



Organization:

The Light Millennium, Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization
(LMGlobal.Org, 2001, New York)

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Subject: UN 2023 Water Conference, “Preparatory Session” | Intervention by LMGlobal.Org - 25th of October, 2022

Key points:

In the 21st Century, we cannot govern our water resources with the governance structure of the 19th Century.

- We cannot continue management in sectoral silos.
- It is time to abandon business as usual, and time to abandon gradual change.
- Time for full engagement of all stakeholders and full collaboration across sectors, disciplines and boundaries."

We strongly support the proposals put forward by Water Policy Group in the **Governance Session** on October 24, and endorsed by the U.K. in the preparatory session on October 25, summarized below:

1. Listening to national water leaders

Water Policy Group offers to support the United Nations 2023 Water Conference by drawing on the collective experience and perspective of Ministers and national water leaders on:

- the benefits of platforms, like the proposed Water Action Agenda;
- how multilateral processes can help with achieving better water outcomes at the national level (**relevant to ID theme 5**), with a particular focus on science-policy interfaces and a global-level science initiative;
- alignment between them and ministers responsible for other sectors on how good water outcomes contribute to their public policy objectives, revealing their perception of the reasons for any misalignment (relevant to ID themes **1-4**); and
- risks and challenges that impact on their work.

2. Mainstreaming water into sectoral UN conferences

Member states of the UN, through the UNGA move to authorize that all sectoral conferences of the UN include in their agendas an item about how improved water outcomes can contribute to their sectoral objectives and also how they can contribute to improved water outcomes. This would ensure cross-sectoral engagement on UN platforms with positive trickle-down effects on regional and national levels.

3. Policy scaffolding support for low-income nations

The global community must assist those countries that have the most to do to get on track for achieving their water related goals. In many countries the challenge lies at the policy level, with choices being made everywhere, every sector about how water resources are allocated, water use and quality are regulated and water services are funded. Policy scaffolding will entail preparation of a comprehensive set of basic policy principles and strategies by the multilateral system, and making it accessible, based on successful experiences globally to support Ministers in their advocacy for, and action towards, necessary water reform within their governmental processes.