



UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

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Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Water Action

Thursday, March 23, 2023 **from 1pm-3:30pm, EDT**
Webex Virtual Platform via Perkins Eastman

Partners:

NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Permanent Mission of Palau to the UN, PVBLC Foundation, SDG Relief Fund, Coalition for the UN We Need, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, Perkins Eastman, The Stimson Center, RecycleGO, United Cities & Local Governments, Sanitation & Water for All, Women for Water Partnership, NGO//MG Urban Cluster, Global Family, Youth for a Better World-MMUN, Soroptimist International, Zonta International, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Global Initiative for Food Security & Ecosystem Preservation of Nigeria, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Global Urban Development, Huairou Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, Debate for Peace, Together First, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

Background:

The NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY was honored to join our Co-Host, H.E. Ms. Ilana Seid, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Palau to the UN with our partner organizations to support stakeholder engagement for sustainable water action during the UN2023 Water Conference that took place at UN Headquarters. During our virtual session we highlighted the initiatives of stakeholders who brought their expertise and commitments from different sectors and regions. They shared their action and innovative focused concepts ensuring this vital resource can continue to sustain healthy life on our planet. The Water Conference served as an important prelude to the 2023 UN High Level Political Forum which this year will feature SDGs #6 Clean Water & Sanitation, #7 Clean Energy, #9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure, #11 on Sustainable Cities and #17 on Partnerships for the Goals as well as the SDG Summit taking place in September 2023 during the UN78th General Assembly. We are dedicated to working in partnership with our colleagues at the UN and globally to support local communities in developing collaborations and commitments for sustainable Water including the success of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to "Leave No One Behind.

Water Action Agenda

During our virtual UN2023 Water Side Event we shared concepts and sustainable solutions to achieve quality water actions for all communities from various stakeholders in different sectors and regions around the planet. Our interactive dialogue exchange produced a consensus regarding the importance of having a focus on Quality Water is our Human Right.

Our Interactive dialogue - our outcomes:

Key Issues discussed

- We need consensus on how to apply water policy; to ensure that there is a need for more collaboration on sharing water between governments, civil society, and corporations.
- We consider quality water as a common good and a human right.
- We will strive to achieve climate justice and accessibility to quality water. This includes the quality of drinking water and eliminating the impacts in terms of chemicals and all plastic pollution.
- We must maintain our focus on water for justice – water as humanity and especially the quality. In the short vision of what we want a mission statement of how we are getting there is useful. Prime focus is the issue of climate change. Climate should appear in any statement we produce. Efforts like desalinization should be mentioned. Unfortunately, fracking uses a tremendous amount of water.
- Take into consideration the connection between water and climate, with food security being one massive obligation for lives around our planet.
- Nature-based solutions have been proposed in numerous cities to address climatic disasters such as flooding.

Key recommendations for action

- Restating that water is a human right, especially for those who live in settlements and along river banks. Poverty also needs to be addressed. We have a human right to sanitation which is connected with pollution of the oceans tied to social justice. SWA has a global campaign called “Justice Begins Here”. We must prepare for COP28.
- Achieve resilient and sustainable water management with efficient intergenerational dialogue that includes youth and older persons’ experiences through dialogues.
- Key objectives is to consider water as a human right provided as a global public good. Second one: 140 member states have called for UN Water Envoy or perhaps an Advisory Council of stakeholders from different sectors and regions.
- This Advisory Council or Envoy should make sure that those who are impacted are included in decision making opportunities to identify gaps, problems to achieve solutions.
- We should identify communities that need water and directly connect them to provide water. There are innovations being developed globally. These methods should reduce commercialization of their technologies to have great outreach to all communities.
- The nature of our water problem will require less than traditional methodologies and solutions. The private sector could be critical in proposing moonshot solutions - thinking that refers to an approach of choosing a huge, seemingly insurmountable problem and proposing a radical solution to that problem using disruptive technology. The idea is not to look for small, incremental improvements, but to aim for a huge improvement or, even better, solve the problem completely. For example - since most of our water needs stem from agriculture, a solution to water availability and equity might lie in new water efficient agricultural systems.