

The Millennials Movement Written Statement
"Stakeholder consultation on the preparation of the United Nations Conference on the
Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the
International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018–2028"
October 24th, 2022

Governance Round table

From the The Millennials Movement, we salute the efforts of the United Nations and Member States for positioning the Water Agenda conversation and action in this critical moment for humanity and the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, we forward the following recommendations on the frame of the Governance Round Table:

- The establishment of a formal mechanism that facilitates the participation of youth and other stakeholders in processes linked to the discussion of water policies is pivotal to ensure a proper participation process, ensuring people voices and stakeholders priorities and change maker ideas are considered in the response to the water problematic .
- Youth participation needs to be supported, respecting their autonomy and ensuring safe spaces to engage as well as the needed resources to allow their participation through the water conference process, the path of the Water Decade and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development revision process.
- Rising population, economic growth, and climate change increases pressure on water sources. In order to secure a more predictable future, and to ensure water security and resilience, water institutions must become more effective and adaptive. Having programmes to strengthen institutional capacity in the key government water institutions in developing countries should be a priority given their exposure to climate change and vulnerable population. In addition, regional exchanges on water governance knowledge should be encouraged and be open for additional collaborating partners as civil society, private sector, academic partners, among others.
- The UN can play a catalytic role in generating networks in which water is a priority issue., especially younger generations, helping them to develop their capacities to support the efforts for the advancement of the Water Agenda.
- There must be a review of the economic, social and environmental valuation of water. We must consider that this must be done in such a way that the most vulnerable populations are not once again affected.
- The role of young women and girls in the water sector needs to be addressed and recognized. Countries have to reorient policies, plans, programmes and strategies towards their full participation and opportunities in water governance. This is fundamental considering that the level of influence that water-related policies have on poverty reduction is considerable, as a result it is necessary to include gender aspects in order to avoid increasing existing inequalities.

