



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations



Water for people and the planet: Stop the waste, change the game, invest in the future

Trusteeship Council Chamber

13 and 14 February 2023, New York

Programme

Moderator: Ms. Betsy Otto, Fellow, Alliance for Global Water Adaptation

Monday, 13 February	
10:00–10:20	Welcome remarks
	Mr. Csaba Kőrösi , President of the 77th session of the General Assembly Mr. Duarte Pacheco , President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
10:20–11:00	Interactive survey
	Participants will be invited to respond to a few questions designed to identify basic positions and trends. The survey will be conducted on Mentimeter.com and will require participants to use their phones or tablets. The moderator will introduce the questions and then comment on the results, engaging participants in the process.
11:00 –12:00	SDG 6 as a linchpin of sustainable development
	<p>SDG 6 – Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all is key to the implementation of the entire SDG framework. Water and sanitation are essential to human life and development as well as to economic activity from manufacturing to agriculture. Water cuts across and supports the achievement of relevant SDGs through close interlinkages with land, ocean, climate, gender equality, health, amongst others. The current rate of progress needs to be boosted to achieve universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene.</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of progress on water and sanitation commitments in the context of the SDG framework, highlighting the stumbling blocks that stand in the way of full implementation by 2030. It will put the parliamentary hearing into the context of the current discussions at the United Nations and provide an outlook to the UN 2023 Water Conference in March.</p> <p>Leading questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the key differences between SDG 6 and MDG water goals?• What are the major challenges to achieving SDG 6 and how can commitments be translated into action?• How is the water problem different around the world?• What are the expectations for the UN 2023 Water Conference?

	<p>Presenters:</p> <p>Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor, Senior Water Expert, fmr. UNICEF Associate Director for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</p> <p>Mr. Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Advisor, UN Water</p>
<p>12:00 –13:00</p>	<p>Access to safe water and sanitation as a human right</p>
	<p>A 2010 ground-breaking resolution of the General Assembly recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and the fulfilment of all human rights. More than a decade later, this most fundamental human right is still unrealized. This session will feature a discussion on the responsibility of States as “duty bearers”, defining in broad strokes the ways and means by which a human rights perspective must permeate all public policy for water and sanitation.</p> <p>Leading questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the practical policy implications of looking at water and sanitation through a human rights lens? • What are the most important building blocks for securing access to safe water and sanitation? How do these differ in rural and urban areas? • What innovations show the most promise in increasing safe water and sanitation access? • How can this human right be realized despite growing privatization and financialization of water services? Do private actors need to take human rights considerations into account? How can states address this challenge? <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Ms. Caterina de Albuquerque, First UN Rapporteur on the right of water and sanitation, Chief Executive Office, Sanitation and Water for All</p> <p>Ms. Sareen Malik, African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation</p>
	<p>Lunch break</p>
<p>15:00–16:30</p>	<p>Climate change and water scarcity: Building resilience to avoid the worst</p>
	<p>The more the global average temperature rises uncontrollably, the more renewable water resources are at risk, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Global warming due to climate change is expected to increase water stress in many regions. More than 80% of natural disasters, involving billions of dollars in lost investments, human life and ecosystem damage, are water related.</p> <p>More frequent and extensive droughts and floods, as well as sea level rise, linked to climate change carry significant social and economic consequences: they will drive farmers out of business, accelerate migration and urbanization, and aggravate the global hunger problem. Water basins may dry out, undermining livelihoods and investments.</p> <p>In short, climate change has a direct impact on water; creating resilience is paramount to preventing more damages to lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems particularly by protecting</p>

	<p>and restoring water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.</p> <p>Leading questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can water management and the establishment of a Global Water Information System support resilience to climate change and water-related shocks?• What key investments are needed to strengthen climate-related adaptation and resilience?• How can regulatory frameworks be used to protect key water ecosystems? How can international agreements be translated into local action?• How can water utilities do a better job of adapting to climate change extremes, particularly water scarcity? <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Ms. Suzanne Ozment, World Resources Institute</p> <p>Ms. Karine Rouge, CEO, Veolia North America</p> <p>Mr. Stephan Uhlenbrook, Director of Hydrology, Water and Cryosphere, WMO</p>
16:30–18:00	Water conservation: The low hanging fruit
	<p>Ensuring water services and sanitation for a growing world population requires a multiplicity of actions, from very costly infrastructure investments to supply water to homes, factories and farms to relatively low-cost conservation measures to preserve water reserves and avoid unnecessary water waste.</p> <p>Conservation, making the most of the water we have, is the low hanging fruit of water policy in that it can lead to considerable gains at relatively low cost to state budgets, citizens and industry. Conservation measures can involve education and awareness raising of the value of water among the general population and key groups, regulations to drastically curb pollution and overutilization of ground water, as well as measures to preserve key water ecosystems such as mangroves.</p> <p>Leading questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can unsustainable consumption and production patterns of water be changed?• What role does education play in focusing more attention on water conservation?• Is water conservation and efficiency really a core strategy for meeting water needs? How does this differ across less and more developed nations?• What incentives for water conservation are available that promote equitable access? <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Dr. Alice Aureli, Chief, Groundwater Sustainability and Water Cooperation, Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO</p> <p>Mr. Johannes Cullmann, Vice Chair of UN Water, Chief Science Advisor to the President of the General Assembly</p>

	<p>Ms. Mary Ann Dickinson, former CEO of the Alliance for Water Efficiency</p>
<p>Tuesday, 14 February</p>	
<p>10:00–12:00</p>	<p>Financing infrastructure for sanitation and water services: The trillion-dollar challenge</p>
	<p>It is estimated that the financial gap to reach SDG 6 by 2030 will require mobilizing an additional US\$ 1.7 trillion, three times more than the current level of global investments. Consistent with the development cooperation agenda, the most important source of finance for water infrastructure and key water services should consist of public revenues channeled through the state budget. This requires raising more revenue through taxation and prioritizing public investments for water as key to the economy and human wellbeing.</p> <p>Closing the financial gap in water-related infrastructure will also require a whole-of-society partnership from governments with a diverse group of stakeholders, including the private sector. In particular, “blended finance” and public-private partnerships leveraged through public resources, are playing a growing role in the provision of water and sanitation services.</p> <p>This session will look at the various ways in which water and sanitation infrastructure can be financed and the issues that may arise from the tension between public vs. private sources of finance. A live survey of participants will help drive the discussion.</p> <p>Leading questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role can and should public finance play in providing universal access to water and sanitation? Do states have a duty to supply such services? • What are the risks to blended finance and public-private partnerships in incentivizing water investments? • How are the primary obstacles for bringing more investment to water and sanitation, particularly in developing countries? • How can the affordability of water services be guaranteed, particularly for the most vulnerable? <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Senator Rosa Galvez, Senate of Canada</p> <p>Mr. Paul O’Connell, President, Water Equity</p> <p>Mr. Sudipto Sarkar, Lead Water Specialist, World Bank</p>
<p>12:00–13:00</p>	<p>SPECIAL BRIEFING The future of multilateralism: challenges and opportunities for the United Nations</p>
	<p>In <i>Our Common Agenda</i>, the Secretary-General issued an ambitious call to improve international cooperation through effective multilateralism. A <i>High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB)</i> was constituted to produce an independent report reflecting on the challenges and opportunities for multilateralism as a contribution to negotiations at the UN for the 2024 Summit of the Future.</p>

	<p>This briefing will provide an opportunity for members of parliament to share their thoughts on how to strengthen multilateralism to effectively address current as well as emerging issues of global governance.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Mr. Danilo Turk, Member of the High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, former President of Slovenia</p>
<p>13:00–15:00</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>
<p>15:00–16:15</p>	<p>Toward a more inclusive water policy: Leaving no one behind</p>
	<p>A lack of participatory decision-making processes with affected and relevant stakeholders is often at the root of deficient water policies. Local communities, women, youth, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups should be involved in framing national policies for water with an eye to equity and social justice. In contrast, in too many instances water policies are designed under pressure from large commercial and private interests as opposed to the public good.</p> <p>This session will look at the ways in which accounting for the specific needs and views of women, youth and vulnerable communities can greatly improve the formulation and implementation of water commitments nationally and globally. The unique responsibility of parliamentarians as representatives of the people in ensuring that all are included in decision-making processes will be emphasized.</p> <p>Leading questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How can we ensure decision-making in water policy delivers for the public good? ● How can a human rights-based approach ensure that women, youth, indigenous peoples and other communities be included meaningfully and effectively in policies for safe water and sanitation? ● What are the critical concerns of local communities with regard to water policy and how can they be addressed? How do these concerns differ between urban and rural areas? <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Ms. Ana Merelis Genaro, MP, Chamber of Deputies of Bolivia</p> <p>Prof. Caitlyn Hall, Member, Young Hydrologic Society</p> <p>Ms. Lesha Witmer, Member, Steering Committee of the Women for Water Partnership</p>
<p>16:15 –17:30</p>	<p>Transboundary waters: From competition to cooperation for peace</p>
	<p>Many freshwater sources transcend international borders. While most water-related disputes are resolved peacefully, growing demand of water, decreasing availability, and the intensifying impact of climate change and its effects, including migration, increase the risk of violent conflict. Many conflict-affected countries are facing extreme weather events, including droughts and floods. Many countries are currently experiencing tensions with their neighbors due to unresolved water management disputes whose resolutions are critical to meeting economic and environmental needs.</p>

	<p>This session will consider current multilateral and regional mechanisms for water diplomacy as well as the practical ways and means by which water can serve as a tool of cooperation rather than competition between nations.</p> <p>Leading questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are effective “water diplomacy” tools, and what determines their success or failure?• What can governments do both within their boundaries and across watershed borders to improve cooperation and management of shared water resources?• Where water scarcity is the primary driver of conflict, what are the lessons learned?• How can climate related disputes be mitigated to prevent outbreaks of violence? <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Ms. Danielle Gaillard, Senior Specialist on Water and Global Processes</p> <p>Prof. Melissa McCracken, Assistant Professor of International Environmental Policy, The Fletcher School, Tufts University</p> <p>Prof. Susanne Schmeier, Associate Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education</p>
17:30 –17:45	Wrap up session: What is next in water policy making?
	<p>Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union</p> <p>Mr. Guy Rider, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, United Nations</p>