



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event **“A new generation of urban climate solutions”**

22 March, 3 PM, at the Swedish Mission to UN in NY

Organizer: SIWI

Co- organisers:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

UNDP

Resilient Cities Network

OECD

Stockholm Resilience Centre

State of Rio De Janeiro

Van Oord

Youngo- water and climate working group

ARUP

Background on the event

The event aimed to:

- 1) Ahead of COP28 share different knowledge and experiences on how cities can strengthen activities and commitments on water solutions that can provide multiple benefits for both climate mitigation and adaptation and a just transition and blue economy
- 2) Build on youth expertise and engagement on progress for water and climate commitments.
- 3) Create a basis for increased cross-sectorial commitments to further strengthen collective action for the Water and Climate Action Agendas

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

1. Presentation and panel discussion on the key findings and recommendations on freshwaters role for climate mitigation in the report [the-essential-drop-to-reach-net-zero-key-messages-and-executive-summary.pdf \(siwi.org\)](#)
2. How can climate resilience in cities be increased and what role do access to water play for climate mitigation?
3. How to make water and mitigation included in the COP28 outcome?
4. What are the synergies between Blue Economy concept and water and mitigation?
5. How can the youth movements support water's role for resilience and climate mitigation in cities?
6. Lessons and inspiration from the Water Security and Sustainability program in the State of Rio de Janeiro
7. How can the city water resilience approach (CWRA) support urban water managers to prioritize increased investments on adaptation and mitigation?
8. Inspirational practices and learnings from Cape Town work on resilience

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Development of long-term systematic approaches for water and climate mitigation will offer multiple benefits simultaneously, for example reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also safeguarding freshwater resources, protecting biodiversity, lowering disaster risks, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods and cities.
- Donors need to encourage cross-sectorial collaboration within a systemic approach for climate mitigation, where the importance of water availability is included.
- Youth organizations and young professionals can play an important role in accelerating knowledge of water's role for resilient cities and climate mitigation.
- Since energy production depends on access to water, cities must pay closer attention to the connection between water and energy in planning. A shift away from fossil subsidies would mean more funding available for renewables and nature-based solutions.
- The concepts of the Blue Economy and the City Water Resilience Approach (CWRA) are innovative approaches and tools that can help cities build water resilience at the urban scale. The additional pmultiple benefits water also has for climate mitigation is interesting to investigate further.

This discussion will be advanced and broadened at World Water Week in Stockholm in August 2023.

Recording: [A new generation of urban climate solutions | SIWI - Leading expert in water governance](#)

