



# INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

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## 24th – Governance – Stakeholder Intervention – IWRA

The water sector has long operated in silos, with collaboration and information-sharing the exception rather than the norm. Several silos can be easily identified, such as policy-makers, scientists, academics, the public sector and the private sector, each with its own language. Yet just as water does not recognize or respect political boundaries, it also does not recognize or respect human-constructed silos. Finding solutions to the urgent and growing issues concerning freshwater quality and quantity and achieving the SDGs requires a multidisciplinary approach to governance structures that will use a common language and include input from the full spectrum of water-focused specialties.

Through webinars, conferences and the World Water Congress, Women for Water and the International Water Resources Association form a bridge between science and policy, bringing science to policymakers and policy to scientists. However, science and policy are not the only silos that must be merged — as we have already heard here that are many other constituencies that must be allowed to contribute their valuable inputs. Governance regimes that successfully preserve and protect our most vital resource must take input from all stakeholders whose activities involve water, no matter what their disciplines might be, and governance regimes must use language that is understood by all. Those charged with designing rules to govern the varied uses of freshwater must consider and include concepts and practices spanning a wide range of interests and needs, so that no one is left behind.

**Renée Martin-Nagle, JD, LLM, PhD**  
International Water Resources Association  
A Ripple Effect pllc