

On behalf of,
the **Wavemakers United Community**, and
all participants of the **UN2023 Gamechanger Challenge**

we are working together towards the UN2023 Water Conference, co-hosted by the Kingdom of The Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan. To represent the voice of youth we attended the Preparatory Meeting at the UN Headquarters towards this Conference. Together with IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management we organize the UN2023 Gamechanger Challenge. **The UN2023 Gamechanger Challenge activates students to develop locally sourced gamechangers for global water challenges.**

The community of students, young professionals, and athletes commit to contribute to a Conference that creates sustainable impact. Our athlete ambassadors show us that with dedication and an olympic mentality a team can achieve anything. We have learned that this method of "collaboration through competition" connects us to local communities that are hard to reach. Local communities that are outside the current Water Bubble, and the impact of local governments. Our Community and all participants to the Challenge will organize guest-lectures for local communities about water and sustainability. Globally, we run campaigns to promote the value of water through positive energy. Along the way we collaborate with youth networks, local sustainable initiatives and stakeholders to the Conference. **Local communities need and deserve the tools to develop the capacity to create a climate resilient future.**

Next to water we identify two actors of importance in achieving all SDGs: youth and cooperation. Our Challenge is organized with this clearly envisioned. It is designed in collaboration with the World Youth Parliament for Water, Central Asian Youth 4 Water, the International Water Association, UN1FY, and alumni of the Young Experts Program and IHE Delft. These networks with a passion for water had one common message: this Challenge has to be about local communities. We need to learn from nature-based water solutions from indigenous peoples. We need to educate youth in townships who can inspire their parents, friends and neighbors to become more water-aware. We need to listen to concerns and challenges of local communities before we can solve them. **To develop solutions to global water challenges we have to put the knowledge and experiences of local communities and indigenous peoples at the centre of everything we do.**



To organize a meaningful Conference it is essential that above-mentioned actors are represented in every interactive dialogue, roundtable or plenary session. Bold ambition, concrete commitments and scalable solutions are needed to tackle our common global water challenges. The proactive and meaningful involvement of youth in this is a prerequisite for success. We hope that Member States and all stakeholders join us in making the statement of Keziah Gerosano (UN1FY) during the Preparatory Meeting a reality: **allow youth to be partners for change.**

Although **the UN 2023 Water Conference is a watershed moment for the world, real change will need more positive energy in the years to come.** With this positive energy we need to focus on communities and minorities that feel the impact of climate change even more. We commit to ensure that women, indigenous, and youth without access to any form of education are included in the climate transition. We need to make sure that these communities are included in the sustainable development of our societies towards 2030, 2040, 2050 and beyond.

We feel that this Conference can be the fly-wheel of an international community of talent that contributes to the sustainable development of water, energy and food. We will collect all locally sourced innovative ideas to global water challenges. We need everyone, in- and outside the Water Bubble, to ensure that these innovations become a reality in the future. **The true Gamechanger for a climate resilient future is sustainable collaboration.**

Join us, and let's make sure that the UN 2023 Water Conference creates a **wave of impact.**

On behalf of our Community and all participants,

Tilly Stroo-Smit
Founder & Managing Director Wavemakers United

