

Dear UN 2023 Water Conference Secretariat -

I have 4 Gamechangers to propose for inclusion and I'm happy to discuss these further with those interested.

CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Develop Water Corps. Grow an action-oriented professional development "ecosystem" for the water sector, and that integrates across other sectors. This is in process with partners and here's the link to a brief draft doc on this: <https://linktr.ee/watercorps>

There are many program details still to be developed, but it will involve:

- Water Solutionaries (solution-oriented, peer-to-peer actions focused on achieving global water goals across geographies)
- Water Emissaries (mentoring, training, co-developed and implemented community solutions)
- Water Innovators (on the job training).

Additional partners and funders are welcome!

Goal: Engage diverse voices and actions in solving water issues and taking part in the water workforce.

CAPACITY BUILDING

2. Integrate Water and Climate Education and Engagement Globally: Work with climate coalitions and global cities where they are in process of introducing climate curriculum to ensure that water concepts and solutions are taught in partnership with climate education. Use gamification and education tech partners to bring this into "nonformal" education arenas (i.e. Minecraft, Roblox and other platforms). *Note: The Water Education and Engagement Initiative is interested in growing this idea.*

Goal: Speed up and sustain understanding, value given, and solutions enacted for water and climate change using formal and nonformal education systems.

INNOVATION, DATA & INFORMATION

2. Build an Interactive Water Connection + Tracking Platform: Create a visual, interactive platform that helps entities play to their strengths and accelerate change at a systems level by:

- Learning from each other's successes/failures
- Planning strategy, policy and impact
- Connecting with other sectors
- Tracking progress toward global goals with real-time feedback

Goal: Help the sector accelerate progress by learning from each other, determining who has what covered, what needs to be done/accelerated, and progress being made.

GOVERNANCE, DATA & INFORMATION

4. Enhance Transboundary Data and Action Networks: Develop science + education + action partnerships across large freshwater bodies (i.e. N. American Great Lakes, African Great Lakes,

rivers and others) for robust data collection (remote sensing, citizen science, etc), integrating circular economy and other relevant policies. We must enable common data parameters and technologies to collect data that is consistent, comparable and actionable.

Another component is to consider water "sibling cities" to tackle similar problems in different geographies. *Note: The African Center for Aquatic Research and Education (ACARE) is diving into this work, with a focus on science, with some education and engagement components.*

Goal: Build bridges to share data-driven knowledge across disciplines and geographic silos to accelerate water policy and action.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these ideas!

- Stephanie



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