

UN 2023 Water Conference

Interactive Dialogue

**Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the
Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and
Sanitation (SDG 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 17)**

22 March 2023, 10:00 - 13:00 EDT | Conference Room 4 UNHQ, New York



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Co-chairs

Co-chair: H.E. Mr. Miguel Ceara Hatton, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Dominican Republic

Mr. Hatton is an economist, with areas of professional interest in Macroeconomics, Economic Development, Economic Theory, Economic and Social Public Policies and International Politics. He was a researcher at the Center for Economic and Social Studies "José Luis Alemán" of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM), high house of studies, where he has been a professor since 2011. His main area of research has been Dominican economic development. Mr. Hatton was the national coordinator of the Human Development Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), between September 2003 and June 2011, being responsible for preparing and socializing the National Human Development Report.



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Co-chair: **The Rt. Hon. Lord Zac Goldsmith of Richmond Park, Minister for Overseas Territories, Commonwealth, Energy, Climate and Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom**

Lord Goldsmith is the UK's Minister of State for the Overseas Territories, Commonwealth, Energy, Climate and Environment and has held several roles in government. From an early age, he's **championed environmental and conservation issues**, and was editor of the Ecologist magazine for several years prior to joining government.



Moderator

Moderator: Ms. Catherine Russell, Executive Director of UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Ms. Catherine Russell serves as UNICEF's 8th Executive Director, overseeing the organization's work for children in over 190 countries and territories. From 2020 to 2022, Ms. Russell served under President Joe Biden as Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. She previously served from 2013 to 2017 as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State.



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Panelists

Keynote: H.E. Ms. Abida Sidik Mia, Minister of Water and Sanitation of Malawi



Honourable Abida Sidik Mia is a Minister of Water and Sanitation for Malawi. Prior to this position, she was a Deputy Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. Honourable Mia is also a Member of Parliament for Nkombezi Constituency in Chikwawa District. She has been an MP for the Constituency since 2019. As an individual, Honourable Mia is an Philanthropist, involved in drought relief programmes, flood victims assistance, building school blocks, supporting the underprivileged women and girls to access medical care, funeral financial assistance, providing skill development courses like tailoring for young men and women to uplift them out of poverty.

Panelist: Mr. Vikas Sheel, Assistant Vice-Minister/Additional Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, India

Shri Vikas Sheel is currently serving as Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the flagship programme of Government, that aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to every rural household of the country, in sufficient quantity, prescribed quality and on a regular basis. Prior to this, he also served as **Mission Director of the National Health Mission** in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, leading therein various National Health programmes, including Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centers and programmes for control and elimination of communicable and non-communicable diseases.



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Panelist: Mr. Filippo Grandi - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Mr. Filippo Grandi is the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He was first elected by the UN General Assembly on 1 January 2016 for a five-year term. The General Assembly has twice re-elected him to serve, and he will now complete his term on 31 December 2025. He has been engaged in refugee and humanitarian work for more than 30 years. From 2010 to 2014, he served as Commissioner-General of UNRWA, the UN Agency for Palestine refugees, having previously been its Deputy Commissioner-General since 2005.



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Panelist: Mr. Jagan Chapagain - Secretary-General of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



Mr. Jagan Chapagain is the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary General of the IFRC. He was appointed by the IFRC Governing Board in February 2020 and is based in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Chapagain has extensive experience in, and broad knowledge of, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Prior to being appointed Secretary General, he served as Under Secretary General for Programmes and Operations and guided our relief and development efforts around the world.

Lead Discussants

Lead Discussant: Ms. Boluwatito Awe, President of the Nigerian Youth Parliament for Water

Ms. Boluwatito Awe is the President of the Nigerian Youth Parliament for Water. She works with communities to address social development issues through behaviour change communication; with a special focus on WASH, Menstrual Health and Hygiene, Equity and Non-discrimination.



Lead Discussant: Ms. Andrea Carmen, Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council



Ms. Andrea Carmen, Yaqui Nation, began her work with the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) as a student intern in 1976, has been a staff member since 1983 and became its Executive Director in 1992. She was IITC's team leader for work on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and has many years' experience as a human rights trainer and observer around the world.



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Lead Discussant: Ms. Maria Neira, Assistant Director General, World Health Organization (WHO)

Ms. Maria Neira is assistant Director-General of Universal Health Coverage/Healthier Populations at the World Health Organization (WHO). Between 2002 and 2005, she was Vice Minister of Health and Consumer Affairs in Spain and President of the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency. Before joining WHO, she obtained extensive field experience working for five years in Africa as Public Health Adviser in the Ministry of Health in Mozambique and in Kigali, Rwanda, where she served as UN Public Health Advisor/Physician for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



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Lead Discussant: Ms. Eva Muhia, Deputy President, Pan-African Association of Sanitation Actors



Ms. Eva Muhia is president of Global Sanitation and Environmental Services (GSES), she is leading a four-pronged strategy targeting innovation, strategic partnership, advocacy, and services. Her team serves close to 60% of housing units in Metropolitan Nairobi, an area with a fecal discharge of 3,520,000 litres daily. They provide on-demand service, typically servicing orders via cell phone.



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Lead Discussant: H.E. Ms. Laura Chinchilla, Former President of Costa Rica and Sanitation and Water for All Global Leader



H.E. Ms. Laura Chinchilla Miranda was elected the first female President of the Republic of Costa Rica on February 7, 2010, for a constitutional term of four years.

Her election as President of the Republic of Costa Rica was preceded by a successful political career which began with her appointment as Minister of Public Security between 1996 and 1998, thus making her the first woman to hold that position. In 2006 she was elected Vice President of Costa Rica, assuming office as the Ministry of Justice at the same time. Finally, in 2010 she conquered the presidency of the country.



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