



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Reclaiming Our Water

March 22, 6:30-8:30PM at CUNY Graduate Center, Segal Auditorium

Organized by: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and CUNY Graduate Center
EES Department

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung along with the CUNY Graduate Center hosted an event on Wednesday night pushing back against the narratives around privatization in water. The event featured four panelists, all women, who spoke of the fights for public ownership and accountability in the water sector in Catalonia, Spain, Paris, France, Cochabamba, Bolivia, and Long Island, USA.

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

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The ways historical racism has led to privatization and dispossessed communities
- How public ownership can create accountability
- Democratic reforms that public ownership can bring about
- How implementation is as important, if not more important, than winning the initial campaign against privatization
- The difficulty of reform and pushback you will receive until they realize the success of your work
- The international dimension of interlinked struggles against water privatization
- The use of citizen science to augment campaigns
- How an “Observatory” can be utilized to answer some of these questions

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Learning from the Paris model of “Observatory” and making this necessary oversight body a key aspect of every campaign
- That public is not always better than private, but allows for opportunities that private ownership would not, thus giving the potential for always being better
- Utilizing citizen data and citizen science to support campaigns if possible when capacity is low
- Interlinking campaigns across the world to ensure best practices are shared
- Utilizing the case studies presented to share with other campaigners in other parts of the world to augment their campaigns.