



UN
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CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Rivers at Heart: Water Pollution and Social Inclusion in Mexico

22 March 2023, 11:00 am, UN Headquarters Room C

Organized by: CEIAP S.C. (•••Centro) , Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mexico, The Hague Academy for Local Governance, Government of the state of Jalisco, Government of the state of Nuevo León.

Background on the event

Various Mexican states and municipalities, particularly Nuevo Leon and Jalisco, had been enthusiastic and keen on taking part in the UN Water Conference. Thus, CEIAP S.C (•••Centro), as an accredited UN organization, together with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mexico and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took on the task of following up to their enthusiasm and ensuring they had a voice at the Conference. This side event included nine Mexican entities —including states, municipalities and institutions of national reach and importance such as the National Water Commission, CONAGUA, the National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities, and the Commission for Water and Hydrologic Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies— that face different realities around water with regards to the same problematic: rivers and social inclusion.

Water Action Agenda

The main commitments of the event's participants all relate to increasing access to sufficient and equitable water and sanitation services; positively impacting the living conditions of the millions of people through the rescue and recovery of rivers; increasing the efficiency of water management in public utilities (through water pressure management and leakage reduction); increasing water-savings by millions of liters per year by transitioning to the use of water-efficient shower heads; implementing nature-based solutions (sustainable stormwater drainage systems); among others.

Links to Water Agenda Commitments:

[National Water Commission \(CONAGUA\)](#)

[State of Jalisco](#)

[State of Nuevo León](#)

[Municipality of Monterrey](#)

[State of Guanajuato](#)

Key Issues discussed

- Strengthening collaboration and governance amongst all stakeholders: international entities, the three levels of government (national, state and municipal), legislators, private sector, civil society & communities.
- Rivers as the guiding thread in the search for comprehensive solutions for water management, urban development, and social inclusion.
- Accelerating the pace at which water and sanitation services are provided to the most vulnerable sectors of the population.
- Ensuring that a gender-based perspective is considered within the sector.
- Social participation and inclusion as a requirement in all implemented policies and interventions.
- The search for innovative solutions and technologies to strengthen the management of public utilities that provide water services.
- Addressing education, training and capacity building as key elements to achieve the goals stated in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Key recommendations for action

- Follow up on the historical effort taken place at the UN Water Conference by keeping track of the commitments made in order to ensure that words turn into actions with tangible results.
- Facilitate the dispersion and adoption of innovative technologies and of financing in order to reach established national and sub-national goals.
- Continue the collaboration between all participating stakeholders while leveraging the work of facilitating instances such as the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mexico and CEIAP S.C.
- Increase the private sector's involvement in the commitments established during this side event in order to achieve the goals stated in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- Emphasize a perspective on local governance in regards to water challenges by providing education, training, and capacity building within the sector.