



SUBJ: NAYPW Written Intervention

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The North American Youth Parliament for Water–USA and North American Youth Parliament for Water–Canada, submit this intervention jointly:

Young and early-career people must have a seat at the table for the sake of the future functional management of water resources. As young people, we are future water managers, analysts, and leaders. A place at the table today prepares us for our roles in dealing with the water challenges of today and tomorrow. At the 2023 United Nations Water Conference, we call for the broader water community and decision-makers to meet our vision for the future we will be left by current decision-makers across the five interactive dialogues:

## Water for Health

- I. The health of future generations is reliant upon better integrative community planning. Removal of lead pipes, decommissioning of wells vulnerable to contamination, and identifying polluting activities and industries near water sources are critical.
- II. Communities need and deserve more transparency regarding policy decisions that allow the introduction of hazardous chemicals or materials to local water sources or water infrastructure. This must be led by policy and regulatory changes.

## Water for Sustainable Development

- I. Youth are the future water managers of the diverse communities that need these interventions and infrastructure projects. Job training and employer market openness to the coming wave of water managers will ensure that today's water projects are managed for our future.
- II. Future efforts for water projects should focus on delivering multifaceted benefits that meet the needs of diverse interest groups and local communities. Gone should be the days when only a limited number or type of experts are consulted when planning water development projects. In North America, we have experience with how short-sighted such an approach is in the Columbia and Colorado River Basins.

## Water for Cooperation

- I. Youth can unite across borders and jurisdictions easily due to our fluency in technology and communication platforms. NAYPW has already developed programs, progress, and resources to demonstrate this reality. This includes our [Young Professionals Blue Peace Whitepaper Program](#), the [Youth Act! Blue Peace Toolkit](#), and [Drops of Change](#) series.
- II. In North America, making changes for the good of water can be a vector for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous youth and demand more resources be made available for indigenous youth to access healthy waters and support water-related activities.



## Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment

- I. Solutions to today's water challenges need to recognize a broader set of tools and sources of knowledge to prevent repeating past mistakes. Low-impact development and nature-based solutions, local perspectives, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge should be pursued to help us meet our challenges of today and tomorrow.
- II. Freshwater biodiversity loss has created, and continues to further exacerbate inter-generational inequity as current youth and future generations are deprived of the right to know species central to recreational, social, cultural and spiritual practices. We must reduce inter-generational inequity through using nature-based solutions to protect and restore freshwater biodiversity, particularly of species with high cultural and spiritual value.

## Water Action Decade

- I. Commitments to action from established stakeholder groups for the remainder of the Water Action Decade need to exceed the timeline of 2030 - we call for an inter-generational scale of planning and delivery of improvements to water management for future generations.
- II. Refine current international open access data and mapping programs for water and environmental data so that local governments, NGOs, CSOs, Indigenous governments, special-interest groups, and others, have greater access.
- III. As young people of North America's two richest countries, we encourage our governments to prioritize water at the national level and lead by making ambitious transformative pledges to the Water Action Agenda. The young water leaders of Canada and the United States are ready to support you with action on the ground.

The October 2022 Preparatory Meeting for this Conference pleaded for “game changing” ideas for the water sector to improve our shared water future, but both then and now, space is prioritized for the traditional interest groups who have been managing water and influencing water policy for decades. Why not bring in some new faces with new solutions, instead of solely relying on past voices and perspectives?