



UN
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CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Inclusive Science for Water Security

Friday 24 March 2023, 15:30 – 16:45, Trusteeship / UN Headquarters

Organized by: Ministries of Public Works (Chile) and Ecological Transition (France), National Water Agency-ANA (Brazil), UNESCO – IHP, IHE Delft, Research programmes OneWater and Water4All

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The role of research and innovation on one hand, and of capacity building and education on the other, in achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, is becoming more and more important to provide Member States alternatives of accelerated tools and pathways solution-oriented for sound water management. This has been highlighted at several Fora, Summits and UN Strategic programmes (World Water Fora - Brasilia, Mars 2018, Dakar in March 2022, UN Groundwater Summit, Paris in December 2022, and UNESCO International Hydrological Programme). All countries face almost the same challenges in relation to water security and none has the resources to solve all the problems identified and to finance the research, innovation and implementation programmes for accelerating the transition agenda. Therefore, a main challenge for governments is to make sure that scientific results strengthen knowledge systems and enable water stakeholders to implement innovative solutions that respond to the real problems of communities and territories. For accelerating the UN SDG's achievements, transferring existing innovation and knowledge, in particular identified solutions, can make a real difference, which could be easily amplified by increasing uptake of upcoming results by policy-makers, local governments or operators, demonstrations and replication projects, economical actors, and enlarged access to research data and knowledge.

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

Commitments done by different partners:

- Chile, Ministry of Public Works (MOP) - <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/strengthening-chiles-hydrological-and-hydrogeological-network-including-measurement> -
- The 9th UNESCO-IHP Programme - <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381318>
- OneWater Programme Commitment – <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/onewater-eau-bien-commun>

- IHE Delft - <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/strengthen-regional-training-centers-and-networks-training-centers>
- Water4All [Water Security for the Planet \(water4all-partnership.eu\)](https://water4all-partnership.eu)
- **European Commission / Directorate General Research and Innovation:** The EU and its Member States commit to invest around € 1.3 billion in R&I to address water issues, including partnership and Missions on Ocean, soil and Climate change adaptation. This funding is also available for international cooperation projects, allowing to contribute to the Joint Water Action Agenda - <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/european-union-commitments-enhancing-water-research-and-innovation>)

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Joint efforts for innovative funding and financing schemes for the development of knowledge and solutions (more actions on solutions);
- Increase the level of existing knowledge and innovation uptake by policy-makers, local governments or operators, demonstrations and replication projects, economical actors;
- Support for open science and data as a driver of innovative solutions and of water actors (public, private) and citizens engagement;
- Involve young people and citizens in research and development related to water and the environment and in the implementation of more solution-focused initiatives; and
- Consider equity and inclusivity at its core for being mindful of social, economic and environmental impacts.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Building effective interfaces between scientific research, public policy, economic actors and societal needs is essential for fostering sustainable and resilient communities, through citizen science.
- Investing in capacity building for the next generation of scientists and citizens is crucial for ensuring that we have the skills and knowledge needed to tackle complex global challenges. This includes expanding international partnerships and expanding capacity for the transfer of knowledge through many sectors. It also includes shifting the value and expectations of scientific contributions, where the scientific work of young people should be given the same importance as anyone in the sector. Youth representatives should be treated as peers, because young people can easily bring the innovation that will make a difference.
- The collaboration between science, policy, and society is vital for ensuring global water security in a changing world. Water-related challenges transcend national borders, and many countries are facing the same challenges. So, it is crucial to transfer existing knowledge and innovation to address these challenges. If we share our knowledge of the identified solutions and we start working together we can make a tangible difference in promoting global water security, instead of having many individual efforts.
- The availability of open, reliable and accessible data on water resources and ecosystems is critical for ensuring greater transparency and accountability in water quality and quantity monitoring efforts.
- It is also necessary to develop innovative approaches to address challenges that are often overlooked, which is essential for promoting long-term sustainability and resilience. By identifying and tackling such challenges, we can foster more equitable and inclusive societies that are better prepared to face emerging threats.