



UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Enhancing collaborative efforts toward knowledge and innovation for action in
the water-climate nexus – HQ 141

24 March 2023, 08:00 - 09:15 (EST), Conference Room 4

Organized by: UNFCCC Secretariat, WMO and GCF

TWO PAGE MAXIMUM

Background on the event (one paragraph)

[This event](#) was aimed at spotlighting UNFCCC's action pledge and highlighting the role of potential collaboration with GCF and WMO (as initial partners) and other relevant communities of practice.

Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the [Water Action Agenda database](#))

Following up on the recent international momentum on water including at 27th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UNFCCC secretariat has established an action pledge under its Knowledge-to-Action Hub for adaptation and resilience – the Nairobi Work Programme.

This action pledge is intended to facilitate synergistic collaboration with the UN system and with relevant communities of practice outside the UN.

Hinged on 3 major pillars – Knowledge, Innovation, and Action (KIA), the action pledge is aimed at building new types of partnerships, to bridge knowledge gaps and collectively accelerate water-climate adaptation action through:

1. *Catalyzing and strengthening communities of practice to address knowledge gaps.*
2. *Unlocking innovation.*
3. *Scaling up action to address the nexus of water–climate challenges in developing countries.*

Note: The commitment will be submitted in due course and will be available [here](#).

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The persistent needs and gaps in knowledge, innovation, and scaling up action to address water-climate challenges
- The need to utilize diverse knowledge systems, including that of local communities and indigenous peoples, to catalyze innovation and eventually scale up action
- The channels that can be leveraged to realize the ambition of the UNFCCC action pledge
- Concrete entry points of collaboration between the different institutions and/or communities of practice – GCF, WMO, GWP, UNESCO, World Bank and the Indigenous Peoples as well as their networks.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Critical need to deepen countries' engagement for knowledge to action, including customizing knowledge with local contexts
- Need to leverage the water climate nexus as a key to provide the necessary evidence to policy makers and strengthen the partnership
- Need to utilize water management not only for adaptation but also for mitigation efforts while considering co-benefits in the ecosystem and socio-economic growth
- Too many projects but few financially sustainable projects. Grant-based approach, equity and bonds for the future were recommended
- Need to have a new perspective on water – not just as resource but as an asset
- Need to integrate existing knowledge platforms as there are many existing tools, toolboxes, and knowledge, which overlap.
- Need to subsequently propose an actionable framework of collaboration with the UNFCCC to realize the action pledge. Indeed, the framework is being finalized and will be available [here](#).