



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

‘IMPACTS OF EXTRACTIVES ON WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT’

MARCH 23, 2023

2:00 PM EDT.

Organized by: The NGO Mining Working Group

Background on the event (one paragraph)

This side event showcased a diverse array of global voices who raised awareness on water, human rights, and mining. It particularly touched on the conference themes of water for health and water for climate, resilience, and environment. This panel hoped to inspire real action toward achieving SDG6 and other interlinked SDGs, suggesting pathways forward that will inform the Water Action Agenda.

The webinar was organized by the subcommittee on Water of the NGO Mining Working Group.

The speakers focused on the following topic areas related to Water:

Blair Nelson, NGO Mining Working Group moderated the webinar.

Laura Ramírez Chávez, with Caritas Madre de Dios in Peru, noted the ongoing problems that extractive industries such as mining and deforestation are having on economically impoverished communities in Peru – communities that are left to feel "invisible" because governments permit such industries to have almost carte blanche in rural areas.

“The significance of Water in Solomon Islands today” by Mary Tahu of the Solomon Islands

In the occupied territories, Palestinians are living on top of many water reserves but have little access to them because of restrictive Israeli government policies, said Susan Power, head of legal research and advocacy for [Al-Haq](#), a Palestinian human rights advocacy group..

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

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

1. Water is Life
2. Indigenous are learning to navigate Federal Agencies on their land.
3. People are disconnected because of logging, and Extractivism.
4. There are several water challenges in Conflict zones.
5. Palestine is rich in Water sources but do not have access because of diversion of the rivers.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

We Call on States to:

- Respect, protect and fulfil the rights to water and sanitation as well as the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.
- Develop a human rights-based approach towards achieving SDG 6
- Ensure the active participation of Indigenous peoples and other historically marginalized groups in the Water Action Agenda. Women and girls, especially rural and Indigenous women, have knowledge and experience that is critical for the achievement of SDG 6, and as such need to play a central role in the provision management and safeguarding of water.

Accountability of Business

- Ensure that business operating in or otherwise under their jurisdiction undertake human rights and environmental due diligence so that adverse impacts are avoided.
- Ensure access to remedy for individuals and communities that have had their right to water violated.
- Constructively engage in negotiations towards a legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

Climate Change

- Take broad measures to conserve and preserve our oceans for present and future generations.
- Take urgent action to minimize the current and prospective impacts of climate change and limiting global warming to 1.5C, including cutting greenhouse gas emissions and take measures towards adaptation, loss and damage, and financing.