



UN
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CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Cooperation and social participation for the water management

Thursday, 23rd of March 8:30am – 10am (EST)

Organized by:

Consórcio PCJ and its partners,

Water Agency of Brazil (ANA); Water Governance Observatory (OGA-Brazil); International Network Basin Organization (INBO), Brazilian Network Basin Organization (REBOB); Red Latinoamericana de Organismos de Cuenca (RELOC); Water Consultive Council in Mexico; International Rivers; SOS Mata Atlântica; Federal Prosecution Service; Unesco Brazil; NGO Nosso Vale Nossa Vida; Institution for the defense of indigenous peoples Sapucaí Tenonjerã Comissão; The Nature Conservancy – TNC, UERJ (State University of Rio de Janeiro), Secretary of Environment and Sustainability of the State of Rio de Janeiro (SEAS-RJ)

Background on the event

This side event – in digital format – discussed with different sectors of civil society and actors in the water resources management system strategies on the challenges in the pursuit for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda in the face of the challenges imposed for water management in terms of access to water in quality and quantity water for all social classes, regardless of geographic and economic regions. The discussion focused on universal access to water that also respects communities of original populations (indigenous peoples and their importance for the protection of water sources) and peripheral regions, often neglected by public planning. Alongside collaborative participation between sectors (government, private, civil society) and through the exchange of experiences through networks, the aim is to discuss commitments so that the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Water Action Decade are clearly dedicated to actions that seek government commitment to these objectives.

Water Action Agenda

The PCJ Consortium is a non-profit civil association formed by municipalities and private companies. Its mission is to integrate all sectors of society towards the efficient supply of water, sanitation, and environmental management. Based on its document "Water Sustainability Goals" produced in 2015 during the worst water crisis ever experienced in the Southeast region of Brazil, which severely impacted the Piracicaba, Capivari, and Jundiaí River Basins (PCJ Basins), and in response to the United Nations' calling on the global community to commit to water management in the face of climate change, the PCJ Consortium has developed its Water Action Agenda, the Water Pacts, grouped into five major commitments: Commitments for Water and Health; Commitments for the Protection of Water Sources; Commitments for Public Policies aimed at Integrated Water Resources Management; Commitments for Environmental Education focused on Water Management; and Commitments for Universal Access to Water.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The Challenges for Brazilian Water Management.
- The Role of Civil Society for the Universal Access to Water.
- The strength of Basin Organizations Networks for cooperation in water management.
- Access to safe water by indigenous people.
- Water Governance.

Key recommendations for action (5 – 6 bullet points)

- Increase civil society participation on Water Management by Governments.
- Make more studies on the impacts of Climate Change on Water Management..
- Promote debates about water governance between different sectors: public, private, rural, and NGOs.
- Expand the indigenous participation in the water debates.
- Articulate society to compose networks of basins organizations focused on assisting in the implementation of water management tools.