



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

SIDE EVENT WATER FOR CLIMATE: THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE EU CLIMATE PACT

23 March 2023 - 9 am

EU DELEGATION TO THE UN IN NEW YORK

666 3rd Avenue New York

Organized by:

The Foundation on Low Carbon Economy, in partnership with EU Climate Pact Ambassadors of Spain and the European Union. Contact point: Carmen Marques Ruiz (carmenmarques@me.com)

TWO PAGE MAXIMUM

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The side event examined the links between water and climate change from the perspective of the EU Climate Pact, which is a European initiative designed to raise awareness about climate change. Four EU Climate Pact Ambassadors and two young activists were the panelists. The event underlined the need for greater cooperation between the water and climate communities to take action. The current water and climate crisis, the EU approach to water, the role of the private sector and the youth perception on water and climate were explained. The discussion resulted in an interesting intergenerational dialogue and was a proof of strong involvement of women on water issues.

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

Our commitment is twofold:

1. Raise awareness about the water crisis and the link between water and climate; and encourage water action, in our activities as 'EU Climate Pact' Ambassadors and activists.
2. Publication of a book on water in Spanish in 2024, with the title: "Water, symbol and metaphor" coordinated by Centro de investigación A4voces and Manuel Hurtado

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The IPCC work on water by **Elena Lopez Gunn** shows that the impacts of climate change are largely mediated by water. Climate change has affected all components of water cycle and all water use sectors in all regions, most Impacts are negative. Water is central to adaptation ~60% of all adaptation is occurring in response to water related hazards.
- The EU approach to water by **Carmen Marques Ruiz**. The EU is committed to water security for all, global resilience to water stress, protection of nature, a fair balance between water supply and demand and the right to safe drinking water and sanitation.
- Water and the private sector by **Antonia Lorenzo** where it was highlighted that industrial water use accounts for 19%, while agriculture uses around 70% of the total extracted water. The water consumption has multiplied by 6 in the last year, twice the population growth. If there is no change in the business as usual scenario and in the consumption patterns, the global water deficit is estimated to be 40% by 2050. Private sector, agriculture and industry, plays a central role in the transition to a more sustainable economy by becoming more water efficient.
- Water and youth by
 - **Clara Tomé**: Get to know people from indigenous communities who don't even have 5L of water a day, stories of girls who, by having to go fetch water, expose themselves to being raped and sexually abused every day, individuals without access to bathrooms and sanitation.... Water cannot be a resource to commercialize, it is a recognized human right that is being violated for billions of people that lack access to it. Indigenous communities, women and the most vulnerable people must be at the forefront of these decisions, the global south needs representation and access to conferences like this one to get to decide on water, sanitation and on climate change. Who do we think we are to talk about water issues that we do not face personally in developed countries? I don't feel that today we need these spaces to talk about concepts such as innovation, technologies and development when the most basic human right to water and sanitation is being contravened by the simplest way in many areas of the planet. I want to use my voice to claim about the people who face these problems every day and that can not afford the luxury to be here today, but the ones who deserve a sit to raise their voice more than anyone else.
 - Young Climate activism linked to the EU Climate Pact by **Carmen Anahí Lopez del Valle García**. We have different possibilities for young people in the European Union to learn about the environment and water, while practising languages, getting to know other cultures and promoting EU values. Erasmus+ programmes are divided into training courses, aimed at training youth workers, and youth exchanges, which raise awareness among young

people while they learn about other cultures, both through non-formal education. There are also European Solidarity Corps volunteers, both team and individual long-stay volunteers. Finally, the #Filluptheglass campaign on youth participation in the Water Conferences and the need to listen to our voices was discussed.

- A questionnaire was carried out with youth and presented by **Anna Wendy Brodbelt** to determine the effect of climate change on mental health in youth. Two insights were nailed down: On one hand, youth care about climate change and its adverse effects. On the other hand, youth want to act, but they do not have access to the basic resources and information. Hence, it is necessary to take this information to the grounds in which youth move: social network.

-

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- There is a need for greater cooperation between the water and climate communities.
- Climate negotiators should give greater attention to the role of water in addressing the climate crisis.
- On the other hand, the water community should promote the importance of water in climate adaptation and mitigation and develop concrete water-related proposals for inclusion in nationally determined contributions (NDCs)
- We need political will to make progress
- Improved governance is a key issue, in particular at the international level. Legal commitments and an international institution clearly responsible are needed.
- There is a need to move from the current “silo approach” to a more “interconnected and integrated approach” to deal with water sustainable management.
- Business as usual is no longer a viable option. Radical change is required, also in the private sector, to move to a circular economy to cope with water challenges.
- Water is a critical entry point for adaptation to climate change.
- Climate change adaptation has to be an integral part of water resource planning and management and vice versa, adaptation to climate change needs to consider water planning and management as an important measure for climate change adaptation.