

Promoting Water Culture through Learning & Action

High-Level event in the framework of the UN Water Conference 2023

People/Planet-001

29 November 2022

New York, USA

Background

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 aims to set a roadmap and timeline towards ensuring Water Security for All. This Conference is comprised of five interactive dialogues². They will serve as the basis for the discussions in the Conference and they consist of game changing ideas proposed by stakeholders worldwide³.

Aligned with the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, the game changing ideas are catalyzed through discussions on Capacity Development, Innovation, Data and Information, Financing and Governance. The need of a "Global network of education and capacity building on water" was highlighted as a Capacity Development game changing idea, which aligns with United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) mandate of providing training and capacity building on development-related issues worldwide. Therefore, UNITAR sees a space to participate in the discussions around this need and proposes a side event called "Promoting Water Culture through Learning & Action".

Overall Goal

The overall goal of the "Promoting Water Culture through Learning & Action" side event is to mobilize support and expertise to deliver innovative training and build human capacities on pressing water related issues at a large scale. For this, UNITAR will gather current partners from the academia and private sector that are experts or have practical experience on water-related issues.

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¹ Ref. General Assembly Resolution 75/212 of 21 December 2020.

² The five interactive dialogues are: Water for Health; Water for Sustainable Development; Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment; Water for Cooperation; Water Action Decade.

³ Stakeholder UN 2023 Water Consultation held 24 October 2022, Preparatory Meeting for the for the UN 2023 Water Conference held 25 October 2022.

Objectives

- Promote learning and knowledge exchange by mobilizing UNITAR partners from academia and private sector that have the expertise and/or the practical experience on pressing water related issues.
- Generating practical ideas that could fit into and contribute to the roadmap of the Conference.
- Foster collaboration and replication of initiatives by mapping practices and initiatives these partners could collaborate together based on their expertise, i.e., water management, indigenous knowledge, amongst others.
- Identifying the channels through which training and learning can be disseminated at a larger scale.

Outputs

- Inventory of initiatives and practices undertaken by the participating partners from the private sector and academia
- Draft of a route for delivering training and human capacity building on pressing water related issues. Scope of these key issues will be undertaken with private sector and academic institutions representatives in advance of the session.
- Working plan with initial actions and commitments from participating partners.

Expected outcomes

The side event will bring together Executives from the private sector and presidents of academic institutions which will spur a long-lasting collaboration between these stakeholders. Outcomes from this collaboration include strengthening public-private partnerships (in accordance with SDG 17) and equipping beneficiaries of the training and capacity building activities with skills and knowledge around water management (in accordance with SDG 6).

Activities and format

The "Promoting a Water Culture through Learning & Action" side event will consist of 90 minutes, and it will follow the format of a Roundtable. These dialogues will be recorded and summarized through minutes.

The side event will be convened by Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director of UNITAR, hosted by a News Anchor with the participation of CEOs of private companies and presidents of academic institutions.

Indicators of Achievements

Indicators of achievements include:

- Number of participants reached through learning activities
- Number of learning events as per working plan
- Geographical scale of learning activities (representation worldwide)
- Number of certifications provided to learners
- Type and depth of public-private collaboration

