



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

*Climate impact and financing adaptation:
Water as Leverage investing millions in project origination to unlock
billions for project implementation*

Wednesday 22 March 2023, 15.00-16.30 hrs at 730 3rd Avenue,
Room 2A/2B, New York City

Organized by: the government of Colombia and the Netherlands

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Water as Leverage unites a growing global community of governments, cities, communities, designers, researchers and more, that join forces to further scale up and replicate Water as Leverage in their quest to reach the SDGs. Especially when it comes to improving water quality (6.3), increasing water-use efficiency (6.4), implementing integrated water resource management at all levels (6.5), as well as resilient infrastructure (9) and resilient cities (11). Water as Leverage already puts into practice the guiding principles of the Water Action Agenda: it is substantial, innovative, transformative, scalable and replicable.

During the side-event we demonstrated and scaled the ambition of Water as Leverage as an approach for worldwide urban climate resilience, through water. Connecting (international) climate- and water action finance to local needs for innovative and integral infrastructure investment, through an inclusive process.

Water as Leverage:

- cuts across sectoral and administrative boundaries through the design, planning and financing of projects on the ground.
- unites a growing global community of governments, cities, communities, designers, researchers and more, that join forces to further scale up and replicate Water as Leverage in their quest to reach the SDGs.
- already puts into practice the guiding principles of the Water Action Agenda: it is substantial, innovative, transformative, scalable and replicable.

- Means working together with everyone every step of the way, leaving no one behind.
- has a proven track record in Southeast Asia, launched its first initiative in Latin America and celebrates its fifth anniversary this year.

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

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/scaling-water-leverage-globally-worldwide-urban-climate-resilience>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Need to bridge this gap between project origination (‘the millions required for the first phases of the project development cycle’) and project implementation (‘the billions available for financing implementation’).
- Need for integrated and inclusive approaches like Water as Leverage to tackle some of the most pressing issues in water- and climate change adaptation;
- The experiences gained until now (WaL Asia) and the practical example of the city of Cartagena, Colombia have been demonstrated.
- Next step and Scaling up Water as Leverage globally for worldwide urban climate resilience, through water and the call and invitation of the Dutch minister of Infrastructure and Water Management upon many other potential partners to join our efforts;
- Global community - Water as Leverage unites a growing global community of governments, cities, communities, designers, researchers and more. The strategic partners present and new partners showed this.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- The side event contributes to implementation on the ground and spurs the creation of new partnerships in the aftermath of the Conference.
- The way forward #1: scaling and replicating the experiences gained through a Water as Leverage Factory (structure). The intention is to set up an entity, the Factory, that provides opportunities to develop and engage a global network of project owners and partners, inspired by Water as Leverage.
- The way forward #2: initiating new WaL initiatives
- The way forward #3: Water as Leverage Academy, feeding WaL culture, capacity and innovation.