

on behalf of AQUAFED - The International Federation of Private Water Operators

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- AquaFed echoes the statements by the UNOSG/UNDESA in the opening session underlining the contributions to the 2023 Questionnaire: we understand these will be taken forward to be included in the preparations and hope they will be repeated to country delegations on October 25.
- AquaFed seconds the statements made this morning that water issues are governance issues in the first place. Money is available, technology is available.
- Under governance, we spot transparency and accountability. Also regulations: Independent regulation and regulatory bodies, free of political control, are mechanisms that we know can be very effective. Also, Information is a public good and people must be given information about their public water and sanitation services: price, costs, performance against KPIs.
- About the room for PPPs, we have several points to make:
  - Freedom of local organisation of water services is the precondition for accountability of public-decision-makers.
  - This freedom is a precondition for innovation and game-changing: imposing a single model runs against the necessary diversity which allows new solutions.
  - Strong governance is absolutely necessary for no one to lose sight of the targets, transparency and equity requirements, and this applies regardless of the nature, public or private, of the operator.
- About what PPPs are exactly, they must be understood as Public Service contracts where the public authority remains in charge:
  - PPPs ensure a clear separation between decision roles on the one hand, by the public authority, and execution duties on the other hand, handled by the operator for the duration of the contract.
  - They are based on transparent KPIs on all Human Rights criteria, and earmarked budget allocations. There are clear enforceable contracts and there is abundant proof that operations can return in public hands.
  - Governments have drastically evolved the tender specifications, to respond to challenges of governance (thus separation of decision roles and operators roles, transparency and accountability, public participation), social protection (including specific measures to the poorest), and environmental challenges.
- PPPs today play a marginal role in water supply and sanitation: less than 10% of the world population. There is room to use it more effectively as innovation means, which also opens a wider door to private / blended finance
- We have heard that POLITICAL WILL is the number 1 game changer: Strong political will, governance and transparency are fundamentals at the root of water and sanitation development, regardless of whether the operator is public or private.