

UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogue

**Water for Sustainable Development:
Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and
Sustainable Economic and Urban Development
(SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12)**

22 March 2023, 15:00 - 18:00 EDT | Conference Room 4 UNHQ, New York



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Co-chairs

Co-chair: H.E. Mr. Li Guoying, Minister of Water Resources, People's Republic of China

Li Guoying, was born in December 1963. He was awarded a Doctor of Science degree. He is also a **professor level senior engineer**. From 1984 when Li has completed an undergraduate study in North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power, majoring in Water Conservancy and Hydropower Engineering Construction, he has held **various positions in the Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources, Xiaolangdi Project Construction and Management Bureau and Department of Water Resources of Heilongjiang Province**. From 2011 to 2015, Li served as the Vice Minister of Water Resources. From 2015 to Jan 2021, Li worked in Anhui Province, and has held positions as Vice Governor, Acting Governor and Governor of Anhui Province. In Feb 2021, Li was appointed as the Minister of Water Resources of China.



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Co-chair: **H.E. Ms. Dubravka Šuica, European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Union**

Since December 2019, Dubravka Šuica is Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Democracy and Demography. Mrs Šuica a Croatian politician from the city of Dubrovnik, where she served for two terms as its first female mayor and was awarded the 2006 World Mayor Award. Dubravka Šuica entered politics in the 1990s as a Member of the Croatian Democratic Union and served as a Member of the Croatian Parliament and Vice-Chair of the EU Integration Committee. Between 2004 and 2009 she was a Board Member of the Union of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Republic of Croatia. During ten years she was the Vice-President of Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. From 2013 to 2019 Dubravka Šuica served as a Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee. In June 2019, Šuica was elected as first Vice-Chair of EPP Group in the European Parliament. She is currently acting as Vice-President of EPP and Vice-President of EPP Women..



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Moderator

Moderator: Ms. Myrna Cunningham Kain, Indigenous Peoples Major Group on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

40+ years of experience in accompaniment, studies, facilitation and application of policies, strategies and programs based on approaches to the individual and collective human rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially in the fields of education, intercultural health, gender and intergenerational relations and indigenous self-government, multi-ethnic and development with identity- Good Living.

Member of the Miskitu indigenous people of the Waspam community, located on the banks of the Wangki River in Nicaragua, to which participated in the negotiations for the establishment of the autonomy regime for the Indigenous Peoples and ethnic communities of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua and throughout the last 35 years has accompanied the process of its implementation.



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Panelists

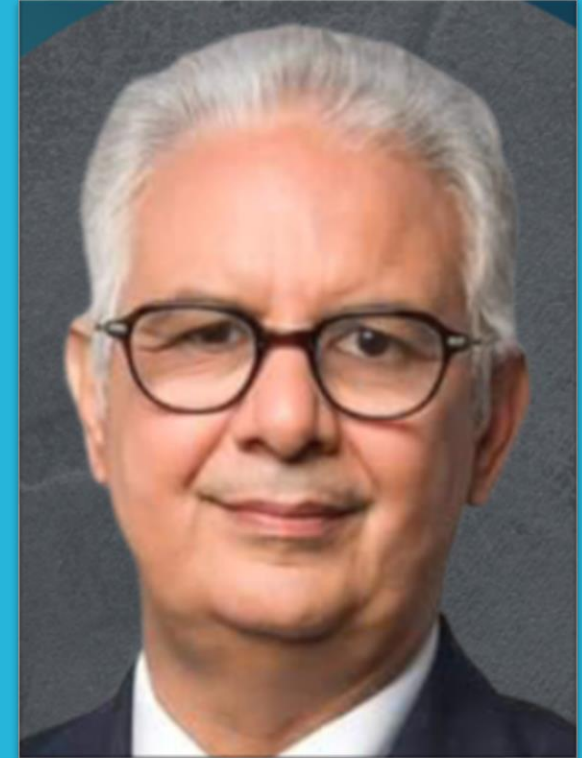
Keynote: H.E. Mr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh



H.E. Mr. Abul Kalam Abdul Momen is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. He was Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from August 2009 to October 2015. He won the 2018 Bangladeshi general election from Sylhet-1 constituency. In 2019, he was appointed as the minister of foreign affairs of the Government of Bangladesh.

Panelist: H.E. Mr. Nizar Baraka, Minister of Equipment and Water of Morocco

H.E. Mr. Nizar Baraka began his career with an experience in teaching at the Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences of the University Mohammed V, and at The National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics. He joined the **Ministry of Finance in 1996** and became Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister for Economic and General Affairs between 2007 and 2011; then **Minister of Economy and Finance** from January 2012 to July 2013 and **President** of The Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC), from August 2013 to December 2018.



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Panelist: **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, USG and Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif is the **Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**, appointed at the level of Under-Secretary-General by the Secretary-General, following an election by the General Assembly on 22 December 2017. On 22 January 2018, Ms. Sharif assumed her post at UN-Habitat's Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Sharif was the **Mayor of the City Council of Penang Island, Malaysia**. In 2011, she became the first woman to be appointed President of the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai.



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Panelist: Mr. Tālis Juhna, Vice-Rector for Research and Professor at Riga Technical University



Mr. Talis Juhna has more than 15 years' experience in science and innovation management both at the university and the national level. He has introduced the technology transfer strategy that allowed RTU to become an innovative university in the region. He has received Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering with a focus on water and wastewater biology and has established the Water and Biotechnology laboratory at RTU in 2002. He is the director of the study program in Biotechnology and Bioengineering. His research is focusing on the application of biotechnologies in drinking water, wastewater systems and renewable energy production. Juhna has received several awards including a full member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. He represents the expert group of engineering sciences at the Latvian Council of Science where he also serves as the Chairman of the Advisory Board. Juhna is involved in several research boards in industry-academia clusters including climate technologies, biotechnology, and material science. He is a board member of Riga Water Company and co-founder of a high-tech biotech start-up.



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Lead Discussants

Lead Discussant: Mr. Yong-deok Cho, Secretary-General at Asia Water Council

Dr. Yongdeok Cho has been dedicated himself to enhance water welfare of Asia and the Pacific, through settlement of the integrated water resources management, application of smart water technologies and innovation of water supply networks.

Dr. Cho holds Doctorate and Master's Degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Colorado State University, the United States. He has been serving at Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water), a premier public entity of the Republic of Korea responsible for the national water resources management, with his profound expertise in environmental assessment, water quality management and IWRM since 1996. During his career, Dr. Cho has been dedicating himself to facilitate global cooperation in the water sector in Asia and the globe, to address various water issues around the world. He was actively involved in the creation of an international water cooperation platform, Asia Water Council (AWC), which has now grown into the Asia's representative water cooperation network, representing 154 organizations (governments, international organizations, MDBs, industry, academia and NGOs) from 24 countries. Representing AWC as Secretary General, Dr. Cho has been actively involved in the field, contributing to improve common prosperity of humanity in Asia through developing tangible water solutions.

Recognizing the urgent need for action against the climate crisis, Dr. Cho is leading the way for AWC to become the leading global organization to contribute towards the global achievement of SDGs as well as actions to overcome the climate crisis in the water sector.



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Lead Discussant: Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of World Trade Organization (WTO)



Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala took office as WTO Director-General on 1 March 2021. She is a **global finance expert**, an economist and international development professional with over 30 years of experience working in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America. She was appointed as African Union (AU) Special Envoy to mobilize international financial support for the fight against COVID-19 and WHO Special Envoy for Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator.

Previously, Dr Okonjo-Iweala twice served as **Nigeria's Finance Minister** (2003-2006 and 2011-2015) and briefly acted as Foreign Minister in 2006, the first woman to hold both positions. She had a 25-year career at the **World Bank** as a development economist, rising to the No. 2 position of Managing Director, Operations.



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Lead Discussant: Ms. Dinara Ziganshina, Director of the Scientific Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia

Ms. Dinara Ziganshina is the Director of the Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC) in Central Asia. In addition to her position at SIC ICWC, she is an Associate Professor at the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers and the Vice Chair of the Implementation Committee under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.



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Lead Discussant: Mr. Abou Amani, Director for Water Sciences, Secretary of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, UNESCO



Mr Amani joined the IHP's Division of Water Sciences in January 2016 as the Chief of the Section on Hydrological Systems and Water Scarcity. In this position, based at the Paris Headquarters, he led and guided Section activities that provided Member States with improved knowledge, capacity, policy advice, methodologies and tools for addressing water related disasters, hydrological change and water scarcity challenges. From 2010 to 2015, he was based in IHP's Nairobi Regional office where he, as the Regional Hydrologist for Africa, was in charge of the implementation of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme in Sub-Saharan Africa, raising awareness of IHP in Africa and building strategic partnerships with key regional water stakeholders to provide support to African member states. Earlier positions include Officer in Charge at the UNESCO Nairobi office and the UNESCO Maputo office. He joined UNESCO in 2006 as Natural Sciences Programme Specialist at the UNESCO Office in Accra.



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