

24 October, 2022

Dear Excellencies, Delegates, Representatives of the Secretariat and Esteemed Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in lieu of an oral intervention for the Stakeholder Forum on Governance for the Interactive Dialogs and Agenda Setting for the UN Water Conference in 2023.

My name is Chris Wilke, Global Advocacy Manager with Waterkeeper Alliance, an international NGO, representing 340+ member Waterkeeper groups in 46 countries on 6 continents, who work every day to protect everyone's right to clean water.

I was registered to attend the Governance Stakeholder Forum virtually, and was signed up to make an intervention, but I was not selected to speak among the 20 people chosen for presenting 2-minute interventions. I hope this written intervention will reach you in time for consideration in setting the agenda for UN Water 2023.

In the future I would ask that you devote more time to hearing from those in the room, both in-person or virtually. People like me made preparations to be present and it does not honor our ideas or suggestions to not have ample time or recognition of perspectives. This perspective will be further highlighted in my comments below and it is actually critical to progress on difficult water issues.

The game-changing governance element I would like to propose for consideration is one of community empowerment. Specifically we ask that **member states make a commitment at UN Water to engage and empower Indigenous and community leadership in forging solutions and in decision-making affecting water resources.**

By community leadership I want to emphasize that this must include special consultative status for Indigenous peoples and also frontline, impoverished, under-served, and under-represented communities. It must also include the "right to say no" during Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) consultation processes, as "consent" implies the right to say "No".

This is not only the best way, it is the **only** way to achieve lasting water solutions.

It is not merely a preferred, ethical or equitable approach. It is actually the only way that will work to accomplish desired community-based and environmental outcomes. Otherwise we can look forward to more empty rhetoric, misaligned funding and projects that won't address the actual needs of communities and the environment. We won't find the best solutions and we won't have the necessary buy-in to implement the ones we do decide on.

This engagement must be done authentically, transparently and must involve empowerment. We can't just listen to people, give them a chance to be heard, then make decisions impacting their lives.

Water systems are changing around the world due to climate change, development, privatization and competition for resources. Water scarcity, flooding, habitat destruction and pollution are all impacting people in increased amounts and the water landscape is changing faster than ever before. Many, if not all, of these aspects are interrelated. We have an enormous task and no time to waste.

So how do we better involve community leadership?

To be clear we are not just talking about some community stakeholder meetings, or a regional council made up of municipal bureaucrats. We are talking about giving community leaders and ordinary people (fishers, farmers, mothers, fathers, youth, citizen scientists, human rights activists, health providers, faith leaders, teachers, etc.) a seat at the table where decisions are being made on water protection.

What can we do at the UN level to support this, and ensure meaningful implementation of our decisions? We can forge agreements that:

- Condition financial support for projects that involve and value true community leadership and empowerment
- Provide examples and guidance on how to do it in different cultural contexts and governmental systems
- Provide capacity assistance for local governments seeking to involve and empower community perspectives in decision making on water issues.
- Highlight the interconnectedness of individual, local, regional, national and global perspectives and the water systems that they are trying to address
- Value human rights and rights of nature
- Include transparency and performance verification mechanisms to ensure these goals are being met

At today's Stakeholder Forum these topics were very active in the verbal interventions and in the comments received in the chat. I am attaching the chat below for your reference.

One very instructive point is that there was not space for all of the input, including from those like me who signed up in advance. And, in some cases the input was paraphrased in a way that changed the intent of the speaker. For example one eloquent presentation was about the need for "public-public partnerships", but it was paraphrased as "public-private partnerships, or just reduced to "partnerships". To be better at including community leadership we are all going to have to get better at listening and seeking to understand rather than check the box.

In closing I would like to reiterate that the agenda for UN Water 2023 include developing meaningful and enforceable standards for transparency and ensuring community involvement in decision making on water resources, including the protection of natural water systems. These standards should be developed with an eye toward developing and ensuring capacity and accountability of local implementing organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Chris Wilke
Global Advocacy Manager,
Waterkeeper Alliance
cwilke@waterkeeper.org

Attached below:

UN Water- Governance Stakeholder Forum Chat

(please note the overwhelming prevalence of Indigenous, community, and human rights perspectives)

from Oscar Beita & Madeline Kiser to Everyone: 8:44 AM

How do you change your name to full name organization?

from Obami-Ondon_Congo-Brazzaville to Everyone: 8:46 AM

Greetings everyone from Congo-Brazzaville.

from Chris Wilke to Oscar Beita & Madeline Kiser (privately): 8:46 AM

Hello Oscar and Madeline! Nice to see you here!

from Oscar Beita & Madeline Kiser to Chris Wilke (privately): 8:47 AM

Buenos dias, dear Chris! Un fuerte abrazo!!

from Chris Wilke to Oscar Beita & Madeline Kiser (privately): 8:48 AM

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from Gabriella Esposito Fondazione Aldo Della Rocca to Everyone: 8:50 AM

Greetings to everyone, Gabriella Esposito from Italy, Fondazione Aldo Della Rocca

from AMANI HABIMANA- SOLIDARITE POUR L'ENCADREMENT ET LUTTE CONTRE L to Everyone: 8:52 AM

Hello Gabriella

from Engineering Without Borders - Míriam Planas to Everyone: 8:54 AM

great! thanks!

from Dr Amgad Elmahdi to Everyone: 8:54 AM

We need governance beyond water sector and call for integrated multi-sectors water management-IMSWM instead of IWRM

from Dr Amgad Elmahdi to Everyone: 8:55 AM

The stronger water governance will help countries to access different financial products that GCF providing

from Dr Amgad Elmahdi to Everyone: 8:56 AM

- The water sector remains highly affected by climate change and significant adaptations are around water. The water sector is a major beneficiary of adaptation funds. It is estimated that roughly 5%-20% of allocated fund can be lost to corruption in water projects.
- To achieve a paradigm shift in water security, governance and management policies must be localised and enabled to build the capacity of all the stakeholders.

from ONGAWA to Everyone: 8:59 AM

Talking of governance, we can not forget that it must be based in UN principles of human rights of no discrimination, transparency, accountability, access to information and participation, involving citizens, specially the most vulnerable groups, traditionally underrepresented, and all stakeholders.

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 9:01 AM

If we had signed up to speak to this roundtable, how may we confirm that we are on the list?

from Elena Perez-Alvaro ICOMOS ICUCH to Everyone: 9:03 AM

Good morning.

from Nicole Wilson to Everyone: 9:05 AM

Indigenous peoples are rightsholders and governments who have knowledge and insights that can inform game-changing actions to address the global water crisis. A game changing action would be to address the systemic impacts of historic and ongoing colonial globally. Part of addressing systemic inequalities is to ensure that we centre Indigenous peoples, their relationships, knowledge and concerns in governance. How are Indigenous peoples being engaged in the UN 2023 Water Conference?

from Engineering Without Borders - Míriam Planas to Everyone: 9:07 AM

I agree with Nicole Wilson, Very important to engage with indigenous groups.

from Ana Sofía Lázaro Consejo Ciudadano por el Agua de Yucatán to Everyone: 9:08 AM

That's right, hopefully the participation of indigenous organizations and citizen groups that have been working for years in the defense of water and territory can be guaranteed, even though they are not consolidated under a civil association regime.

from Elena Perez-Alvaro ICOMOS ICUCH to Everyone: 9:08 AM

Sorry. Good morning. My name is Elena Perez-Alvaro and I represent ICOMOS International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage. We believe that in order to a sustainable water governance, we cannot forget culture, and heritage. Water is in, on, around, above, flooding, damaging, helping many heritage sites. Water has been conducted and delivered through places and installations than are now cultural heritage. Pipelines and water installations are and will be cultural heritage. In addition, flooded sites will become underwater cultural heritage in the future and issues of identity are closely linked to cultural heritage. What is more, shipwrecks and submerged landscapes can provide important data to face climate change. We really believe that consideration of cultural heritage scientific organizations can help to the water dialogue and we would be very happy to be considered for the 2023 UN Water Conference. Thank you very much.

from ONGAWA to Everyone: 9:09 AM

Other people that are being leaved behind are impoverished rural communities , hidden from political priorities

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 9:10 AM

I also agree with Nicole Wilson - Indigenous peoples must be engaged meanngfully, and not just engaged - how with their leadership be integrated into decision making?

from Hellen N. Kasujja to Everyone: 9:10 AM

Champions need to include grassroots .Lets create movements that will deal with mindset change.Espousing the collectiveness will go along way

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 9:10 AM

If we had signed up to speak to this roundtable, how may we confirm that we are on the list?

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 9:12 AM

I was hoping to speak to the issue of community governance. Chris Wilke - Waterkeeper Alliance.

from Dr Amgad Elmahdi to Everyone: 9:12 AM

My name Amgad Elmahdi, the water sector lead at Green Climate Fund-GCF. • The vision for a paradigm shift in water security for water governance and management structures supports an inclusive and accountable stakeholder process and transparency that values the multi-faceted dynamics of IWRM including community-based water management to reinforce climate proofing of water systems and increase climate resilience. The key success factors lie in empowering communities into decision making, building global alliances for knowledge sharing, and deploying digital solutions to collect, process and publish data in a transparent manner to support evidence-based

decision-making. To achieve a paradigm shift in water security, governance and management policies must be considered in the local and social context and enabled to build the capacity of all the stakeholders. We need governance beyond the water sector- Nexus gove and call for integrated multi-sectors water management-IMSWM instead of IWRM

from Lars Skov Andersen to Everyone: 9:13 AM

Danish Water Forum: In Denmark the gamechanger making SDG6 possible was legislation enabling community managed (groundwater-based) rural water supply. Lars Skov Andersen

from Dinesh Suna to Everyone: 9:16 AM

Dear organisers, I do not see the faith based organisations/ faith communities, lined up to make any interventions. Thats a missed opportunities, given that we have huge potentials to contribute realisation of SDG6. I request you to give us an opportunity. We had opted to speak. Thanks. Dinesh Suna, Ecumenical Water Network, World Council of Churches.

from Hellen N. Kasujja to Everyone: 9:18 AM

Institute damage and losses for water pollution

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 9:19 AM

How do we know if we are on the list of 20 people scheduled to talk?

from Paul Biel Otoang-Nile Hope to Everyone: 9:22 AM

What laws,policies and informations are required to enable sustainable water management in a dynamic context?

from Matiur Rahman to Everyone: 9:23 AM

Matiur Rahman, Assam India.

Question :

1. In Assam the Government itself violated the UNDRIP rules. Without prior or inform consent form the Indigenous People, the Government used the Water as they like. It's very harmful in different fields. In this situation what shall we do ?

We want help from the United Nations and the Global Communities of the World.

Please reply in this regard.

Thanking you.

Matiur Rahman

Working President

Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha

Email : assammahasangha07@gmail.com

from Paola Cárdenas - Action Against Hunger to Everyone: 9:24 AM

We consider it important to include in this conference that in order to achieve all the SDG 2030 indicators it is necessary to understand that water is a main factor for all the SDGs, and that for this reason it is necessary to make a greater investment and a greater effort from all governments. In Latin America for years there has been corruption that has led to low investment in all indicators of water governance, the rights of communities to access water and sanitation are not defended, this added to the economic and political crisis makes let us be a more vulnerable region due to poor water management and low investment in sustainable projects and with greater challenges to achieve water governance, since it is not a main issue for governments because It does not produce dividends, it only generates expenses. Hope that this conference forces governments in Latin America to respect water and all its dimensions, to respect the rights of communities

from Yunxiao Long-DESA to Everyone: 9:24 AM

Please note that an email has been sent to all those who are confirmed to speak at this roundtable. If you haven't received an email from the Secretariat to confirm your speaking slot, unfortunately we cannot guarantee your slot to speak. If time permits, we will add more speakers to the list when the floor is open.

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 9:24 AM

How do we know if we are on the list of 20 people scheduled to talk?

from Dr. Amneet Gill, Panjab University to Everyone: 9:27 AM

Though we all look for a paradigm shift in management policies of governments across the world, progressive legislation remains the most potent weapon

from Engineering Without Borders - Míriam Planas to Everyone: 9:28 AM

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from Chris Wilke to Yunxiao Long-DESA (privately): 9:30 AM

Thank you for clarifying the process for speaking. I registered but did not receive an email so I gather I am not on the list. Please add me to the queue for taking comets from the floor. Chris Wilke | Global Advocacy Manager Waterkeeper Alliance | representing 340 water protection NGOs in 46 countries on 6 continents.

Thank You.

from Chris Wilke to Yunxiao Long-DESA (privately): 9:31 AM

*comments^

from Melvin van der Veen to Everyone: 9:33 AM

Transformative actions and system change require resetting the table and shifting the power. It requires an inclusive process, upholding the principle of equity. It means stepping back for those in power, and creating space (at different governance levels) for those most affected by poor water governance.

from Yunxiao Long-DESA to Chris Wilke (privately): 9:34 AM

Yes, I have added you to the list. Will make you a panelist if we have time.

from Oscar Beita & Madeline Kiser to Everyone: 9:34 AM

Given the growing influence of corporations in shaping water policy, it is difficult for water justice activists, communities, and nature itself, to have an equal voice in shaping global water policy. We simply must question whether a corporatized approach to managing water will allow us to make the fundamental shifts in economy--in spirit--the climate emergency requires!

from Lars Skov Andersen to Everyone: 9:35 AM

I have raised hand to draw attention to the need for community management and ownership of thier water supply. Lars Skov Andersen , DWF

from Chris Wilke to Yunxiao Long-DESA (privately): 9:35 AM

Thank You!

from Shane Lawlor to Everyone: 9:35 AM

UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank have recently launched the first ever 'State of the World's Drinking Water' report. The report is an important contribution to this dialogue and references a strong evidence base and clear actionable recommendations for moving forward. It can be found here:

<https://www.unicef.org/reports/state-worlds-drinking-water>

from Moez Allaoui_SONED_TUNISIA to Everyone: 9:36 AM

Knowing that the human rights to water and sanitation are just recognised by soft law instruments (GA and Human rights council resolutions) it's important to support States to introduce these rights within their national legal frameworks to make them effective and justiciable. Moez Allaoui

from Moez Allaoui_SONED_TUNISIA to Everyone: 9:47 AM

In my opinion as a manager in a public water utility, I think that we have to pay attention in terms of gouvernance, to maintanance and rehabilitation of water utilities, networks

and infrastructure in general. Donors and States are sometimes providing important funds and budgets to improve accessibility to drinking water utilities, but after a few years those infrastructures are usually less efficient, or lost because of lack of maintenance. Just an example : some donors are providing funds for a desalination plant to help a utility producing more water, but if water losses are important (in some countries more than 50%), this money is lost. So it would be better to invest in maintaining the network first and decreasing water losses, before investing in producing more water. So we have to shift effectively to a water demand paradigm.

from Tilly Stroo to Everyone: 9:48 AM

Tilly Stroo Wavemakers United It is our responsibility to place water security at the core of all our climate action- and at the core of our worldwide efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.” Investing in water trickles down across all SDGs. Taking water out of its sector silo and prioritize water security across all, everywhere, everywhere is what’s needed. By organizing the UN2023 Gamechanger Challenge together with many youth networks for water, we have created an ecosystem and bring the SDGs and the connection of each SDG to water to youngsters from primary to university level among all social groups. An inclusive approach that leaves no one behind, Indigenous , girls, children who has no access to education and the children in regular local and private schools. By nudging, inspire, provoke in a friendly way we make a serious topic as water, climate change sexy. we create awareness and inspire the golden hands and bright minds we need in the near future, CEO’s and

from Peter de Koning to Everyone: 9:51 AM

For UNWC2023 it might be interesting to not only ask how other sectors can contribute to water. But also how water can support the goals of the other sectors including those for inclusion and human rights.

from Ahmed Tihamiyu to Everyone: 9:54 AM

It's very important we prioritize prevent and eliminate water pollution totally. We must be ambitious and understand that preventing water pollution is critical to achieving sustainable future for all. Ahmed Tihamiyu, Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPWs) from Nigeria.

from Lenka Kruckova- Simavi to Everyone: 9:54 AM

Transformative action on governance must look at accountability more strictly and ensure there is a shift of power. It must ensure that those who have the power to impact negatively the human rights to water and sanitation, and water as a natural resource, are held accountable for their (in)actions affecting those who are given less power (incl. local communities, and water resources). Accountability, addressing corruption, and

regulations are key to leaving no one behind. Donors and development cooperation can also positively influence cross-sectoral cooperation and accountability.

from Tilly Stroo to Everyone: 9:56 AM

thanks Peter, good point, partly it's what the UN2023 Gamechanger Challenge is about.

from Amanda Loeffen to Everyone: 9:56 AM

The human rights to water and sanitation and the human right to a healthy environment are connected and supportive of each other, both offering inclusive and transparent governance. Frequently, decisions over the right to access clean and safe drinking water, or sanitation treatment, are taken without consideration of effects on the environment. Equally, and conversely, the conservation of the environment for its' own sake, and for human enjoyment and welfare for future generations, may not prioritise the use of water for human consumption. It is my belief that by bringing these two thematic areas together, for decision-making and policy development at local, national, and regional levels, we can encourage more sustainable solutions.

We are presenting a multi-country study on the collaboration of these three human rights at the 2022 UN-Water Groundwater Summit this December.

from Sandra Metayer - Coalition Eau to Everyone: 9:57 AM

The Butterfly Effect coalition - a network of 130+ NGOs and CSOs - has identified policy demands to the international community on the occasion of the UN 2023 water Conference around 5 topics : 1) stonger political will, 2) strenghtened water governance, 3) actively involved civil society, 4) strong and transparent financial commitments, 5) a renewed multilateral framework. See the policy paper here :

<http://www.effetpapillon.org/en/our-policy-demands>

from Melvin van der Veen to Everyone: 10:00 AM

Water distribution is considerably impacted by activities related to trade (e.g. agriculture and industry). (Too) often involving violation of human rights throughout the value chain. Hence, to promote water security and achieving the SDGs, we must also call upon governments to decrease their international water footprints, and protect Women and Environmental Human Rights Defenders.

from Simon Okoth to Everyone: 10:01 AM

The conference must analyze how and emphasize that national governments policies, regulations and actions comprehend accountability and justice to all stakeholders. How these policies, regulations and actions have integrated the complex but dynamically related components water service chain including physical, social, political, and cultural influences at different levels governance one or more of which when ignored may lead water resource access imbalance among the different competing needs. The policies

and plans must also provide a clear and achievable road map for financing bringing together all the different potential financial resources. Inclusivity must take the front seat.

from Dinesh Suna to Everyone: 10:02 AM

@you have nailed it Miriam Planas, by naming the 'elephant in the room', privatisation of water and against Private -Public Partnership but promoting Public-Public_Partnership...

from Melvin van der Veen to Everyone: 10:02 AM

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from Tak Bahadur Tamang to Everyone: 10:02 AM

very important sharing, great !

from European Water Movement - dante maschio to Everyone: 10:03 AM

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from Roman Baatenburg de Jong to Everyone: 10:04 AM

Good evening and afternoon to you all. My name is Roman Baatenburg de Jong and i am working for Plan International, based in Amsterdam. The design of the UN-Waterconference should reflect this: there must be sufficient space and time (!) to let those who are most affected by climate change speak on the negative effects, the lack of drinking water, lack of sanitation and services: girls and young women. The problems are hugely interlinked. Access to drinking water is a basic condition for menstrual health and hygiene. This is not only a pre-condition for achieving SDG4, quality and inclusive education for everyone, but it is a pre-condition for achieving almost all SDGs. Think about it!

The urgency is immense. What we need indeed is political will and commitment to walk the last mile, commit to climate adaptation and walk the mile where businesses won't go simply because it is not profitable in the short and medium term.

To amplify the urgency the UN-Waterconference should be inclusive!

from Nick Hepworth to Everyone: 10:05 AM

2. Great to see a focus on accountability which is the 'magic sauce' to improve water governance! There is strong evidence to back this up. The Accountability for Water coalition (WaterAid, EWP, ANEW, Water Witness, Oxfam, IDS, Water Integrity Network, SWA) commissioned a global evidence review which showed that 8 out of 10 accountability interventions by civil society led to positive change towards SDG6 delivery. Interventions include social accountability monitoring, budget analysis and advocacy, social audit, evidence-based advocacy and multistakeholder deliberation. They offer very good value for money for unlocking improved – inclusive and responsive

governance – and yet they receive zero structural resourcing and support, and civil society and community voices are being shut down in many territories. We must address this at UN Water 23

from AMANI HABIMANA- SOLIDARITE POUR L'ENCADREMENT ET LUTTE CONTRE L to Everyone: 10:05 AM

I am pleased to be at this meeting, the presentations and contributions important and inspiring.

Water as the source of life, we have to understand it also as a dwelling place of aquatic animals and a factor of natural conflict resolution between regions.

Its protection is a priority.

Jospin AMANI from DRCONGO

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 10:06 AM

Most of the comments and testimony are about community involvement, justice and human rights. How best to deliver on this - how best to make it meaningful?

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 10:08 AM

15 minutes for more comments and the panelists are still speaking?

Is this emblematic of the problem?

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 10:08 AM

Public - Public Partnerships was what was mentioned.

from Dinesh Suna to Everyone: 10:09 AM

@Chris Wilke... totally agree with you

from Nick Hepworth to Everyone: 10:09 AM

Responding to Chrison how to make it meaningful - check out the Accountability for Water website. The team have been working to answer that for the past 5 years - some useful material

from International Secretariat for Water to Everyone: 10:09 AM

The lack of space for intergovernmental dialogue on water means that inequalities, pollution, and poor access to clean water and sanitation in the world persist.

Yet it is a major geopolitical issue and a PEACE issue: water knows no borders and must be managed in a concerted manner and acknowledging the water cycle. There is also a «void» in the United Nations on this issue, since there is no intergovernmental

body where States could exchange on the corrective measures that are necessary on a global scale for water.

We call on the international community to:

- Agree on the establishment of an intergovernmental committee within the UN dedicated to water management and access to WASH, responsible for accelerating and coordinating efforts to achieve and monitor international goals.

from Nick Hepworth to Everyone: 10:10 AM

Please share the email address

from Nick Hepworth to Everyone: 10:11 AM

Dr Nick Hepworth from Water Witness here: I'd like to propose two 'game-changing' initiatives which have strong proof of concept and which need airtime at UN Water 23 and coordinated action towards 2030

1. Fair Water Footprints – the ground-breaking work of Arjen Hoekstra and Tony Allan revealed the high dependency of the global north on water use in the global south through their water footprints. Through water embedded in clothes, food, fuel, consumer goods, extractives and metals and minerals, countries like UK, Sweden, Netherlands and Switzerland depend for as much as 95% of their total water needs on water use outside of their boundaries, often in distant basins and municipalities facing severe water stress and weak governance. Where water use in those supply chains is within sustainable limits – our water footprints can be positive influence – creating jobs, growth and resilience. However, analysis shows that over 50% of our water footprints are based on unsustainable water u

from Dinesh Suna to Everyone: 10:11 AM

water2023@un.org

from Amanda Loeffen to Everyone: 10:11 AM

in response to the 'How' we will do things differently, then I think the answer is to be more human rights based in our approach - ie inclusive and participative and non-discriminatory. It means working with local communities and prioritising BOTH the human rights to water, and to a healthy environment together to achieve sustainability

from Nick Hepworth to Everyone: 10:11 AM

unsustainable water use – pushing ecosystems and communities into vulnerability through polluting discharges, over-abstraction and damage to water ecosystems. It's not the size of our water footprint which is important, what's important is whether they are sustainable, equitable and resilient. That is why the Fair Water Footprint Declaration was launched at COP26 where 28 founding Signatories committed to action

in global supply chains to ensure by 2030: zero pollution, sustainable and equitable withdrawal, universal WASH, protect and promote nature and effective planning for drought and floods. Founding signatories (including the UK, Malawi, Madagascar, Peru, Finland, Austria as well as banks, businesses, and civil society) are already taking action to strengthen public and political demand, financial due diligence, mandatory reporting and disclosure and credible corporate stewardship towards this ambitious goal. Delivery plans are being shared at COP27 and new Signatories invit

from Matthew Oh MUN Impact to Everyone: 10:11 AM

Apologies— trying to clarify here, will impromptu online interventions be accepted?

from Nick Hepworth to Everyone: 10:12 AM

new Signatories invited to join. This growing coalition is seizing new opportunities for transformative change provided by Fair Water Footprints to rapidly build the incentives for responsible water management. Join us, and let's make sure that UN Water 2023 is a breakthrough moment for the way water is managed in our globalised economy and make Fair Water Footprint the global norm.

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 10:12 AM

Thank you @Nick Hepworth

from Melvin van der Veen to Everyone: 10:13 AM

I'm all for Revolution/ System change, but this really requires a transformative approach, we need to reset the table. I don't see that reflected yet. It's indeed about a rights based approach and the process first. The content will very logically follow and reflect (local) realities concerning water problems but also solutions

from FILAC to Everyone: 10:14 AM

Filac as an Ibero-American intergovernmental organization with the mission of promoting the self-development of the indigenous peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, from its position we consider it essential to consider the vision of the indigenous peoples and the contributions that can be made from their knowledge in the framework of the water summit, and we join several of the contributions that have already been made, such as the comments of Miss Tania Martinez.

We have been invited by the government of the Netherlands, to facilitate the participation of the voices of indigenous peoples, for which we offer to facilitate events prior to the summit through which a small document with the main contributions of knowledge can be worked on , experiences and uses of water from the perspective of the peoples, particularly from the perspective of youth and women.

from Simon Okoth to Everyone: 10:14 AM

Regarding wastewater governance and urbanization opportunity: The United Nations project that about 68% of the global population will be living in urban areas by the year 2050 with higher proportion in Africa and Asia. This would mean, correspondingly, more than 50% of available freshwater demand being concentrated in the urban areas. This notwithstanding the other demand areas including industries urban agriculture and recreational needs. There is however an opportunity for effective policies, supportive institutional capacities, private sector involvement, and advocacy, to transform wastewater from an environmental burden that it is today in most countries into a safe economic asset capitalizing on the urbanization by promoting recycling and reuse - changing the mindset!

from ONGAWA to Everyone: 10:14 AM

Another topic that is usually forgotten: the role of local authorities and community management must be supported by National governments and the international community, in safe water supply, access to safe sanitation and hygiene

from Paola Cárdenas - Action Against Hunger to Everyone: 10:15 AM

however in order to invest in water governance, it is necessary to stop the growth of the dollar, in latino america, this situation causes the devaluation of our currencies so how invest ?

from Dinesh Suna to Everyone: 10:15 AM

"water is a 'gift' of God, a public good/resource and a human right. Water governance is at the core of the current water crisis. More often than not the rich and powerful decide how water is governed. Community participation on the other hand is overlooked. They decide who gets priority for water, how much and at what cost? More often, the prioritisation of water for life is overlooked over water for profit! The human right to drinking water must be prioritised over other usage of water such as by industries, for development and also for irrigation etc. Furthermore financial values of water overshadows cultural, spiritual and ethical value of water. Thus water privatisation is pushed as the solution to the water crisis. However, this adds to the problem. Water must remain in control of the public and private corporations may be encouraged to contribute to innovation, technology, etc. Becoming a "blue community" is the way forward which respects human right to water,

from Dinesh Suna to Everyone: 10:16 AM

promote public control of water and say no to bottled water, which is a menace for our planet and an impediment to the human right to water.

from Laura Korculanin/Give a Shit to Everyone: 10:21 AM

Hello everyone, Lovely discussions! We are an action platform and advocacy group Give a Shit (giveashitnow.org). We work with hands-on educational and interactive

practices engaging local communities to take action towards pertinent water and sanitation challenges. Our work is based on scientific research and uses art and creative narrative as the main mediating and collaborative tool. Happily we would share and support UN Water conference with our knowledge and lessons learned.

from Lars Skov Andersen to Everyone: 10:21 AM

The water demand is a 10x10x10 m cube !!!!!

from Melvin van der Veen to Everyone: 10:22 AM

Financing and technology are so often mentioned, but so often (similar to food security problem): it's not about the amount of food or the technologies per se, it's primarily about the distribution and those in power how it is currently being distributed. The huge focus on finance seems to automatically look at the private sector (companies, banks) to solve the problems... but it's really a governance problem, a problem of equitable water distribution.

from Marianne Kjellén to Everyone: 10:22 AM

Sharing concern of Susanne Schmeier that we need to think of HOW we act.

Game-changers should mean acting differently, rather than more of the same (quadrupling efforts).

That is why governance and regulation is so utterly important, since it puts the finger of the DIRECTION of change, and WHAT countries, authorities and societies can do. What they can do more, or differently.

For example: building regulations can guide the massive huge investments that currently go into urban constructions. If by-laws include room-for-the-river, green space and permeable surfaces, flood risks can be averted or ameliorated.

Regulatory interventions affect investments and guide action across the board – a game changer!

Thanks, Marianne.kjellen@undp.org

from Lars Skov Andersen to Everyone: 10:22 AM

- or even a 10x10x1 m cube !

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 10:22 AM

Must discussion about Community involvement - but it needs to be made real. This is difficult work - you can't just say it and expect it to be done meaningfully.

One way to help would be to condition financial assistance on effective and transparent community oriented governance.

from Stephanie Smith to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Hi everyone. Just joining from Capacity Development. I'm submitting a transboundary governance Gamechanger: Enhance Transboundary Data and Action Networks: Let's develop science + education + action Advisory Groups with concrete goals and timelines across multi-jurisdictional 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. Let's create "sibling cities" to tackle similar problems in different geographies using innovative ideas. Note: The African Center for Aquatic Research and Education (ACARE) has started this, mostly focused on science, with links to governance and education.

Goal: Build bridges to share data-driven knowledge across disciplines and geographic silos to accelerate water policy and action. Thank you, Stephanie:
stephanie@zephyrmangata.com

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 10:25 AM

We need to devote more time to interventions. The fact that many of us signed up to speak in advance, prepared remarks, and were not given the opportunity is emblematic of the problem.

from Engineering Without Borders - Míriam Planas to Everyone: 10:25 AM

Financial assistance for communities mentioned would be key issue to be able to hear their voices and let them participate.

from Dinesh Suna to Everyone: 10:25 AM

almost every second person spoke about human right to water. and yet its not reflecting in the thematic roundtables /discussions.

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 10:25 AM

Exactly @Dinesh Suna

from ONGAWA to Everyone: 10:26 AM

a question: how can we ensure that the reflections and proposals put forward by civil society are somehow taken into account at the 2023 Conference, and that it is no more than a series of debates that come to nothing?

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 10:26 AM

One person even made a point about Public-Public Partnerships, said it multiple times and it was paraphrased as "Public-Private partnerships" and "Partnerships"

from Ambassador Dr. Muhammad Shahid Amin Khan to Everyone: 10:26 AM

There must be more time for the voices of people to be part of the discussion to formulate the way for Water Summit with their contributions.

from Dr Businge Phelix Mbabazi- Kabale University to Everyone: 10:27 AM

We need public Private and academia partnership actually .

from Engineering Without Borders - Míriam Planas to Everyone: 10:27 AM

not in the govern of water.

from Elisabeth Lictevout IGRAC to Everyone: 10:28 AM

How to engage local authorities and institutions in water governance?

from Nilay Dogulu researcher/consultant to Everyone: 10:28 AM

like the gamechanger "unifying the governance of national service providers acting at the governmental level" - yes, revolution HURTS; birth doesn't happen without pain.

from Ambassador Dr. Muhammad Shahid Amin Khan to Everyone: 10:29 AM

The governments must be held accountable for not having the good governance and using the resources to provide the basic human rights like clean water and sensitization to own people.

from Yunxiao Long-DESA to Everyone: 10:29 AM

Thank you all for joining!

from Yunxiao Long-DESA to Everyone: 10:29 AM

Thank you all for joining!

from Yunxiao Long-DESA to Everyone: 10:29 AM

We will also close the online meeting now

from Elisabeth Lictevout IGRAC to Everyone: 10:29 AM

To bring water on the political agenda by showing impact evidences

from Melvin van der Veen to Everyone: 10:29 AM

We should agree on the starting point: is water a common pool resource, a human right? If so, it should be governed communally or democratically, safeguarding the rights of all people and specifcally respecting those most marginalised by society

from Ahmed Tiamiyu to Everyone: 10:29 AM

Partnership is at the centre of sustainable water for all and planet

from Chris Wilke to Everyone: 10:29 AM

How do we best assure that we are allowed to speak in the future?

from Lars Skov Andersen to Everyone: 10:29 AM

WE need to shift from talk to walk.

from Nilay Dogulu researcher/consultant to Everyone: 10:30 AM

thanks for the opportunity!) best wishes for the upcoming roundtable discussions!!! ***