-2 minimum) ****

We will all keep supporting the Call for Action on Gender Equality in the Water Sector.

We will support the idea of voluntary national water plans / roadmaps based on a national dialogue of all stakeholders and continue the dialogue around the Water Action Agenda and discuss our possible commitments.

There is a long-term collaboration between WWAP and WfWP with work together on gender / water issues in studies, publications, events and advocacy. In preparation of the UN 2023 Water conference, UNESCO WWAP leads a global Multi-stakeholder Call for Action initiative, in which WfWP is one of the coalition's founding members.

We will follow up with UN DESA and the co-chairs of the 2023 UN Water Conference on the Stakeholder involvement to ensure that the elements of 'Moving out of the water box'-thinking is incorporated in the design of the UN 2023 Water Conference.

SIWI will continue to advance our work on moving out of and reaching beyond the water box through Stockholm World Water Week, a global platform whose broad range of water-related topics includes climate, food security, health, technology, biodiversity, and many others.

Any other relevant information

List of annexes *Presentations, distribution material, key publications, etc.* **send separately by wetransfer**

Video Ms. Karin Krachnak – This is the video link:

https://americanchemistry.zoom.us/rec/share/4lugM8PgHsRNhsZXilhJdtgOgEiQ4EKe45m1kCEct_DCQRp7RXEv4gddTTcoy9PE.HYY2651i_Tq3HOcu?startTime=1654029504000

Video mr. Callist Tindimugaya, <https://we.tl/t-quEMZtcxon>

Slides presentation mr. Lifeng Li

Slides mr. Alex Campbell

recording of our session : <https://we.tl/t-quEMZtcxon>

Contact person *for the session*

Mrs. Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, WfWP: president@womenforwater.org

** Please indicate only if changed from the latest version of the concept note that was shared with the Conference Secretariat.*

*** For possible inclusion in the Co-chair's Summary*

**** For possible inclusion in the Call for Action and Partnership*