

**Theme: Capacity Development**  
**Getting ahead of drought and water scarcity: Capacity and capabilities from risk to resilience**

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- Global Water Partnership, WMO, FAO, IUCN, CGIAR/IWMI, NDMC, UN CCD, CDB, World Bank, UNDRR, UNESCO, US NOAA, Spain and others.

**Statement:**

Droughts have fast and slow dynamics including systemic globally-networked risks that drive regional and local imbalances in water, energy, food, health, and ecosystems. Usually overlooked communities (the poor, women, youth) are on the front line, and are central for realizing the co-benefits of increased drought resilience. We advocate for attention to proactive drought risk management as key in moving towards climate-resilient ecosystems and societies, and a water secure world. Over 70 countries have developed risk management plans, since the first High-level Ministerial meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP 2013), but more needs to be done. Two key entry points for capacity development to support implementation are: (1) governance and policy, and, (2) science-based information systems, that pivot away from reactive approaches.

For (1), the forthcoming International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA), a collaborative platform, aims to catalyze political momentum, policy coherence, and action for countries, cities, and communities. For advancing (2), the HMNDP+10 – “From Policy to Action”, will convene in late 2023 to further guide transitions to implementing proactive risk assessment and management. Through the HMNDP+10 and the IDRA, UN Water 2023 can advance an architecture toward the capacity development for adaptive risk governance in drought and water scarcity to:

- **Support the establishment of a global mechanism for drought and water management and financing** focused on systemic risks and opportunities
- **Develop national drought resilience partnerships and regional collaborative networks** ensuring seamless links with public, private and civil society partners at local levels down to and up from the last mile
- **Advance transdisciplinary capabilities.** Focus on capabilities, engaging women, youth, and indigenous peoples, in developing a new cadre, beyond using technical tools, in transdisciplinary training that facilitate integration between affected communities, knowledge, and practice.
- **Develop and communicate ongoing assessments on global, regional and national water security**