



UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT AT THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND

The UN 2023 Water Conference to be held in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023 is a historic moment in the final push to achieve SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets. The event, the first of its kind since 1977, is formally known as the **UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028.**

UN-Habitat will use the global platform provided by the UN 2023 Conference to share and discuss with member states, development partners and various stakeholder groups, concrete solutions in cities and human settlements to address challenges and fill gaps in the attainment of SDG 6.

We recognize that the achievement of SDG 6 on water is intricately linked to our efforts in realizing SDG 11 on cities. The bulging urban population is already placing extra demands on both water resources and service delivery. Demand for water in cities is projected to increase by 50 to 70% in the next three decades. Estimates also show that by 2050, 1.9 billion urban dwellers will live with seasonal water shortages. Moreover, climate change is adversely impacting an already challenging water situation.

The good news is that 75 per cent of the cities and infrastructure expected to be in use by 2050 are yet to be built. This therefore provides an opportunity to act now in providing new solutions that can be adopted soon enough to drive transformative change, reshape cities and rebalance urban and rural linkages.

The New Urban Agenda adopted at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016 provides guidance on the integration and consideration for conservation and rehabilitation of water resources, water storage and retention and investments on climate resilient blue-green infrastructure that supports stormwater management, disaster mitigation and equitable access to water and sanitation services, within urban and territorial development plans.



OUR ENGAGEMENT AT **THE CONFERENCE**

Our engagement will include high-level participation by our Executive Director in Interactive Dialogue 2: Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development and in over 10 side events we are organizing with our partners in both the UN 2023 Water Conference and the New York Water Week. We have also lined up a number of bilateral meetings with partners.

We invite you to join us in the following events organized by UN-Habitat and partners:



CITIZENS AND LOCAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES INVOLVED IN NORTH-SOUTH SOLIDARITY BASED ON RESOURCES FROM WATER BILL



21 MAR 2023
TUESDAY
2PM - 3.30PM



**FRENCH INSTITUTE
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
(FIAF)**
22 EAST 60TH STREET,
NEW YORK, NY 10022



**PS-EAU, FRENCH AND
GERMAN UTILITIES,
UCLG AFRICA,
GWOPA**



ANNE LE STRAT, CONSULTANT, GWOPA, ANNE.LESTRAT@UN.ORG

In order to implement the objectives of the Water Decade and of SDG 6, actions need to be taken at national and local levels. Complementing the role of multilateral and bilateral organisation, which are mainly focused on national level, local authorities in relation to their partners also have a crucial role to play at the local level. In this context, partnerships have already existed for many years between local authorities from North and South, involving other local stakeholders from on both sides, to develop and improve water and sanitation services. Each country has its own institutional framework and can develop an appropriated approach. For example, some European countries have developed solidarity approach, whereby 1% of the resources of water and sanitation services can be used to support international solidarity actions: France since 2005, through an approach based on the local authorities responsible of the water and sanitation services, and water basin agencies; Netherland, through their Water Company and German cities have also developed such approach. Such partnerships enable different types of actions to be carried out in the field of Water supply and sanitation that meet the expectations and needs expressed by the beneficiary local authority. A major interest of these approaches is also to have a reciprocity for both parties, in terms of relationship, dialogue between citizens, etc. Such approach can inspire other countries. The objective of this session is therefore to better understand and learn from these approaches, in order to encourage other countries and local authorities to develop similar approach.

EN (<https://www.pseau.org/en/water-conference-2023>)



STRIVING FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN A CLIMATE-RESILIENT WORLD: THE CRITICAL ROLE OF WASTEWATER



21 MAR 2023
TUESDAY
4.30PM - 5.45PM



**FRENCH INSTITUTE
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
(FIAF)**
22 EAST 60TH STREET,
NEW YORK, NY 10022



GOVERNMENT OF GHANA, GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE,
GOVERNMENT OF NETHERLANDS,
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA, OECD, ANA-BRASIL,
GRID-NORWAY, SIAAP, FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP



GRAHAM ALABASTER, CHIEF GENEVA OFFICE,
UN-HABITAT, GRAHAM.ALABASTER@UN.ORG

Wastewater is the forgotten part of the water cycle. What is out of sight is out of mind and is not given the attention it warrants for health, environment, or justice reasons. Pollution continues un-abated, and we can only account for 20% of the total wastewater produced globally. Due to the ever-worsening climate crisis, more communities have to deal with the consequences of floods or droughts each year. Outdated wastewater treatment systems have never been designed to deal with these extremes. As a result, floods create health hazards and pollution, while in periods of drought, valuable 'waste' water is wasted since it cannot be treated and reused. In this event, we will take a fresh look at SDG 6.3.1, which all our countries agreed to seven years ago. Let us align our ideas and approaches to support better more inclusive wastewater policies and practices in the global efforts towards reaching the Agenda 2030.



WATER SAFE CITIES – A BLUEPRINT FOR CLIMATE ACTION



22 MAR 2023
WEDNESDAY
10:00-12:00 EDT



**CONSULATE GENERAL
OF DENMARK IN NEW
YORK (11TH FLOOR)**
666 3RD AVENUE,
NY 10017 UNITED STATES



C40 CITIES, GRUNDFOS AND THE GRUNDFOS FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION, W12+ PROGRAMS
AND THE GLOBAL WATER OPERATORS' PARTNERSHIPS
ALLIANCE (GWOPA)



ANNE LE STRAT, CONSULTANT, GWOPA, ANNE.LESTRAT@UN.ORG

C40 is working with cities worldwide to promote innovative and sustainable solutions, increase awareness and education, and build a culture of water resilience. On 22 March 2023, C40 Cities, Grundfos and The Grundfos Foundation will host an event at the UN 2023 Water Conference alongside key partners International Water Association, W12+ Programs and the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) to discuss challenges and actionable steps cities can take to become more resilient to water-related climate risks. Experts will discuss how floods, droughts, and storms caused by climate breakdown can harm communities and the economic growth of cities. They will explore ways cities can improve their water safety and security by taking an integrated and holistic approach to water management. Through engaging panel discussions, attendees will learn about high-impact city-led climate action on reducing urban water risk and how to accelerate the implementation of water adaptation strategies. The event will set the foundation for peer-to-peer city collaboration on urban water-related climate risks.



LAUNCH OF THE UN WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (UN WWDR) 2023, PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION FOR WATER



22 MAR 2023
WEDNESDAY
11:00AM-12:30PM



**CONFERENCE ROOM 5,
UNHQ IN NEW YORK**



UN-WATER



HEZEKIAH PIREH, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER,
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, UN-HABITAT, PIREH.OTIENO@UN.ORG

The new edition of the UN World Water Development Report (UN WWDR) 2023, Partnerships and Cooperation for Water, will be launched on World Water Day, 22 March. At current rates of progress, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 – water and sanitation for all – will not be achieved by 2030. Accelerated implementation is needed, which depends on the capacity of the world's organizations and institutions to come together in partnerships and cooperation to rapidly speed up progress. The UN WWDR will review how the water and sanitation community can cooperate more effectively within itself and with other sectors and realms of decision-making where water is critical for progress, such as health, education, climate change and gender equality. The UN WWDR is UN-Water's flagship report on water and sanitation issues, focusing on a different theme each year. The report is published by UNESCO, on behalf of UN-Water and its production is coordinated by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme.



PATHWAY FORWARD: WATER-RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



22 MAR 2023
WEDNESDAY
12:30-13:45PM



ROOM TRUSTEESHIP
UN HQ INSIDE



GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN (MLIT); TAJIKISTAN, ADB,
UN-HABITAT, UNESCO, ESCAP, JWF-APWF, EC-IFAS,
GWP SOUTH-EAST AND SOUTH ASIA, IWMI



AVI SARKAR, REGIONAL ADVISOR - SOUTH-EAST ASIA, UBS,
HEAD OF OFFICE LAO PDR, UN-HABITAT, AVI.SARKAR@UN.ORG

The Asia-Pacific region is recovering from the COVID pandemic and returning to its dynamic economic transformation. And yet, the region as a whole remains off-track to achieve the 2030 UN SDGs, including the SDG6 targets. To accelerate the efforts and achieve desired outcomes based on the Kumamoto Declaration adopted in April 2022, the 18 Heads of State and Government (HSG) of Asia and the Pacific are also determined to strengthen quality infrastructure development, integrate hard and soft components into solutions, such as data & information and governance, and close the finance gap. This side event is thus designed to showcase how a few countries have made voluntary commitments and actions in addressing water security challenges for Climate, Resilience, and Environment in Asia and the Pacific. With a few specific presentations, the event also convenes a panel of leading experts to discuss and debate what works, what lessons to learn, and how to replicate and scale successes.



SPECIAL EVENT ON THE ECONOMICS OF WATER: TRANSFORMING GOVERNANCE TO SECURE A SUSTAINABLE, JUST AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE



23 MAR 2023
THURSDAY
15:00-16:00PM



**CONFERENCE
ROOM 2
UNHQ IN NEW YORK**



GLOBAL COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMICS
OF WATER, UN MAJOR GROUPS, OECD WATER
GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME, UN-HABITAT, UCLG, C40,
WFF, IAAS, METAMETA, DUTCH WATER AUTHORITIES,
AND WATERWORX



HEZEKIAH PIREH, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER,
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, UN-HABITAT, PIREH.OTIENO@UN.ORG,
ISABEL SHIRIN WETZEL, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER,
UN-HABITAT, ISABEL.WETZEL@UN.ORG,
JULIE PERKINS, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER, GWOPA,
JULIE.PERKINS@UN.ORG

The world faces a growing tragedy of water. Without bold and concerted local, national and global actions, the problems of too little, too much and too dirty water - inextricably linked to climate change and the loss of biodiversity, with each reinforcing the other - will only get worse. The crisis is fundamentally of a global and systemic nature. For the first time in history, human activity and practices have put the global water cycle, on which all life depends, on an unsustainable course. The science also shows how communities and nations are hydrologically intertwined - not just by rivers and the surface water that we see, but through atmospheric moisture flows. Practices in any one region impact rainfall in others. Unchecked, the crisis of global water will grow to endanger all the SDGs, making them virtually impossible to achieve. It will imperil global food and health security, relief from poverty, and peace within and between nations. It will have greatest impact on the hundreds of millions of women whose lives revolve around water, and other vulnerable and disenfranchised groups among indigenous communities, youth, farmers, workers and small and medium-sized businesses. At the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW) will highlight the need for the global water cycle to be managed as a global common good and illustrate the shifts in economic thinking and governance and repurposed tools of collaboration that will open up major opportunities for innovation and investment in more efficient, just and inclusive, and sustainable use of water, from the local to the global. Major Groups and other stakeholders are key to opening a dialogue on these important shifts.



SPECIAL EVENT ON THE ECONOMICS OF WATER: TRANSFORMING GOVERNANCE TO SECURE A SUSTAINABLE, JUST AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE



24 MAR 2023
FRIDAY
08:00AM-09:15AM



SIDE EVENT ROOM 8
UNHQ



ISABEL SHIRIN WETZEL, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER,
UN-HABITAT, ISABEL.WETZEL@UN.ORG

Economic resilience requires water resilience: the risks of “too much”, “too little” and “too polluted” water, magnified by climate change, are increasingly threatening water-related economic activities as well as human health and coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems. Against the backdrop of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is increasing momentum for developing a sustainable blue economy while strengthening the resilience of coastal, delta, fluvial and lacustrine cities. Yet decision-making for freshwater and oceans remains siloed and policy areas such as land use planning, climate mitigation and adaptation are often disconnected. There is scope for a localised approach to the blue economy that promotes place-based policies. Moreover, according to the OECD Principles on Water Governance, the mismatch between hydrological and administrative boundaries calls for a “city-basin” approach to water resources management, from source to sea, to tackle water risks and unlock the potential of the blue economy through stakeholder engagement across catchments, planning, coordination, data collection and monitoring.



24 MAR 2023
FRIDAY
9:00–11:30 AM



**CALLISONRTKL
ARCHITECTS**
P.C. 233 BROADWAY
16TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10279
(REGISTRATION AND ID REQUIRED)



ARCADIS, UN-HABITAT, WITH SPEAKERS FROM
GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE, KENYA, TAJIKISTAN,
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE NETHERLANDS,
GLOBAL WATER OPERATORS PARTNERSHIPS' ALLIANCE,



NAOMI HOOGERVORST, PM OFFICER PLANNING, FINANCE AND
ECONOMY SECTION UN-HABITAT NAOMI.HOOGERVORST@UN.ORG

“TOGETHER WE WALK”. PLACING WATER AT THE CENTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENTS

Together we Talk, The session will discuss and showcase integrated water strategies and actions for rapidly growing cities implemented by partnerships of different stakeholders. These area-based strategies and actions go beyond sectoral or linear approaches by making smart use of this precious resource to tackle increasingly complex urban water issues.

Together we Walk, Guided by the Together We Walk App water-related challenges and solutions will be demonstrated in Manhattan. New York is a unique urban setting, and yet its water stories speak of universal relationships between water and cities.

Together We Struggle, as rapidly urbanizing world, with the demand and supply of water, protection from water-related disasters, while urbanized areas are also affecting hydrological cycles negatively. Climate change is now aggravating water security concerns and impacting most deeply the underserved communities.

Together We Transition to wiser urban water management requires concerted attention by experts in urban planning, water quality, water operators, climate adaptation experts and citizens. Integrated, area-based, evidence-based planning and management approaches could leapfrog to a water secure and water resilient city for all.

Together We Act now at scale addressing the global water crisis. Transformative innovations ensuring equitable solutions on local level achieving SDG 6 (Water) and SDG 11 (Cities and Communities) through SDG17 (Partnerships), and many interrelated SDGs.

Together We Place water at the center of urban development.



24 MAR 2023
FRIDAY
09.30 - 10:45



ROOM TRUSTEESHIP
HQ 152



HEZEKIAH PIREH, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER,
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, UN-HABITAT, PIREH.OTIENO@UN.ORG

POLLUTION, SANITATION, WATER QUALITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE, A CALL TO ACTION

Worldwide, most of the discussions about climate adaptation in the water sector focuses on securing the required quantities of water for different uses and eco-systems. Public health and well-being of more than 3.5 billion people are affected by less attention on issue of pollution especially sanitation. Moreover, sanitation systems cause significant GHG emissions: 2-6% of global methane, 1-3% of nitrous oxide. This is particularly acute where water tables are high, infrastructure is faulty and onsite containment systems are not timely emptied.

There is no climate resilient future without a concerted broad-scale effort to improve the entire sanitation chain, in urban and rural areas, and across all settings. Therefore, a Call to Action was launched at COP 27 for Climate Resilient Sanitation action at all levels. Systems and services must be made resilient to protect investments, promote public health, withstand climate hazards especially flooding, and safeguard the environment. Furthermore, safely managed sanitation contributes to water saving, nutrient and energy recovery.

This side event will help member states and other water sector stakeholders better understand the rationale for a holistic, integrated approach to environment pollution, sanitation, sludge, and wastewater management, as well as the need for climate-resilient and low-carbon sanitation. The event aims to mobilise commitments of more stakeholders around the Call to Action on Climate Resilient Sanitation and promote the recommended actions in the guidelines. It will contribute to the roadmap for implementation of the call to action and getting everybody aligned for 2030 goals.



FORGET ABOUT SDG6 WITHOUT STRONG WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS: COMMITMENTS TO CAPACITATE AND FINANCE PROFESSIONAL, CLIMATE- RESILIENT WATER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS”



24 MAR 2023
FRIDAY
12:30-13:45



**HQ SIDE EVENT
ROOM 11**



GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY,
GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS,
GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA,
EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
WATERWORX, DWA/BLEU DEAL, KfW, GIZ,
PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL,
AQUA PUBLICA EUROPEA, FESAN CHILE, IHE-DELFT,
LOCAL2030 INITIATIVE



JULIE PERKINS, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER,
GWOPA, JULIE.PERKINS@UN.ORG

Global in ambition, it is at the local level that SDGs become real. For SDG 6, it's local water and sanitation service providers and water (catchment, planning, management) authorities that are at the forefront of the action. Their work is paramount to SDG 6's overall goal of ensuring water and sanitation is available and sustainably managed for all. Their work counts significantly in each of its targets – from wastewater management to water-use efficiency to integrated water resources management. Local water utilities and water (catchment) authorities are critical, and yet so many are critically underperforming according to the ultimate performance criteria: sustainable access and water safety for all. The benefits of strong local operators and (catchment) authorities- for people, for peace, prosperity and the planet - are hard to overstate. What's more is that solutions for strengthening struggling operators abound, but are not being embraced and applied fast enough. Essential as they are, these local institutions are often under-valued, disconnected, and insufficiently supported. This special session will showcase inspiring examples, promising approaches and commitments of transformative action that together can raise utilities and water authorities up to the height of their mandates. It will emphasize the role of these organizations and their skilled staff in maintaining essential infrastructure and optimizing water resources to ensure the sustainability of services. It will showcase new financing facilities and initiatives that are accelerating utilities and water authorities in their improvements and transitions. It will highlight inclusive and city-wide public and rural water and sanitation service providers collaborating with water (catchment) authorities and planners to safeguard water resources.

COMMITMENTS TO THE WATER ACTION AGENDA

UN-Habitat has collaborated with partners to draw up concrete, measurable commitments to the Water Action Agenda. We have so far developed the following commitments:

1. Localising SDG 6- Transforming access to water by strengthened capacity of those closest to water provision

- This initiative supports the achievement of SDG 6 at the local level by a large-scale effort to implement solidarity-based partnerships between water operators, to improve health, livelihoods, water and food security, and wellbeing for an estimated 100 million people. UN-Habitat and UNICEF have also submitted it as one of the High-impact Initiatives for consideration at the SDG Summit. Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan launched the Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance (GWOPA) in 2009, in response to the recognition that many of these essential water and sanitation operators (90% of which are public) are in need of help, while others are highly capable and willing to support them on a not-for-profit basis. Over more than 15 years, GWOPA has assembled a wide network of partners and led a global movement to professionalize these peer support arrangements called WOPs. By pledging to engage at least 100 public water and sanitation service providers across the globe to sign up for a set of criteria of peer exchange and support. This Action is aligned with the UN SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and is committed to addressing the capacity building of water and sanitation services provides through the scaled implementation of Water and Sanitation Operators Partnership practice, to develop a comprehensive open source infrastructure to provide data driven programming and capacity building and performance monitoring for utilities, to mobilize member states commitments towards establishment of a utility technical assistance facility to support infrastructure planning and financing to improve access to financing, innovative solutions to help with climate transitioning services and infrastructure, and to facilitate knowledge development, sharing and learning through community of practices, global and regional forums. The initiative will engage in multi stakeholders' partnerships that assess challenges, build and embed knowledge, and design and implement solutions, drawing on a set of global normative tools. This will contribute to strengthening water governance and partnership ecosystem over time.

For more information, please contact: Åsa Jonsson, Head, Global Water Operator Partnership's Alliance GWOPA/UN-Habitat, asa.jonsson@un.org

2. Wastewater 2030: Striving for a circular economy in a climate-resilient world - Wastewater is the forgotten part of the water cycle. The situation is critical in a range of member states at different stages in development. It is essential that we adopt a much-needed global transformation, where wastewater management is given more attention as part of a circular and resilient economy, and as a foundation of any development policy related to water. The monitoring of SDG 6.3.1 is still lagging behind, with the fate of at least 80% of wastewater from all sources being uncertain. Extreme climate events have impacted on wastewater management in terms of both adaptation and mitigation. Often-outdated wastewater treatment systems have never been designed to

deal with these extremes. As a result, floods create health hazards and pollution, while in periods of drought, valuable 'waste' water is wasted since it cannot be treated and reused. Without attention now, can only expect a deterioration and crisis situations developing. As actors responsible for improving wastewater management and reducing the negative impacts we propose to address four key areas as follows:

- Tackling wastewater pollution from all sources.
- Promoting Climate resilient wastewater infrastructure.
- Adopting a new inclusive policy for wastewater.
- Promoting good practices & stimulating investment.
- Towards a more-aligned international effort on wastewater.

The commitment will be discussed and endorsed by partners at the side event on “Striving for a Circular Economy in a Climate-resilient World: The Critical Role of Wastewater”, Tuesday 21 March 16:30 - 17:45, French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) Manhattan, 22 East 60th Street #1077, New York, NY 10022)

For more information, please contact: Graham Alabaster, Chief Geneva Office, UN-Habitat, graham.alabaster@un.org

3.Global report on Sanitation and Wastewater Management in Cities and Human Settlements, developed with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and AFD - Agence Française de Développement. The already registered commitment has been developed together with a consortium of partners, including Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (Lead), AguaConsult, University College London, International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering - 2iE, the Eastern and Southern Africa Water and Sanitation (ESAWAS) Regulators Association, Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA) and UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL). The Global Report, to be launched during the UN-Habitat Assembly in June this year, is a global reference on sanitation, wastewater and faecal sludge management in cities and human settlements. We are committed to mobilise resources to support bi-annual update of the global report to widen the number of cities and case studies covered as a contribution to the Water Action Agenda.

For more information, please contact: Dewi Hanoum, Programme Management Officer, UN-Habitat, hanoum@un.org

4.Deliberations with partners in the over ten side events will also come up with concrete and measurable actions to be registered during and after the Conference.

KEY MESSAGES

The following key messages will inform discussions on the various actions and commitments we are making to place water at the centre of urban development.

- 1.The greatest challenge is the provision of water and sanitation to the most vulnerable urban communities.** In low-income settlements, levels of access are a fraction of the nationally reported figures. In sub-saharan Africa for example around half of all urban residents reside in in formal settlements.
- 2.**There is currently an emphasis on water supply at the expense of wastewater and sanitation management. This not only leads to contamination of water resources, but through discharge of hazardous wastesecosystmes can irreversibly be affected . New policies for water, sanitation and waste are needed, calling for better inclusivity and closer linkages to solid waste management and drainage.
- 3.**Conflicts both due to water-related natural disasters and human-made conflicts will result in migration towards urban centres, putting more strain on already over-burdened infrastructure
- 4.**To address the above challenges, member states, development partners, businesses and local communities should **support the local and regional governments and service providers around the world who are at the forefront of driving global innovation and change.** Their integral role in multilateral processes is needed in to strengthen support to localization and move towards more effective and inclusive multilateral processes. These will require stronger involvement of local and regional governments and non-state actors in process design, implementation and monitoring. Local public service providers need to be further empowered to deliver on the global water agendas, by ensuring they have a voice, capacity and resources commensurate with their important role.
- 5.Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) are not-for-profit and solidarity-based partnerships between peer utilities.** Being fully action-oriented, WOPs have a strong potential for scalability and global impact to improve public services. WOPs work by enabling well-functioning utilities to inspire, guide, teach, and mentor their peers in need of support. WOPs make their impact by helping utilities acquire and apply knowledge, establish new practices and implement improved approaches. The resulting capacity and performance improvements can facilitate utilities' access to financing for infrastructural investments for greener, safer, more transparent, resilient, and inclusive services.
- 6.Place water in the centre of urban development** to leverage water ecosystems for healthy, resilient and productive cities, where people live most.

7.Unplanned or inappropriate urban development continues to aggravate water challenges. Rising water demand from rapid population growth and inefficient use, unmitigated pollution to waterbodies and the disruption to the water cycle from paving over of our natural infrastructure are tightly linked with unsustainable forms of urbanization. Climate change is only making matters worse. This relationship between water and cities must and can change.

8.Urbanization offers countless opportunities for sound water management and more equitable access to blue and green infrastructure. Cities and communities are where local water challenges can be solved. Well planned cities and human settlements can bolster access to safe and sustainable water services, support healthy water ecosystems and promote the blue economy. It is our job at the Conference in March to bring these opportunities to the fore so that they can lead and inspire change.

9.National governments must be supported to put in place multilevel governance, policy and financing partnerships and related capacities to ensure cities are enabled to play their part in planning and managing cross-boundary, territorial and complex water systems.

10.UN-Habitat is committed to address water-related challenges and opportunities in the 5 policy priorities as presented during the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023, at the UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi.: universal access to adequate housing, Urban climate action and environmental sustainability, Strengthening urban crisis recovery, Localization of the SDGs and multilevel governance as drivers for change, Generating prosperity and local finance.