

Compilation of WCC key messages for the stakeholder consultation and the preparatory meeting of the UN 2023 Water Conference

24-25 October 2022

UN Headquarters and online

The intention and aspiration of the consultation process is that participants suggest game changers based on their assessment of its transformative potential in governance, capacity development, data and information, innovation, and financing.

The transformative potential of the Water and Climate Coalition (WCC)

Multistakeholder platforms that provide a mechanism to enable cooperation in the implementation of water and climate targets are essential. To deliver impact these multistakeholder platforms need to transform from merely conversational arenas to spaces that align and catalyse action. The Water and Climate Coalition aims to do this through an innovative approach where it connects high-level commitments, to financial partners, and action-focused stakeholders from international organizations, to academia, private sector, civil society, and youth. Founded by 10 UN Entities and the Global Water Partnership, the Coalition is an action-oriented and inclusive mechanism based on the principles of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, engineered to catalyse multistakeholder actions with a platform enabling the attainment of interlinked SDG 6 and SDG 13 targets. Guided by the five accelerators (governance, capacity development, data and information, innovation, and financing), the Coalition translates political ambition into local, regional, and global action by creating awareness and advocating for an interlinked water and climate approach, strengthening and facilitating cooperation among its members and external stakeholders, and implementing tangible action and activities in the interlinkage of water and climate. The Coalition enhances cooperation to leverage benefits across actors, sectors, and scales, and serves as a means for achieving sustainable development.

The Water and Climate Coalition calls upon partners to join in refining a game-changing approach and to collaborate to develop a process with clear goals, milestones, and an action plan to be presented at the UN 2023 Water Conference.

The Coalition further calls on UN Member States for their political and financial support to the game-changing collaborative mechanism to accelerate the transformation of political ambition into real impact on the ground.

Roundtables

The aim is to wrap up the roundtables with a few, actionable game changers that emerged from the discussions.

1. A message for each of the accelerators (5)

a) Governance:

Universal water intelligence requires holistic buy-in from across society – scientific organizations, private sector, NGOs, IOs, governments, and civil society must act in harmony to combat climate change's pernicious impact on water. Internationally, water governance requires an integrated approach which addresses core interconnected environmental topics, such as climate and water, in a systematic policy and management framework. This is only possible through an inclusive approach that considers the needs of all stakeholders and involves them in the decision-making, as well as the implementation process. The Water and Climate Coalition brings these diverse stakeholders together and fosters an open, integrated, and forward-thinking community dedicated to achieving a water-secure and climate-resilient future.

The Water and Climate Coalition provides a platform as well as a mechanism that brings multi-sectoral stakeholders together and catalyses actions enabling the attainment of interlinked SDG 6 and SDG 13 targets. The Water and Climate Coalition engages stakeholders at different levels in collaborative action that is based on scientific evidence and guided by political leadership. The Water and Climate Leaders are a panel of eminent representatives from across society committed to pursuing an integrated global water and climate agenda at the highest political levels through providing strategic leadership and nurturing transformative multi-scale governance systems. The Water and Climate Coalition members cooperate through the platform and implement interlinked water and climate action and activities including support for policy development.

WCC contribution to a governance game changer: An inclusive and action-oriented multi-sectoral stakeholder mechanism, engineered to catalyse and translate evidence-based political ambition into actions to enable the attainment of global water and climate related goals and targets.

b) Capacity Development:

Developing human capacity is vital to ensure the effective transfer, sharing, and generation of water and climate related knowledge. By empowering the next generation of leaders to command agency at global decision-making processes, alongside facilitating operational training initiatives for multisectoral actors addressing hydrological and climatic challenges, the Water and Climate Coalition strives to stimulate accelerated capacity development in pursuit of SDG 6 and SDG 13 targets.

WCC contribution to a capacity development game changer: A global platform that brings together multifaceted capacity development programmes and resources based on multistakeholder expertise to enable integrated responses needed to achieve the global water and climate related goals and targets.

c) Data and Information:

In a swiftly changing environment requiring a dynamic and adaptable decision-making landscape, it is paramount to expedite the development of water observation systems and augment the utility of water forecasts in order to provide information to decision-makers concerned with the evolution of water conditions and how ensuing changes stand to impact society and the natural resources on which they depend. The Water and Climate Coalition is committed to establishing a global system providing water information that enables informed decision-making on integrated water and climate actions.

The current capacity to monitor and manage this vital resource is fragmented and inadequate. Therefore, we want to enhance global water resources management and strengthen multinational cooperation through accurate and timely water assessments and outlooks. We will develop a global data and information system that helps us and future generations to better understand the interconnectedness of hydrological systems, climate change, and water and land-use management.

WCC contribution to a data and information game changer: Global water information services that provide status, assessment, and outlook for smart climate and water-related decisions.

d) Innovation:

Transforming water systems, operations, and management to enrich adaptive and integrated decision-making is crucial in addressing current and emerging water-related global challenges. We need to find new, transformative, ways to accelerate implementation of the water and climate related global goals.

The Water and Climate Coalition seeks to mobilise its expanding community of multi-sectoral stakeholders possessing a diversity of water intelligence in a connected endeavour to spark solution-oriented actions in an inclusive and pioneering framework.

WCC contribution to an innovation game changer: An inclusive and action-oriented mechanism to catalyse multi-sectoral stakeholder actions to enable the attainment of water-related global goals and targets.

e) Financing:

Without smart financing, the transformation required to achieve a water-secure and climate-resilient world will not be possible. Currently, financing streams primarily focus on climate solutions and fail to stimulate the necessary capital to safeguard water resilience and adaptation. Rising demand for fresh water, coupled with increasing vulnerability of societies and an accelerated hydrological cycle through climate change, means that information to guide decisions and investment flows is critical.

The Water and Climate Coalition, through the voice of the Water and Climate Leaders, calls for redirecting climate capital flows to interlinking water and climate investments coupled with more actionable information to guide water-associated financing. We need to adopt financing principles with countries, banks, insurers, and investors and announce respective commitment in 2023.

WCC contribution to a financing game changer: Provide a global framework and typology for water investment