



# Civil society and youth organising towards the UN 2023 Water Conference

## Informative workshop

Coordinated by



Co-organised by

Simavi



The Global Youth  
Movement for Water

# Greetings and welcome



# AGENDA

1. **overview and general presentation of the Conference**
  - **Overview and structure of the Conference**
  - **Stakeholder engagement opportunities**
  - **Q&A**
2. **Presentation of CSO and youth's involvement in the conference**
  - **What to expect from the Conference?**
  - **Mobilization of the Butterfly Effect**
  - **Mobilization of End Water Poverty**
  - **Mobilization of SIMAVI**
  - **Mobilization of the Global Youth Movement for Water**
  - **Mobilization of Sanitation and Water for All**

## 3. Open discussion:

*What do you think should be the priorities of civil society and youth organizations for the conference?*

**Synthesis**

**Closing**



**THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT**

# Overview and general presentation of the conference

- **General information on the conference's process**

*(Yunxiao Long & Daniella Bostrom - UN DESA & UN WATER )*

*see presentation UN DESA + UN Water*

# Overview and general presentation of the Conference

- **Possible support and participation opportunities for CSOs and youth**

*(Erma Uytewaal - Advisor Stakeholder Engagement UN 2023 Water Conference / Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands)*



Kingdom of the Netherlands



**UN**  
**2023 WATER**  
**CONFERENCE**

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

# Informative Workshop on the UN 2023 Water Conference

Uniting the world for water

Erma Uijtewaal  
Advisor Stakeholder Engagement UN 2023 Water Conference  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands



# UN 2023 Water Conference

- > The Netherlands and Tajikistan, as co-hosts, and UNDESA with the support of UN-Water as Secretariat of the Conference will strive to make the Conference a ***watershed moment for the world.***
- > **Vision** for the Conference: We all fundamentally understand, value and manage water better and take concerted action. Thus, water can be our best resort and driver for collaboration, replicating and scaling up actions.

Explainer video. Watch here: [UN Water Conference 2023 | United for water – YouTube](#)



# UN 2023 Water Conference

## Three Principles:

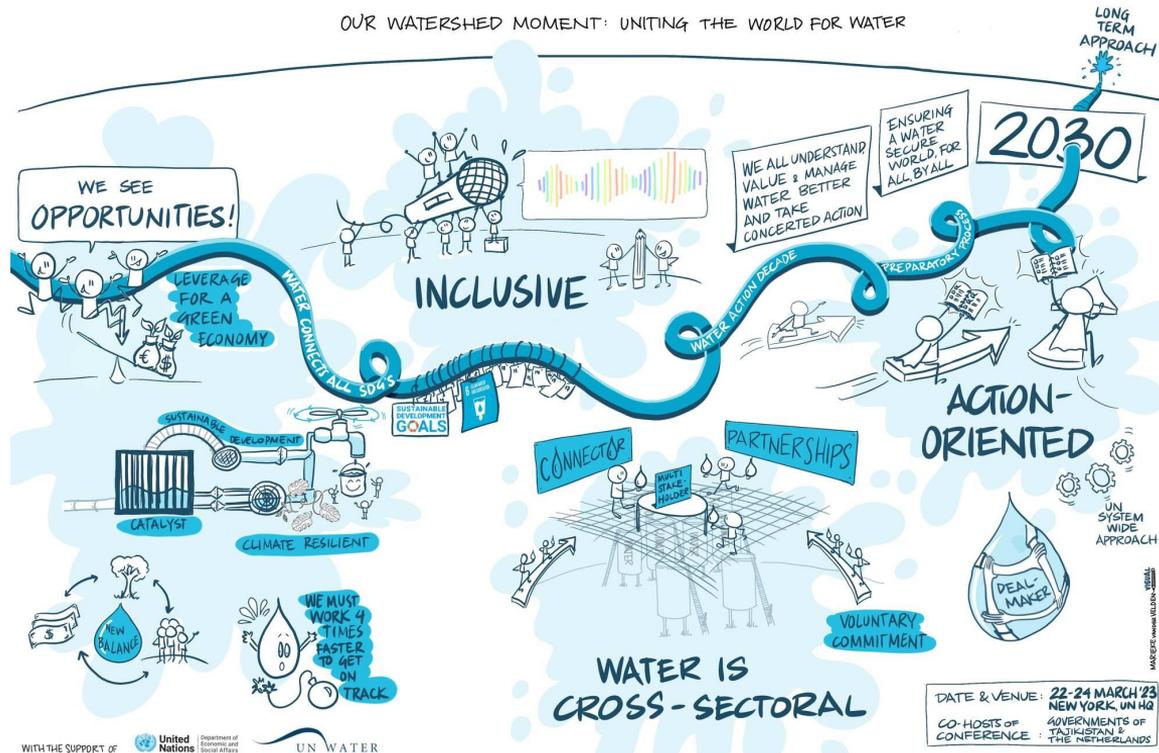
- **Inclusive:** both in terms of (a) the Conference process and in terms of (b) the results (leaving no-one behind)
- **Action-oriented:** the Conference aims to lead to concrete results through concrete actions and plans on the ground
- **Cross-sectoral:** the Conference should mobilise all other sectors to improve the way they manage and utilize water resources. These sectors need to bring their plans and actions to the Conference.

Explainer video. Watch here: [UN Water Conference 2023 | United for water – YouTube](#)



# VISION STATEMENT UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

OUR WATERSHED MOMENT: UNITING THE WORLD FOR WATER



WITH THE SUPPORT OF United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs



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# UN 2023 Water Conference- inclusiveness

Expectation towards the 2023 UN Water Conference's success:

- > to be broadly recognized by all stakeholders for being a multi-stakeholder and inclusive event, and
- > a watershed moment that spurs new and stronger cross-sector coalitions, partnerships and alliances;
- > committing to new and inclusive approaches and transformative game changers that accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 SDG targets, leaving no-one behind.



# UN 2023 Water Conference- inclusiveness

- › **Participation:** Traditionally underrepresented groups have participated in relatively large numbers in the preparatory activities and were well represented during the Conference.
- › **Contribution-** Youth, indigenous, women, CSOs etc. have played a visible and meaningful way by making their voices heard
- › **Content and impact.**
  - The Conference' procedures includes recommendations for a more inclusive Water Agenda.
  - The Water Action Agenda includes commitments from (new) multi-stakeholder coalitions committed to the adoption of new inclusive approaches and address the root causes of exclusion and inequality.
  - Their engagement has laid the foundation for sustained action and engagement



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# KNL approach to SE engagement and inclusiveness

- Recognition need of dedicated efforts
- Identification/ of international networks of youth, indigenous, women and other grassroot groups
- Dedicated outreach activities ( inform, promote, inspire, support)
- Support and facilitate involvement and exposure ( e.g during milestone events )
- Encourage and facilitate consultation and involvement of the network's broader constituencies (small fund)



# Opportunities for engagement – further explained

## UN Conference 22-24 March

- **5 interactive dialogues** (IADs) and 6 plenaries
  - *Options for stakeholders' contributions?*
- **4 Special Events.** Each to be organised by two or more Major Groups
  - *2nd consultation meeting on 15 December with the MGs for presentation of proposals for topics and co- conveners*
  - *Options for stakeholders' contributions?*
- **Side events,** options are
  - Side event as part of the UNWC programme and in the UN HQ
  - Side event as part of the UNWC programme but outside the UN HQ
  - Side event as part of the New York Water Week



# The Conference deliverables

- > Deliver a summary of the Conference proceedings
- > Present a set of voluntary commitments - in a Water Action Agenda - to get the world back on track:
  - Scale up and replicate what works
  - Discontinue or change what does not work
  - Innovate what needs to be improved
  - Fund what merits funding
- > Roadmap towards 2028 (Decade) and 2030 (SDGs)
  - Commitments can come through coalitions and partnerships across all of society

# Water Action Agenda



## Key Building blocks (phases)

1. Commit to Action
2. Sustain and scale up implementation
3. Follow-up and review processes

Building Blocks: **anchored in the UN system** (UN Resident Coordinators system, UN teams, annual special event at the HLPFs etc.

**Responsibilities:** Civil society, including youth, women and indigenous people: **Implement, support, advocate, and participate in follow-up and review.**

Register your commitments <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water>





# UN 2023 Water Conference- final considerations

- The UN 2023 Water Conference is not a goal in itself
- But the Conference creates an important momentum for change and accelerating achievement of the water related 2030 SDG goals
- Question to you is how you and your organizations can leverage this opportunity (of a global event) to bring about the changes needed in your respective countries?



[UN2023Waterconference@minbuza.nl](mailto:UN2023Waterconference@minbuza.nl)



# Overview and general presentation of the Conference

**Question & Answer session**



# Presentation of CSO and youth's involvement in the conference



# Presentation of CSO and youth's involvement in the conference

- **What to expect from the conference**

- Nothing binding should come out of the conference
- It is the role of civil society to unite around strong, common messages to influence decision makers
- Need to advocate for concrete commitments from member states into the Water Action Agenda and national policies

→ **We must build our mobilisation on each other's messages and make our voices heard**

# Presentation of CSO and youth's involvement in the conference

- **Mobilization of the Butterfly Effect**

*(Coline Arnoux - Project Manager - ISW)*

- **Coalition of +140 local and international NGOs and CSOs, youth and women's organisations**
- Created in 2010
- Aims to promote effective local solutions to sustainably improve access to water and sanitation services + resources management
- Spread the voices of our members
- Integrated vision of the water sector, not just WASH aspects
- Supporting groups with limited voices
- Coordinated by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW)

# Presentation of CSO and youth's involvement in the conference

- **Mobilization of the Butterfly Effect**

*(Sandra Métayer, Coalition Eau - BE Steering Committee member)*

→ ***The Butterfly Effect messages :***

- **A participatory process in 2021** that brought together more than 200 contributors, from local to global.
- To identify **common advocacy messages** for 2 international events : World Water Forum 2022 and **UN Conference on Water 2023**
- **A policy paper** with 5 main messages, with demands to the States and demands to the international community

# WATER CRISIS

## OUR GLOBAL WAKE-UP CALL

### 5 political demands to the States



Stronger  
political will



Strengthened  
water governance



Actively involved  
citizens and civil  
society



Strong and  
transparent financial  
commitments



A renewed  
multilateral  
framework



## **Our main ask : We call on the international community to establish regular intergovernmental meetings for water and sanitation at the United Nations**

### **There is a lack of international governance in the field of water and sanitation :**

- No "binding" international policy on water management (apart from the conventions on transboundary waters), no dedicated UN agency, no dedicated international funds
- No intergovernmental committee or space dedicated to water

→ The weakness of the multilateral framework does not sufficiently encourage States to act.

### **The United Nations must convene regular high-level intergovernmental meetings on water :**

- to accelerate and coordinate efforts towards the achievement of SDG6,
- strengthen political will through ambitious commitments,
- ensure the monitoring of the implementation of international goals.

→ The 2023 Conference is a first step. We can't wait another 46 years !

→ ***The Butterfly Effect objectives and activities for the Conference :***

**Axis 1 : Mobilize and promote the active participation of CSOs in the Conference**

- Information sharing on the preparatory processes and opportunities
- Make CSOs visible during the Conference (side-event, communication...)
- Contribute to the Water Action Agenda

**Axis 2 : Advocate for the Conference to result in concrete and ambitious actions for water and sanitation**

- Dissemination of the BE's policy paper
- Dialogue and inputs in the preparation processes (consultations, working groups...)
- Preparation of a CSO joint statement
- Strengthening our members' advocacy towards their governments and supporting regional/local advocacy actions
- Global communication

# Presentation of CSO and youth's involvement in the conference

- **Mobilization of End Water Poverty**

*(Alana Potter - Global coordinator, End Water Poverty)*

- Global coalition of 150 CSOs in 80 countries.
- Communities are on the frontline: claiming their rights, engaging politicians, standing up to repressive police and corporate power, defending rivers, lakes and groundwater sources. Community action, holding the line on their rights, fuels social change.
- #HearingTheUnheardHRWS – side session, plenary, and or digital campaign - is transformative to the Water Action Agenda.
- Mainstream human rights to water and sanitation across themes and dialogues.
- Support CSO members to participate in regional events to prepare CSO calls and commitments.
- Support CSO members to undertake local advocacy to member states.
- Influence northern INGO's commitments and calls to support local civil society.

# Presentation of CSO and youth's involvement in the conference

- **Mobilization of SIMAVI**

*(Lenka Kruckova & Brechje Oonk - SIMAVI)*

Main objective: Bringing crucial voices to the UN Water Conference and accountability of governments

- support a selection of partners to be physically present at the Conference;
- supporting participants with consultations at national, local level to enable representativity of various CSO voices;
- consultations of partners on advocacy messages that Simavi will bring to the conference - focus on the HRWS while taking into account climate justice, equality, and shifting the power
- support with advocacy plans after the conference for accountability
- alignment with existing networks and partners plans, including side-events
- close relationship with the organizing team in the Netherlands (co-host), and collaborating with partners to influence them directly

# Presentation of CSO and youth's involvement in the conference

- **Mobilization of youth organizations (Global Youth Movement)**

*(Elysa Vaillancourt & Nina Bianchi - Project manager - International Secretariat for Water)*

Objective: Gather **youth-led structures** to pool all resources and **increase our bargaining power to influence decision making** and **stimulate concrete actions** at all levels and in in all relevant fields.

- 200+ youth organisations
- Capacity-building for youth-led networks
- Six regional events in preparation for the UN2023 Water Conference
- Global communication campaign
- Youth commitment for the Water Action Agenda

# Presentation of CSO and youth's involvement in the conference

- **Mobilization of Sanitation and Water for All**

*(Anjani Kapoor - CSO global coordination manager - SWA)*

**Special Status with UN-Water-** part of four interactive dialogues work groups

- Task Team set-up to coordinate partnership inputs for interactive dialogues as well as for side-events proposals/ presence of CSOs in the task team

**Global High-level Advocacy** meetings with member States' Missions and the President of the UN General Assembly in New York

**National High-level Advocacy:**

- Aligning SWA's priority country work on Heads of State with the momentum created by the conference at the national level

- Mobilizing CSO partners to influence the delegations

- Identifying opportunities to support a couple of partners to attend the conference

**Mutual Accountability Mechanism-** tracking/reviewing/submitted commitments/ Side-event on the sidelines of UNWC23 conference

**CSO Messaging on Triple crisis** of climate, pandemic and its economic repercussions: Strong emphasis on human rights and community participation. Presented at 2022 Sector Ministers' Meeting in Jakarta-official milestone for UN Water 2023 conference

# Open discussion

**What should be the priorities of civil society and youth organizations for the Conference ?**



# Summary



# Closing



# Thank you for your participation!

For any questions or comments, please reached out to the Butterfly Effect Secretariat

[butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com)

