



**UN**  
**2023 WATER**  
**CONFERENCE**

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

## Special Event

**Date:** Friday, 24 March 2023  
**Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM EST

### **Water Leadership: Uniting for a sustainable world**

Co-organised by MGCY, WMG, ISW, Water Youth Network, UNIFY, IWA, Global Water Partnership, World Youth Parliament for Water, Water and Climate Coalition, Wavemakers United, Sanitation and Water for All, OHCHR, UN Special Rapporteur (Rights to Water and Sanitation), UCLG

#### **Background**

The UN 2023 Water Conference has the potential to become a watershed moment in accelerating the global efforts towards the protection and promotion of the rights to safe water and sanitation, a water secure world and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water. However, this can only happen if all groups are directly and actively involved in the preparatory process and have a prominent role in the Conference's agenda. This includes often underrepresented rights-holders, in particular youth, women, local authorities, indigenous peoples, discriminated and marginalized communities, and human rights defenders. Engagement with underrepresented groups in the water sector is critical to achieving the ambitious targets of universal access to safe water and sanitation.

The UN 2023 Conference on Water presents a unique opportunity for underrepresented groups to engage directly in the process. For meaningful participation to move beyond proclamations for engagement and become reality, the conference must actively find ways to integrate these groups in the conference proceedings and connect with decision makers thereafter.

#### **Objectives**

This event aims to contribute to the Water Action Agenda by:

- Inspiring action and bold policies for a water-secure world for all
- Resulting in a concrete list of commitments related to each underrepresented group (youth, women, local authorities, Indigenous Peoples) to support the Water Action Agenda
- Identifying inclusive leadership mechanisms for the implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, of the commitments taken within the Water Action Agenda



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- Recognizing the need to expand financing mechanisms with strong accountability mechanisms, especially, federal and state funding in educational initiatives, competitive grant programs, development programs and other innovative training programs for youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples.

We are aiming to target as broad and diverse an audience as possible in terms of ensuring representation from across different sectors, generations and geographies. This includes representatives of the private sector, multilateral/development banks, academia and civil society, among others. This also includes seeking representation from as many Member States as possible.

UN1FY will have representatives in New York prior to the conference, with the intention of lobbying Member States to secure participation in the Special Event.

### Key Messages

1. Water leaders are not only senior decision-makers, politicians and diplomats. Water leaders come from all generations, all sectors, all cultures, and all walks of life.
2. Any individual can take a leading role in driving impact and change in progressing towards SDG 6. Every action, just like every drop of water, has value.
3. Engagement with underrepresented groups in the water sector is critical to achieving the ambitious targets of universal access to safe water and sanitation.
4. For effective, inclusive and meaningful water leadership, from the ground up, enabling conditions should be prepared by the member states.

### Format

Time	Session
<b>Session 1 - What does Water Leadership look like?</b>	
5 min	Opening video / performance
20 mins	Profiles of Water Leaders
45 mins	Water Leadership Mini-debates (three 15-min debates)
10 mins	Videos / performance
<b>Session 2 - Holding Water Leaders Accountable</b>	
30 mins	Accountability for the Water Action Agenda - Part 1 Sharing and co-creation of commitments
15 mins	Accountability for the Water Action Agenda - Part 2 Audience discussion on key questions related to collaboration and partnership to support implementation of commitments
30 mins	Accountability for the Water Action Agenda - Part 3 Monitoring and evaluation with view towards progress roadmap for the Water Action Agenda





Session 3 - Beyond the 2023 Water Conference	
10 mins	Final video / performance
15 mins	Concluding remarks; building your 'water story'

## Outcomes

- A concrete list of commitments related to each underrepresented group (youth, women, local authorities, Indigenous Peoples) to support the Water Action Agenda
- Inclusive leadership mechanisms for the implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, of the commitments taken within the Water Action Agenda
- Increased recognition of the value that each generation, sector, gender, and culture, working together, contributes to ensuring a sustainable future.

## Contact

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## Organizing Partners

The following specially accredited organizations have confirmed their willingness to participate in and support delivery of this Special Event:

- Major Group for Children and Youth – Amy Syvrud, Martin Mawajje
- Women's Major Group – Sehnaz Kiyamaz Bahceci, Bette Levy, Maitree Muzumdar, Sascha Gabizon, Viva Tatawaqa, Noelene Nabulivou
- Sanitation and Water for All – Angie Saleh
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Harumi Fuentes, Rio Hada
- UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to water and sanitation – Bahram Ghazi, Sofia Campos
- United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), Local Authorities Major Group – Kader Makhoul, Jean-Baptiste Buffet
- Water Youth Network - Maitreyi Koduganti, Khoulood Ben Charfi, Amy Syvrud
- UN1FY / WMO - Keziah Gerosano & Jan Kairiel Guillermo
- International Secretariat for Water - Elysa Vaillancourt
- International Water Association - Isabela Espindola
- Global Water Partnership - Rianna Gonzales, Lesley Pories, Raunak Shreshta
- World Youth Parliament for Water - Carolina MacKinnon
- Aither Pty Ltd - Amy Syvrud
- Water and Climate Coalition - (Leader) Lindsey Blodgett
- Wavemakers United - Gijs van Nes
- YOUNGO – UNFCCC – Elizabeth Gulugulu/ Bhumi Sharma
- FAO – Virginie Gillet

