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

Summary report

Introduction

1. The 2023 Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations (UN) was jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the President of the General Assembly. The theme of the hearing was ***Water for people and the planet: Stop the waste, change the game, invest in the future.*** It was held in the Trusteeship Council Chamber on 13 and 14 February 2023.

2. The hearing included seven panel discussions featuring experts on water and sanitation issues, and a special briefing on the future of multilateralism and the role parliamentarians can play. It came on the heels of the UN 2023 Water Conference, scheduled for 22-24 March in New York. About 150 parliamentarians from 46 countries attended the event.

3. Paddy Torsney, Permanent Observer of the IPU to the UN, welcomed the participants and led a moment of silence for the more than 30,000 victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, including Yakup Tas, a member of the Turkish Parliament who died along with his family. She also recognized the death of Mursal Nabizada, a former member of the Afghan Parliament who was murdered in her home earlier this year.

Opening session

4. **Mr. Csaba Kőrösi**, President of the 77th session of the General Assembly, thanked Members of Parliaments for bringing their constituents' aspirations to the international community. He highlighted the parliamentarian's power to legislate, budget and scrutinize government's action and their critical role as decision makers in national governance and water policies.

Out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he said perhaps none is more urgent than SDG 6, which focuses on clean water and sanitation. Climate change is exacerbating the water crisis and by the end of this decade, water demand is expected to exceed supply by 40 percent. While the world has access to science, technology, and money to bring much-needed change, political will is needed to act. Kőrösi said there is a need for a global water information system, and that he wants the General Assembly's work to be data- and science-driven. He encouraged Member States to come to the Water Conference—the first on the topic since 1977—with concrete proposals that will lead to action and transformation.

5. **Mr. Duarte Pacheco,** President of the IPU, said 1 in 4 people lack access to safe drinking water, and almost 50 percent of the global population does not have safe sanitation. Water is related to most natural disasters, and about 1.2 billion people are at risk of floods. Water scarcity is the result of exploitation, pollution, and climate change, and the challenges are only intensifying. Water is also a security issue as it can lead to conflict, so cooperation and multilateralism are essential. Pacheco implored parliamentarians to help people realize their human right to clean water and safe sanitation by connecting global and national policies, legislating and budgeting accordingly, and holding their governments to account.

6. Participants took part in a live Mentimeter survey to gauge their initial views on topics such as water and sanitation as a public good; the link between climate change and access to water and sanitation; the responsibility of national and municipal governments to provide these services; and the importance of water compared to other priorities.

SDG 6 as a linchpin of sustainable development

7. Water affects every human and ecosystem, and is essential for everything people and governments care about, such as healthy individuals and communities, clean environments, affordable energy, and economic prosperity. Sound water management practices can help maintain peace, prevent conflict, battle the migration crisis, and allow people to enjoy dignity and have better livelihoods.

8. SDG 6—which aims for clean water and sanitation for all—is essential for achieving all 17 SDGs. Compared to the Millennial Development Goals on water, SDG 6 is bigger in scope, scale, and ambition as it looks at the entire water cycle; aims for sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; and focuses on quality to ensure water is safe to drink, and waste is properly disposed. It includes issues such as hygiene, transboundary water cooperation, water-related ecosystems, and the connection of SDG 6 to the other SDGs.

Participants identified these major obstacles to achieving SDG 6:

(a) **Political will.** Panelists repeatedly said the lack of political will is the biggest challenge, as water is not treated as the priority that it is, and rarely makes it on the political agenda. But some countries have made great strides in addressing water issues by securing political commitments from the highest levels, including India, Mexico, Senegal, and Uruguay.

(b) **Governance.** Decisions affecting water are spread across departments, ministries, and sectors, including agriculture, energy, health, education, public works, and the environment. This leads to fragmentation, but few countries have the policies, legal frameworks, and the inter-ministerial coordination needed to manage water services efficiently and equitably.

   i. Examples of efforts to tackle this include China, which created a superagency to address the cross-nature of water, and Uruguay, which created a ministry of environment to coordinate work on water carried out by multiple ministries.

(c) **Lack of a global framework.** Participants said there is lack of coordination and standards on the global level. While various parts of the UN system deal with water issues, there has been no comprehensive strategy or forum for discussion. In addition to prioritizing high-level involvement in the Water Conference, participants suggested naming a UN special rapporteur or envoy on water, and setting global standards on sustainable water use and conservation efforts.

(d) **Funding.** While every individual and business needs water, the water sector lags behind others in financing. Additionally, there has been a concerning trend in investments in sectors that adversely impact water, such as those connected to extraction and pollution.

(e) **Data and information.** Water indicators should be shared among all actors to ensure resources are shared most efficiently. Localized products should be used to inform local decision-makers and water users. Data should be segregated by gender, socioeconomic status, geographic location, and other factors.

   i. An example of a good database is Uganda's Water Supply Status, which provides a picture of the country's health when it comes to water and sanitation services.

(f) **Climate change.** The rise in pollution, extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, and other effects of climate change are having a negative impact on everything from water supplies to quality. Whether it's floods in Pakistan, wildfires in the United States, or the melting of glaciers in the Arctic, many participants spoke about the growing need to respond to disasters inflicted by climate change.

(g) **Public awareness.** Water may be the biggest crisis about which the general population is largely oblivious. Participants said there is an urgent need to educate the public about water and sanitation services, including safe practices, water's link to health, the environment, and climate change, and the growing importance of fair and responsible water use. A paradigm shift is needed about how the public values and handles water.

i. An example of a successful public awareness campaign on sanitation took place in India and focused on ending open defecation. It included billions in funding, all levels of government, and a whole-of-society approach.

10. The Water Conference will provide a once-in-a-generation opportunity to prioritize water on the global political agenda. Its Water Action Agenda will be inclusive, action-oriented, and cross-sectoral. It is intended to be just the beginning, with work continuing at a High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2023, the 2023 SDG Summit in September, and the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

11. **Recommendations for parliamentarians for the Water Conference and related events:**

(a) **Ensure participation at the highest level.** To generate political will and place water high on the international agenda, government officials from the highest levels should participate in these high-level meetings, and be prepared to pass bold policies and action.
(b) **Make commitments on all levels.** These include everything from municipal projects to global treaties. Members of Parliaments should assess their countries' existing frameworks, ratify relevant treaties, and enshrine existing resolutions into their national constitutions. These include resolutions that explicitly recognized the right to clean water and safe sanitation adopted by the General Assembly in 2010 and 2015.
(c) **Bring all actors together.** This includes convening stakeholders from all fields—including agriculture, food and, energy—to discuss demands on water resources and determine what structures need to be strengthened. Civil society, NGOs, and the private sector should be engaged also.
(d) **Engage in multilateralism.** Water issues are by nature trans-boundary and affect everyone from island nations to landlocked countries. Member States must re-commit to cooperation and multilateralism to tackle today and tomorrow's growing crises.

Access to safe water and sanitation as a human right

12. Access to clean and safe water and sanitation services is a fundamental human right, but it has been unrealized for many people around the world. One in every four individuals— or two billion people—have no access to clean water. Nearly half the world's population is unable to safely manage sanitation services at home. This has vast humanitarian implications, as waterborne diseases stemming from unsafe water, hygiene, and sanitation practices remain a top killer for children.

13. Governments have a legal responsibility to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to water and sanitation. States cannot arbitrarily disconnect water services without providing alternatives, and they must ensure third parties do not interfere with people's enjoyment of these rights. Governments must work to progressively realize people's lives by using maximum available resources, continuously improving services, and eliminating inequality. They must refrain from retrogressive policies and laws, and unjustified funding cuts that would negatively impact services.

14. **Recommendations for parliamentarians for helping people realize their right to water and sanitation:**

(a) Pass legislation that incorporates human rights obligations into national laws. Focus on smart laws, which outline these rights explicitly, and are clear and enforceable.

i. Assess existing laws for any gaps, and ensure the human right to water and sanitation is explicitly recognized. For example, one African study showed that even when some constitutions recognize the right to water, only four countries include the right to sanitation.

ii. To address water's cross-sector nature, think outside the box. For example, in Kenya, water was being used to extort sexual acts, so laws were amended to help prevent those violations.

(b) Pass budgets that allocate maximum available resources for realizing these rights.
(c) Hold governments accountable by ensuring they deliver on their commitments, and verify that funding goes where it is supposed to. Use parliamentary tools, such as auditor general reports and other state data. Rely on convening powers and public hearings to keep the issue high on the agenda.
(d) Engage all levels of government, and turn to bilateral and multilateral cooperation to effectively manage shared water systems and avoid conflict. Leverage water for peace.
(e) Reach out to vulnerable groups, including the poor and marginalized, girls and women, indigenous communities, and those in rural and remote areas. Engage with civil society to help reach these groups, and follow best practices for creating deeply participatory and inclusive systems. Use existing guidance and resources, such as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: A Handbook for Parliamentarians.

Climate change and water scarcity: Building resilience to avoid the worst

15. Water scarcity is a growing problem, including in wealthy and historically water-rich countries. Ground water is diminishing at record levels, and what is left is often more polluted. By as early as 2030, the UN estimates that 700 million people could be displaced because of water insecurity. Glaciers—which are a major or the only water source for many communities—are melting at a record pace, and pollution and extreme weather events are causing water contamination and supply problems. Traditional water infrastructure—often referred to as gray or built infrastructure—was created when climate change and environmental degradation were not the main drivers of water risk.

16. **Graywater recycling** should be a key element of building resilience, and can be a valuable revenue source for communities. Many countries make it difficult to reuse graywater, so parliamentarians should work on regulations to tackle this obstacle.

17. **Nature-based solutions** (NBS) or green infrastructure use healthy ecosystems to boost resilience, service, and delivery of water services. Some examples: forests in watersheds can help predict water supplies; protecting open spaces in cities can reduce water risk; and sustainable farming can boost water quality for downstream communities. Governments should turn to integrated green and gray infrastructure to boost resilience. These are tested and proven strategies; the Water Resources Institute has tracked about 150 NBS projects dealing with water scarcity in Latin America and nearly 200 in Sub-Saharan Africa. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that funding for NBS will need to double by 2025 to stay on track for biodiversity and climate targets.

18. **Recommendations for parliamentarians on implementing nature-based solutions:**

(a) **Legislate policies and pass budgets that fund NBS**. In many countries, legal frameworks were created for gray infrastructure, making investment and innovation in NBS difficult. Parliamentarians can change that; for example, Peruvian lawmakers passed a law requiring water utilities to dedicate a portion of their revenues to watershed conservation and adaptation, generating $10 million per year for NBS.
(b) **Authorize and enable NBS**, and put these projects on equal footing with gray infrastructure. For example, the U.S. Water Resources Development Act of 2022 classified NBS as an integral component of water infrastructure, helping water authorities finance and implement NBS more easily.
(c) **Support monitoring, research, and innovation on green-gray infrastructure**. For example, the European Union created an NBS research policy agenda, which has funded significant work in this area.

19. Climate change has greatly impacted the work of private and public **water operators**. Guaranteeing water access during a crisis has become their priority, and climate resilience is now the focus of their master planning, investments, and operations. As maintaining water quality and quantity

become more challenging, it is critical for water operators to assess their water supply and demand, and treat crisis management as part of routine operations. Operators must also comply with rapid changes in climate regulations and reporting requirements, and build the skills, ecosystems, and partnerships that allow them to handle growing crises. Transparency and building trust with the public are key to ensuring more flexible and resilient ecosystems.

20. **Data and information** can lead to better water management practices. In the climate context, this can help with everything from maximizing water use to preparing for extreme hydrological events. The World Meteorological Organization's HydroSOS is one such resource, as it uses ground-based and satellite data to monitor and predict global freshwater hydrological conditions.

Water conservation

21. The cheapest water is water that is not wasted, but an average of 30 percent of municipal water is lost due to leaks and other losses. Industries like agriculture, meat production, and textiles use huge amounts of water and rely on unsustainable practices. In light of factors such as population growth and climate change, efforts to conserve water should expand from the individual to the global level.

22. Recommendations on what Parliaments, governments, and others can do to conserve water:

(a) Enact an international agreement on the global hydrological cycle as a global common. While the atmosphere and the ocean are already considered a global common, the water cycle links them, but it is not treated as a global common even though everyone depends on it.
(b) Focus on big-ticket items, such as agriculture and industry. Between 80-90 percent of global water consumption goes into food production, but about 50 percent of irrigation systems are unsustainable.
(c) Stop the loss of fresh water into oceans—this is a tough, but critical standard.
(d) Implement incentives, subsidies, taxes, sanctions, and other instruments to abolish unsustainable practices and promote sustainable practices and healthy ecosystems. Consider a tax on unsustainable water use (similar to the carbon tax that many countries have) and use subsidies to create a more responsible and circular economy. Additionally, push for the UN to re-evaluate how it calculates the GDP, which measures output in terms of the economy, but not environmental or other harms.

    i. As an example, Indonesia passed a law that requires businesses that use state water sources to meet stringent requirements and pay conservation fees.
    ii. Consider programs that guarantee income for farmers for 2-3 years as they test and implement more sustainable practices.
    iii. Advocate for sustainable practices such as wind power, and work to reduce industries harmful for water supplies, such as deforestation, fossil fuels, and meat production.

(e) Protect water sources by giving them legal status. Examples include Ecuador considering nature a legal entity, and India giving the Ganges River a legal personality.
(f) Prioritize water sufficiency programs over building new infrastructure; most of the time, water conservation efforts have a lower marginal cost than building another reservoir, for example.
(g) Adopt plumbing standards and green codes to make plumbing fixtures and water use devices more efficient.

    i. For example, the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 1992 set standards for shower heads, faucets, and urinals. This led to water savings equivalent to 20 years of combined water needs of the three biggest U.S. cities—New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.
    ii. Indonesia in 2015 set plumbing standards for buildings, and Jordan adopted a green commercial building code in 2011, leading to savings from more efficient fixtures.

(h) Once those standards are implemented, invest in retrofitting products to those standards. For example, Los Angeles has been investing in retrofits since 1970, and now uses the same amount of water it did in 1978, even though its population grew by 1.5 million.

(i) Reduce municipal leakage and intermittency in water supply. The International Water Association has indicators for reducing water leaks that many countries have implemented.
(j) Price water so that the cost of delivering it is recovered, and send customers a conservation signal. Proper pricing can encourage reduction in use.
(k) Take advantage of the fact that saving water also saves energy.
(l) Enact rules for making new housing developments water-neutral or water-positive. They should be smart from the start through a combination of onsite water efficiency and recycling practices, and offsite retrofitting.
(m) Educate the public on the wise use of water. People should know where water comes from and how to use it more efficiently. Organizations such as UNESCO are prioritizing water education, and working towards changing people's attitudes and behavior towards water through many approaches, including the Global Network of Water Museums. UNESCO's efforts include formal and informal education, water education awareness campaigns, as well as building scientific knowledge and institutional capacity.

Financing water and sanitation services

23. Water systems are facing an unprecedented crisis, but remain grossly underfunded. An additional $1.7 trillion—or three times the current investment—is needed to achieve SDG 6. There is a lack of public funding. The public sector must set policies and regulations, which will result in adequate services offered to citizens. Only about 1 percent of commercial finance goes to water and sanitation, even though for every $1 invested, there is a net benefit of $4. A paradigm shift is needed to urgently prioritize water and fund water services accordingly. The cost of inaction should be put into perspective and communicated to the public.

24. Water underpins everything people do. Managing water requires a whole-of government and whole-of-society approach.

25. All aspects of water resource management should be assessed for effectiveness and efficiency, including whether water is clean and readily available, and if it is being delivered to everyone, particularly the poor and marginalized. Service must be clearly defined; countries with strong regulators typically provide good services. In addition to focusing on pipes and other infrastructure, strengthening institutions should be prioritized.

26. Appreciate water as the valuable resource that it is, and price it accordingly. In some places, such as Ecuador, the human right to water is embedded in the Constitution, so pricing water is impossible, but there are still ways to value water and related infrastructure and services.

27. Improve how water revenues and expenditures are captured. Current models and budgets are largely based on yearly or short-term basis. Financing streams are too fragmented; public and private sectors have to join forces in multiple ways as water underpins all the sustainable development goals. In rare cases when there is a minister of water, their budget is typically not related to health and environmental ministries' budgets even though investing in water also improves health and environmental outcomes. 28. While many countries finance water from their own sources, trans-boundary cooperation can benefit an entire region. Such agreements exist in many places, such as in the Sahel region, for the Senegal River Basin, and the Danube River.

29. Capital markets offer opportunities for investments in water; from 2007-2022, water and sanitation stocks were the best performing basket of public stocks. Similarly, water and sanitation accounted for the best performing infrastructure class.

30. One area of progress over the last decade has been in the area of microfinance loans, with about $3.5-$4 billion deployed in the water and sanitation space. These take into account the steep opportunity cost (such as in terms of time, health, lost education, and work) for people who walk for as much as two hours a day to get water. Giving these individuals financial credit has had profound effect on their lives.

31. The financial gap to achieve SDG 6 by 2030 requires a significant global investment. The private sector should work with public entities to provide sustainable water infrastructure and services. Sustainable goals and human rights principles must be embedded in such partnerships, and affordability guaranteed for the most vulnerable. There are also growing opportunities for corporations to help state actors, such as by providing smart leak detectors and other technology.

32. In regard to foreign aid, Member States should consider cancelling recipient countries' water debt so they can reinvest that money into achieving their water and sanitation targets.

33. Participants discussed different ideas for holding businesses, states, and individuals accountable for unfair water use. For example, customers who use water excessively should face much higher prices. When it comes to polluters, the principle of prevention should be enshrined in legislation, instead of asking for money once damage has already been done. As for strengthening institutions, the creation of water agencies was presented as an option.

Towards a more inclusive water policy: leaving no one behind

34. The most successful and efficient water policies are deeply participatory and include youth, women, indigenous people, and other community members and stakeholders. They should be involved starting with project planning and design, and their participation should be meaningful and long-lasting.

35. Recommendations for parliamentarians for creating more inclusive processes:

(a) Set quota for representation. These should include non-state actors, and contain guidance that allow participants' input to be acknowledged and recorded. Turn to best practices, such as the National Coastal Resilience Laboratory in Mexico, which has a robust framework for engaging people, and collecting and incorporating their feedback.
(b) Address the disproportionate impact water scarcity has on girls and women. Many of them spend hours each day fetching water, which means they are unable to go to school or work. This creates a ripple effect, making them more susceptible to poverty, early marriage, pregnancy, sexual and other crimes, and even death.
(c) Use gender-sensitive budgeting to ensure equity, and segregate data by gender, age and other factors to help address any gaps in service.
(d) Treat youth, women, indigenous populations and other groups as equal actors, not victims. Focus on relationship building, and ensure interactions are not just one-way and extractive, but respectful of people's expertise and lived experiences. Ask people not only what they need, but what they know, and which actions they want to propose.
(e) Make rules and procedures less bureaucratic so everyone can understand them and participate.
(f) Include youth in all aspects of decision-making and programming, take them seriously, and help them build confidence, which often prevents them from engaging. Tap into existing youth networks, movements, and organizations, such as the World Youth Water Parliament for Water, Global Youth Community, and the Water Youth Network.
(g) Focus on whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. Private sectors, civil society, NGOs, and local communities should be engaged from the start, not as an afterthought. In France, for example, water parliaments include elected authorities, water users, and representatives from environmental and agricultural groups.
(h) When designing any legislation—regardless of the type of program or sector—conduct due diligence on the impact on water. Ensure ministries' budgets include funding for sustainable water use, whether that is in agriculture, education, industry, or other fields.
(i) Focus on education—both formal and informal—which enables participation, makes people aware of their rights, and builds capacity.

Transboundary waters: from competition to cooperation for peace

36. Many freshwater sources cross international borders, so cooperation is essential for managing them, as well as maintaining peace and preventing conflict. While there are more than 800 treaties on transboundary waters and more than 120 basin organizations, focus should be on implementing existing instruments and making sure they are effective.

37. In arid areas, states are more likely to cooperate because of the negative risks associated with the lack of water and the benefits of cooperating. But even in areas that have historically had more cooperation, tension has increased over the last decade due to climate change and the growing demand for water resources. Still, it is important to remember that not all conflict is negative and some conflict can trigger dialogue.

38. Water diplomacy is a relatively new concept in public, academic, and policy discourse. It moves beyond transboundary water management to encompass sharing of technology and data, joint flood monitoring, integrated basin planning, and other forms of cooperation. It brings together diplomatic, security and other actors to ensure water issues are handled in a peaceful and cooperative matter. For water diplomacy to work, water must become a political priority; institutions should be strengthened from the basin to the global level; and governance systems must involve multiple stakeholders.

39. Gender-supportive processes are a key component of water diplomacy, and more women should be involved in water management. UN Women found that while fewer than 10 percent of negotiators in peace processes are women, those that include women last longer and are more resilient. Women have also been shown to push for negotiations when momentum stalls or talks falter. Organizations such as the Women in Water Diplomacy network in the Nile work to increase women's empowerment and participation in diplomatic processes.

40. Recommendations for parliamentarians on managing transboundary water services:

(a) Ensure all relevant global conventions are signed and ratified, including the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention and the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
(b) Consider implementing integrated watershed management, and engage all stakeholders in the process. Learn from best practices; the Senegal River Basin Development Organization is an example of a developed and imaginative arrangement.
(c) Work on convincing constituents that benefits from long-term multilateral cooperation outweigh those of short-term lateral goals.
(d) Understand that water is increasingly becoming a security issue and could create conflict and lead to migration. Water services can be used as a weapon of war; and become a target of terrorism attacks and cybercrimes. Ensure you have proper security systems in place, and turn to multilateralism to coordinate cross-border issues.
(e) Ensure women are included in decision-making on transboundary and other issues. With about 150 Member States supporting the appointment of a UN special envoy on water, a suggestion was made to ensure that if that position is created, it goes to a woman.
(f) Look at water as an opportunity. It can be a great connector and convenor, bring partners together, and provide a basis for multilateralism. Investing in water can greatly improve people's quality of life, boost the economy, and help build a sustainable future for next generations.

Special briefing: The future of multilateralism: challenges and opportunities for the United Nations

President Danilo Türk, member of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB) which was created by the UN Secretary-General in April 2022 as part of Our Common Agenda, gave a briefing on efforts to revive multilateralism. HLAB will deliver a report in April 2023 and is expected to focus on six areas for transforming global governance:

(a) Collective security, including reform of the UN Security Council to make the body more representative and inclusive, and peacebuilding, so that it focuses not only on conflict prevention, but making societies more resilient.
(b) Abundant and sustainable finance that delivers for all, including through reforms of international finance infrastructure and more private sector engagement.
(c) Climate governance, with an emphasis on enabling green transition, and strengthening environmental dimensions in decision-making.
(d) Digital transition, so that so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of the digital age, and data is secure and protected.

(e) Current and emerging trans-national risks, including artificial intelligence, outer space, trans-national organized crime, biohazards and viruses.
(f) Inclusive and accountable multilateralism, which includes stakeholders from all levels of society.

President Türk encouraged parliamentarians to give input on the report; push their governments to include parliamentarians in UN high-level meetings; and seek change by exercising their parliamentary powers, including committee hearings, public consultations, and passing of legislation and budgets.

Closing remarks

41. Duarte Pacheco thanked the panel experts, IPU staff and the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and stressed that without parliamentarians' involvement, progress on water will not be possible. No country is immune to water-related programs, and Members of Parliaments must pressure their governments to put water at the forefront of their agenda. While water is a public good, there is room for private sector involvement as long as certain conditions are met. In light of intensifying pressures due to climate change, a paradigm shift is needed and focus should be on building resilience, including through water conservation and nature-based solutions. Parliamentarians play a vital role in translating global instruments into national policies and budgets, and integrating water and sanitation services into all levels of government and society.

42. Guy Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy at the UN, said the world is at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda, but not on track to realize the SDGs. This is a critical moment that demands redoubling efforts to meet SDG targets—for the sake of all people and the planet. Upcoming convenings at the UN provide an opportunity to give water greater visibility on the international policy agenda. Members of Parliament must repeatedly and persistently bring their constituents' views to the UN and engage in multilateral work that is essential for handling water's many cross-cutting areas.

Annex

List of Speakers

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

Day One

Opening session

Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th session of the General Assembly

Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Panel 1: SDG 6 as a linchpin of sustainable development

Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor, Senior Water Expert, former UNICEF Associate Director for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Mr. Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Advisor, UN Water
Panel 2: Access to safe water and sanitation as a human right
Ms. Caterina de Albuquerque, First UN Rapporteur on the right of water and sanitation, Chief Executive Office, Sanitation and Water for All
Ms. Sareen Malik, Executive Secretary, African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation
Panel 3: Climate change and water scarcity: Building resilience to avoid the worst

Ms. Suzanne Ozment, Senior Associate, Natural Infrastructure, World Resources Institute

Ms. Karine Rouge, CEO, Veolia North America

Ms. Hwirin Kim, Chief, Hydrological and Water Resources Service Division, World Meteorological Organization

Panel 4: Water conservation: The low-hanging fruit

Mr. Johannes Cullman, Vice Chair of UN Water, Chief Science Advisor to the President of the General Assembly

Ms. Mary Ann Dickinson, former CEO of the Alliance for Water Efficiency

Day 2

Panel 1: Financing infrastructure for sanitation and water services: The trillion-dollar challenge

Mr. Sudipto Sarkar, Lead Water Specialist, World Bank

Mr. Paul O'Connell, President, Water Equity

Senator Rosa Galvez, Senate of Canada

Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Special Briefing: The future of multilateralism: challenges and opportunities for the United Nations

Mr. Danilo Türk, Member of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, former President of Slovenia

Panel 2: Toward a more inclusive water policy: Leaving no one behind

Ms. Lesha Witmer, Member, Steering Committee of the Women for Water Partnership

Prof. Caitlyn Hall, Member, Young Hydrologic Society

Panel 3: Transboundary waters: From competition to cooperation for peace

Prof. Melissa McCracken, Assistant Professor of International Environmental Policy, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Prof. Susanne Schmeier, Associate Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Ms. Danielle Gaillard-Picher, Senior Advisor, Stockholm International Water Institute

Wrap-up session: What is next in water policy making?

Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the IPU

Mr. Guy Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, United Nations