



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Water for Life

22 March 2023, 6pm, Italian Cultural Institute of New York

Organized by: Acquedotto Pugliese in collaboration with UFM, UNIDO-ITPO, UNIDROIT, CIHEAM, UNIMED and POLIBA.

Background on the event

The event was created in order to host the assignment of the Second *Water for Life Award* and the *International Water School* created by Acquedotto Pugliese S.p.A.. Every year, the award has the objective of enhancing and boosting initiatives of Countries, Personalities, Institutions and Associations, which contribute to spreading the culture of sustainable development, with particular reference to the protection and enhancement of water. The 2023 award has been assigned to the Kingdom of Lesotho for the "Lesotho Highlands Water Project" (LHWP), that involves the construction of dams and pipelines for the production of hydroelectric energy and the transfer of water to South Africa as well as to other countries in the region. The event has hosted a discussion on the necessary widespread and transversal commitment of governance, management and scientific research in the use of water to face the ongoing climate crisis.

Link to the Side Event: <https://www.aqp.it/aqp-comunica/eventi/water-life>

Water Action Agenda

Acquedotto Pugliese S.p.A. has activated, together with CIHEAM Bari, Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS), Politecnico of Bari, UNIMED and CNR-IRSA, an *International Water School*: a hub of training, research and development activities in the field of water management. The objective of the project is creating an accessible space that will allow experts, technicians and managers from all around the world to learn about the most recent technical innovations and to translate them within concrete projects in their own countries.

Link to the Commitment: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/international-water-school>

Key Issues discussed

- International Cooperation in the field of water management;
- The role of Italy in “Water Cooperation”
- Water Stewardship;
- Water Operator Partnership (WOP);
- Utilisation and reuse of purified wastewater;
- Good management of water resources including through the use of AI and emerging technologies and water as an energy source.

Key recommendations for action

- Encourage international exchange through specific study and research visits that will involve policy makers, technicians and researchers;
- Involvement of post graduate courses and the implementation of co-tutorship procedures between the partner institutions in the field of “Water Cooperation”;
- Exchange of information and documents of scientific interest along with the participation of partner institutions’ experts in meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops;
- Implementation of innovative training initiatives and scientific and communication events;
- Common research and training programmes or programmes of interest to the other parties;
- Activation of joint research that will see a close collaboration of the private sector with public companies and authorities to allow a comprehensive view on necessities within national and local policies.