



Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate, a faith-based organization welcome the UN 2023 Water Conference with its relevant themes. We are very hopeful that it will help the countries to bring about transformative changes with collaborative strategies that would benefit all.

Water is not an unlimited resource. Therefore, we need sensitization and create awareness among all people that if we do not take the water crisis seriously it will affect all especially the poor. Individual and collective responsibility is the need of the time.

We need to act now together with everyone especially those affected by the water crisis. Let us never underestimate the innovative ideas of youth, women, indigenous people, farmers and people living in remote villages. I am reminded of a true incident in Bihar, India where a poor farmer Laungi Manjhi spent thirty years to dig out a three-kilometer-long canal to take rainwater coming down from nearby hills to the fields of his village. He worked hard in order to save water coming from the mountains and utilize it. A lot of people benefit from it. These are the great efforts of a simple farmer. I am sure he will have many suggestions to make for the water conference. We need to develop strategies where such ordinary people's voices also will be heard.

We hope that 2023 Water Conference would be more inclusive and participatory. Let this conference be a people centered one.

Thank You.

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