

**2026 United Nations Water Conference**  
**Stakeholder Brainstorm, 10 July 2025, 10 am – 1 pm**

**UNHQ Conference Room 12**

*The meeting will be open to registered participants and those in possession of valid UN Grounds passes for the UNHQ in New York on a first-come, first-served basis up to the capacity of the rooms.*

**10:00 – 10:15:** Stage setting remarks

- **HE Cheikh Tidiane Dieye**, Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation, Senegal
- **HE Abdulla Balalaa**, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, United Arab Emirates

**10:15 – 10:45:** Panel discussion: *Lessons Learned from the 2023 UN Water Conference*

- Moderator: **Mr. Henk Ovink**, Executive Director, Global Commission on the Economics of Water
- **Ms. Naiara Costa**, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, DESA/DSDG on stakeholder engagement
- **Mr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo**, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation
- Lead discussant: **Dr. Bahia Tahzib-Lie**, Ambassador & Charge d’Affaires Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN

Key questions to discuss

- What were the most effective ways stakeholders were engaged during the preparatory process for the 2023 UN Water Conference? What can be replicated or scaled for 2026?
- What formats or spaces were most valuable to stakeholders at the 2023 UN Water Conference (Plenary, Interactive Dialogues, Special Events, Side Events, exhibitions, etc.), and how can these be improved for 2026?
- What barriers or challenges did stakeholders face in meaningfully engaging in the 2023 UN Water Conference and how can those be overcome during the preparations for the next Conference?

### **10:45-11:45:** Reflections on the 2026 UN Water Conference Interactive Dialogues

- Moderator: **Mr. Neil Dhot**, Executive Director, Aquafed

*Tour de table: all stakeholders come prepared to make 2-minute interventions on the Interactive Dialogues and other aspects of the 2026 UN Water Conference.*

#### Key questions to discuss

- What are the substantive priorities for your organization as you prepare for the 2026 Conference?
- What unique perspectives and insights can your organization offer to the Interactive Dialogues?
- What are some important emerging issues that the Conference should address, in the context of its existing six Interactive Dialogues?

### **11:45 – 12:30:** From New York to Dakar to UAE – Key Milestones and Strategies for Engagement

- Moderator: **Ms. Maitreyi Koduganti Venkata Adivi**, Global Focal Point (GFP) - SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation for all, Major Group for Children and Youth
- Lead discussant: **Ms. Miriam Haritz**, Director for Water, BMUV, Germany

#### Key questions to discuss

- What are two key actions stakeholders can take now to organize, mobilize, and influence the preparatory process for the 2026 UN Water Conference, including the forthcoming meeting in Dakar?
- What concrete recommendations should be shared with the 2026 UN Conference co-hosts and Member States to ensure a stakeholder-centered process and outcome?
- How can the 2026 UN Water Conference ensure greater inclusion and participation of stakeholders, including from the Global South and most vulnerable communities?

### **12:30 – 12:45:** Next steps

- **Ms. Retno Marsudi**, Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Water

- **Ms. Madhushree Chaterjee**, Chief, Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, DESA/DSDG

12:45 – 13:00: Closing

- **Representatives of Senegal and UAE**