



2017
2022

Youth strategy > International Secretariat for Water

YOUTH AND WATER > VITAL FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Young people are heavily and directly affected by water issues, and a sustainable future is vital.

Is it not, therefore, only essential and fair that they have a say in this matter right now ?

YOUTH STRATEGY

#WATERGENERATION

The International Secretariat for Water (ISW) is inspired by the *youth movement for water*. This is the idea of a movement built around the large-scale, dynamic and connected mobilization of young people. The number of *youth and water* stakeholders has grown in recent years, expanding the size of this *youth movement for water*. This movement is still young and it has vast untapped potential. The ISW believes that supporting the *youth movement for water* will benefit young people as it will provide them with capacity-building, and help them expand their scope of influence, their networks and opportunities for action. **#WATERGENERATION, the ISW's 2017-2022 youth strategy developed through a participatory process, reflects this conviction!**

#WATERGENERATION helps ISW cement its relationship with youth and to clarify the role we want to play as facilitators for the a global *youth movement for water*. ISW wants this movement to be *glocal*, capable of taking action anywhere from the local to the global level. It will be connected, diverse and active in all countries, especially those with the most severe water problems. The *youth movement for water* will influence decision-makers on water issues and help young people become committed citizens working to build more sustainable societies.

YOUTH AND WATER > VITAL FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

> THE INTERNATIONAL
SECRETARIAT FOR WATER

MOBILIZE
CONNECT
& SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE
AGED BETWEEN
18 AND 27

At the ISW we will focus our efforts on facilitating the development of the *youth movement for water*. We will work to mobilize an ever increasing number of young people. We will act as a connector, liaising between young people and bringing young people and other water stakeholders together in order to circulate new ideas.

The ISW will also support the *youth movement for water* with a range of resources to build young people's capacities. We will work with various stakeholders to turn our vision into reality.

The ISW's priority target group from within the youth population is **young people aged between 18 and 27**.

> THREE PROGRAMS FOR #WATERGENERATION

1 **Connected Youth**

Aims to develop the *youth movement for water* through increased mobilization and connectivity.

2 **Water Youth and Global Issues**

Forges links with other global challenges (climate, inequality, etc.) and their youth networks, giving young people the opportunity to engage in cross-disciplinary discussions on sustainable development.

3 **Water Youth and the Arts**

Applies the principle of diversity in seeking to involve young artists and fans of new technologies in water issues.

The three programs will be supported by a cross-cutting **Resource Centre** component that will provide a range of services to facilitate youth mobilization and connectivity.

> THE YOUTH PARLIAMENTS FOR WATER

This original ISW initiative is flourishing and is now entering a new phase. A network structure is developing, and parliaments are emerging in many different countries, both around watersheds and within various regions. Working with the Youth Parliaments for Water, including the World Youth Parliament for Water and the European Youth Parliament for Water, remains a priority for the ISW. We will support the creation of new Parliaments as they help to strengthen the global youth movement for water.

#WATERGENERATION

YOUTH STRATEGY

IN ORDER TO REMAIN MOBILIZED, YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO TAKE ACTION



#WATERGENERATION

Flamay has been a member of the World Youth Parliament for Water since 2015. With the support of the ISW, Eau Vive and the Global Water Partnership, but especially through his own determination, he has fought to encourage as many young Togo-ese people to work with him as possible. He founded the Togo Youth Parliament for Water and launched several events to mobilize young people, such as *Nights for Water* and *Climate Saturdays*.

YOUTH STRATEGY

> SIX VALUES FOR A GOOD PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

- 1 Providing motivation for young people
- 2 Risk taking; innovating
- 3 Promoting the emergence of new stakeholders
- 4 Embracing diversity
- 5 By young people and for young people
- 6 Establishing relationships that are beneficial to both youth organizations and the ISW

> MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

- > Contribute to the expansion of the *youth movement for water*
- > Strengthen the collective voice of young people, especially at international events
- > Strengthen the **Youth Parliaments for Water network**, in particular by supporting the creation of more national parliaments and parliaments based around watersheds
- > Play a key role in launching a **Water Youth and the Arts** program
- > Connect young people involved in the *youth movement for water*
- > Remain actively involved in the **Youth for Water and Climate** platform and participate in the launch of at least one other similar initiative that connects water to other global issues
- > Encourage young people to take action
- > Provide young people with materials and tools to enable them to carry out water-related action

> COLLABORATION: PARTNERSHIPS AT THE HEART OF #WATERGENERATION

The ISW would like to coordinate our youth strategy with other organizations actively engaging with young people in the water sector, whether these are organizations run by young people themselves or organizations that support them. In the spirit of the *youth movement for water*, the ISW youth strategy is based on strong and diverse partnerships with the other stakeholders involved. **Current major partners will remain the ISW's core partners.** We will develop new partnerships to enable us to achieve our interdisciplinary and diversity aims.

The ISW network of youth-led organizations is set to substantially expand in 2017-2022 as a result of our planned role in the movement. We intend to develop more direct and close ties with young people from the countries most heavily affected by water-related issues.



> THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR WATER

The International Secretariat for Water (ISW) is an NGO that conducts field work, advocacy and awareness-raising around the world. We bring together citizens and organizations that are actively committed to the cause of water. The ISW is committed to ensuring universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation while preserving resources for future generations.

#WATERGENERATION

**JOIN
THE MOVEMENT!**



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