

Speech ms. B.M. Witmer, WaterAid 3 March 2025
organizational meeting UN Water Conference 2026
please check on delivery.

Title: inclusiveness and good governance are key- A Participatory Path

Thank you chairs, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed.

Today I speak on behalf of WaterAid, Women for Water Partnership, Butterfly Effect NGO coalition – already working together in the preparation process for the Conference 2026 – and all our members world-wide, with an outreach of 1.5 million stakeholders, covering 100+ countries.

We wanted to set a good example via discussing and liaising with the co-chairs, UN DESA and UN Water a Participatory Path from November last year. We are appreciative of the open and constructive discussions. Which brings me to our main point: Inclusiveness and possibilities for active input of all types of non-state stakeholder groups is essential to reach tangible actions on the whole SDG 6 agenda, both globally and on the ground. Overall, that means really timely (at least 3 months before the action or event) and transparent decision-making to enable people to prepare on time, honouring their internal processes as well, accessibility through simple (special) accreditation and visa processes, financial support with limited bureaucracy for communication, facilitation and presence. Our main proposed strategy is to involve and communicate through multiple existing umbrella organisations and create a mutual communication platform. We have submitted more detailed proposals to

the co-chairs for all of this and hope a more formal mandate will be acquired.

As to the interactive dialogues, the process:

- at least one additional co-chair per theme from non-state actors nominated by them
- a professional/ experienced moderator
- all dialogues should require speakers to (also) address governance issues and connections to the other SDG targets in that field / topic
- all dialogues have interpretation at least in the 6 official languages and room for more if e.g. offered by MS
- all dialogues should be at least be broadcasted via e.g. UN web and accessible for observers
- preparation meetings for the dialogues during the prepcom in Dakar
- parallel preparation meeting / inputs from non-state-actors especially CSO/ NGOs beforehand that feed into the dialogue(s) and/ or web-based survey beforehand
- a report per dialogue with a few tangible outcomes that feed into the Chairs' report and possibly into a follow-up draft resolution towards 2028 to be submitted to the UNGA and/ or third committee.

As to content:

we would suggest that Wash / basic services are part and parcel e.g. of theme 1.

We also suggest that theme 6 covers governance, finances collaboration between sub-sectors.

We hope to hear the vision of the co-chairs on the outcomes soon and receive the proposed roadmap.

Thank you.