



WOMEN 4 OUR WATER

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From Portuguese speaking countries to the world

*Declaration*

MARCH 2023

In the context of the United Nations Water Conference and as part of the "Women 4OUR Climate" Movement, the Network and Declaration "Women 4OUR WATER - from Portuguese speaking countries to the World" is born. The aim is to disseminate and highlight the role of Portuguese-speaking women in their relationship with water and the daily action and commitment they put into its preservation, protection, access, management and efficient use and regeneration, actively contributing to each of the five interactive dialogues under discussion.

Through Business as Nature and its partners, the "Women 4 OUR WATER Declaration" triggers the structuring of a Portuguese-speaking Women's Network, either resident in their countries or in the diaspora, which aims to aggregate good practices and connect women with intervention in the field of water.

This network will contribute to the approach of practical perspectives on Gender Issues in the Water Sector and leverage the interconnections between "SDG6 - Drinking Water and Sanitation" and Goals for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular "SDG 5 Gender Equality", "SDG 13 Climate Action" and "SDG 17 - Partnerships for Goal Implementation".

### DECLARATION

Business as Nature and its partners and subscribers declare that they will make their best efforts to fulfil their commitment to:

- Highlight and disseminate initiatives promoted by women from the community of Portuguese-speaking countries, which demonstrate their role as "agents of change" and "influencers": in science, activism, entrepreneurship, in the field of Water and Sanitation, promoting its circularity and efficiency, combating scarcity and degradation of the quality of water environments.
- Contribute to the implementation of initiatives for equitable access to safe drinking water and decent sanitation, with the involvement and focus on women and girls, particularly those from rural communities in designing the solutions, promoting their health, safety and well-being, contributing to their education and dignity;
- Promote the participation and active involvement of young people, in particular girls, by carrying out training actions and raising their awareness on the importance of the

protection and conservation of water resources and aquatic and riparian ecosystems and the efficient use of water;

- Facilitate the empowerment of women and girls, contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the accelerated implementation of the Decade of Action for Water by creating and actively participating in a mentoring network that helps women assume roles of greater responsibility and impact in their organizations and countries, fundamental to bring the necessary change and connection between water, human rights and climate action;
- To contribute to the development and implementation of knowledge and solutions and the creation of water supply and sanitation infrastructures in urban and rural areas, actively involving women, in the Water – Energy Food - Climate Nexus, promoting the approach and discussion of the efficiency of water use and its inextricable link to the energy and food issue, climate change mitigation, territorial resilience, combating drought and desertification and adaptation to extreme climate phenomena, the reduction of surface and underground water pollution, to improve the quality of life of the populations and the preservation of the marine environment.
- Actively encourage and promote the increased participation of women in decision-making, governance and development of solutions on water, contributing to increase the efficiency and sustainability of water management processes and to female empowerment and capacity building;
- Promote, disseminate and support actions linked to Artivism in the field of water, highlighting the pillar of culture in sustainable development and promoting social involvement;
- Contribute to the communication and dissemination of simple, accessible and accurate information on the SDGs related to water and to the creation of transnational cooperation networks, in joining forces, to access and share knowledge, experiences and good practices of women for water, promoting partnerships and catalyzing the implementation of concrete actions developed by women and for women, including synergies with other women’s cooperation networks and movements in the areas of sustainability, energy and climate action that exist in Portuguese-speaking countries, promoting the exchange of learning and strengthening their action.