



## UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

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### *[Youth Perspectives Toward One Million Action Postcards]*

[23/03/2023, 09:00 am – 15:00 pm, Water House 666 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, NY, USA]

[24/03/2023, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Nuasin School, 180 West 165<sup>th</sup> Street, The Bronx, NY, USA]

Organized by: [University of Balamand, Lebanon]

Partners: Wavemakers United, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, UN2023 Gamechanger Challenge

### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

The world faces several water challenges that affect both present and future generations. To become effective changemakers, we believe that students should be made aware of the status of water resources worldwide and in their local communities from an early age. This proposed side event is linked to the One Million Action Postcards (1 MAP) Initiative, which aims to raise awareness and encourage positive actions regarding water challenges. The 1 MAP encourages university students to conduct awareness sessions in schools, mobilizing students from different age groups worldwide to express their thoughts, wishes, dreams, plans, and actions related to water-related issues using specific postcards designed for this purpose.

The side event covers two sub-events. The first is a postcard exhibition held at the Water House on March 23, 2023, during New York Water Week, where we created a wall using postcards collected from Lebanon, Cape Town, and the USA. The second event involved two awareness sessions held on March 24th at Nuasin Kindergarten. Within 1.5 hours, the following activities were covered:

1. Presentation on the University of Balamand youth initiatives.
2. Interactive awareness session, including games.
3. Invitation for the students to participate in the IMAP 1 million Action Postcard Initiative.

As a legacy, all postcards collected will be assembled on a platform to create the biggest mosaic 1 MAP.

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

**The Water Action Agenda Commitment is the “1 MILLION YOUNGSTERS EDUCATED ON WATER” (Link: [Educate one million youngsters on water annually until 2030 – together. | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)).** The brightest minds with the boldest ambitions are needed to resolve the most pressing water challenges the world is currently facing. Through inclusive, positive water actions we believe that water can be the dealmaker in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The next generation, who is the one most impacted by these challenges, deserves a well-informed and meaningful voice in sustainable transition and innovation processes. That is why this consortium is showing commitment to ensuring one million youngsters will receive education about water, each year, until 2030. This commitment aims to have a three-fold impact. Firstly, to increase access to quality education on sustainability topics worldwide, through an online toolkit with interactive materials. Secondly, to inspire the next generation to change their behavior towards more sustainable living and create more interest in higher education or careers related to sustainable development. Lastly, through global knowledge sharing, the positive impact made in one part of the world can be replicated in other regions, creating business opportunities, global partnerships, and building a network for youth.

**Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

The five key themes discussed are:

1. Addressing issues of water scarcity, pollution, and management;
2. Promoting behavioral change to enhance global water resources;
3. Recognizing the role of youth in achieving sustainable development objectives;
4. Creating an online toolkit with interactive educational resources;
5. Fostering business opportunities, global partnerships, and networks for young people.

**Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

The following are the main recommendations for this commitment:

1. Globalize the commitment by engaging partners from different regions worldwide;
2. Establish a system to track the number of youths educated annually;
3. Develop a satisfaction survey to enhance the implementation of this action;
4. Foster partnerships with youth and water-focused organizations;
5. Enhance the accessibility of the platform to accommodate all postcards submitted.