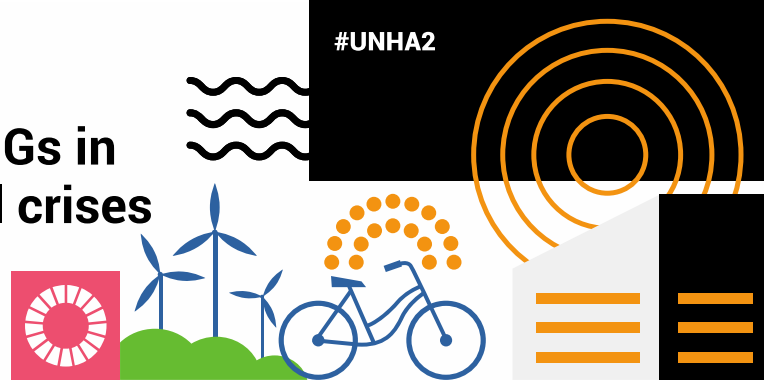



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Side Event 25

Partnerships for Localizing Multilateralism: Implications of the Water Action Agenda on Urban Development

 7 JUNE 2023, 13:15 – 14:15

 Conference Room 6

SUMMARY

The decision to convene an event at the UN-Habitat Assembly to discuss the outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference and its implications on urban development came out of a meeting between Maimunah Mohd Sharif, The ED of UN-Habitat and Henk Ovink, Dutch Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, noting the need to initiate actions to roll out the implementation of the Water Action Agenda.

UN-Habitat and its partners have registered commitments to the Water Action Agenda to accelerate progress on SDG 6, which is intricately linked to efforts in realizing SDG 11 on cities. Safe and affordable housing (SDG 11.1) cannot be attained without access to basic services such as water and sanitation (SDG 6). Water and sanitation already experience pressure from rising urbanization and climate change, with cities' water demand projected to rise by 50-70% in the next three decades. Encouragingly, 75% of the cities and infrastructure expected to be in use by 2050 are yet to be built, an opportunity for new solutions to drive transformative changes. These opportunities include solidarity-based partnership between water and sanitation operators as a mechanism to accelerate achievement of SDG 6 and 11.1 by localizing the water and sanitation service delivery through multi-stakeholders' partnership approach reflecting on key spirit of multilateralism.

The New Urban Agenda adopted during Habitat III in 2016 prioritises conservation and rehabilitation of water resources and services, and investments on climate resilient water and sanitation infrastructure within urban and territorial development plans.

Aligned with this vision, the International Water Association (IWA), a UN-Habitat accredited partner, has been working to leverage the concept of water-wise and sanitation-secure cities, proposing a holistic approach to the planning and management of urban water cycle, in close connection to land use planning and housing development. IWA has launched a series of initiatives aimed at proposing a paradigm shift within the water sector, to ensure effective governance and service delivery systems. The theme of the UN-Habitat Assembly, "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises" highlights the significance of multi-pronged, coordinated, and inclusive approach to achieve the SDGs.



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The event aims to mobilize UN-Habitat's partners, to embark on Water Action Agenda implementation by sharing progress being made towards UN-Habitat's commitments including: The Global Report on Sanitation and Wastewater Management in Cities and Human Settlements; and showcasing strengthening partnerships by National Water and Sewerage Corporation of Uganda, sharing how they advocate for Water and Sanitation Operators Partnership as a mechanism to share knowledge and capacity for effective services provision in Africa.

Objectives:

1. Discuss the outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference and its implications on urban development.
2. Showcase ongoing Water Operator's Partnerships as follow-up on the Water Action Agenda commitment on strengthening and scale up partnerships by over hundreds institutional members of the Global Water Operator's Partnership Alliance of UN-Habitat to accelerate capacity of service providers in the attainment of SDG 6 and SDG11.1.
3. Launch the Global Report on Sanitation and Wastewater Management in Cities and Human Settlements.

Organizer(s)

1. International Water Association (IWA), United Kingdom, <https://iwa-network.org/>
2. National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), Uganda, <https://www.nwsc.co.ug/>
3. UN-Habitat, <https://unhabitat.org/>
4. Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance (GWOPA), <https://gwopa.org/>

Moderator

Ms. Asa Jonsson, Head of Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance, Germany

Speaker(s)

1. Dr Kala Vairavamoorthy, Executive Director, International Water Association, United Kingdom
2. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat
3. Mr. Henk Ovink, Dutch Special Envoy for International Water Affairs and Sherpa for the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Netherlands
4. Ms. Rasa Ščeponavičiūtė, Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-HABITAT, European Union Delegation to the Republic of Kenya/Representative of German Government.
5. Ms. Zainab Mpakiraba, Principal Engineer, National Water and Sewerage Cooperation, Ministry of Water and Environment, Government of Uganda

