



## **UNFCCC COP 25 Madrid, Spain**

### **Concept Note SDG 6 Roundtable: Building a Resilient Future Through Water**

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

9 December 2019  
16:30 - 18:00

Organised by:  
UNFCCC, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Alliance for Global  
Water Adaptation (AGWA)

With the support of:  
Business Alliance for Water and Climate (BAFWAC), FAO, Global Alliances for  
Water and Climate (GAFWAC), World Water Council (WWC), Megacities Alliance  
for Water and Climate (MAWAC)

## MPGCA “Thematic”: SDG 6 and Climate Action

### Description:

The UN Secretary General this year placed climate action front and centre as part of the Sustainable Development agenda, urging the global community to substantially increase and accelerate efforts to achieve the goal of a 1.5°C future. In parallel, UN Member States issued a Political Declaration on Sustainable Development that speaks unequivocally about the threat of climate change and environmental degradation and calls out as an immediate and urgent priority the task of mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as well as the promotion of resilience.

In this important global moment, it is crucial to understand that the climate crisis is also a water crisis because climate change is primarily felt through water. Increased climate variability will affect the availability of water, in both quantity and quality, and expose already vulnerable populations and ecosystems to even greater risk. Simply put, to deal with the consequences of climate change is to deal with the consequences of water change.

But water is not merely a passive indicator of a changing climate. It is a catalyst for action and a climate solution. When water’s availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation are ensured, as set forth in the targets under SDG 6, water can function as a driver for our collective pursuit of an integrated and transformative global agenda. Its interconnectedness across the SDGs -- and thus across systems such as sustainable economies, food, energy, and urban development -- necessitates integrated solutions found in resilient water management and governance that can set countries on the pathway to a sustainable, low-carbon future.

This is especially evident in the case of climate action. Resilient water management not only contributes to climate adaptation, it also has the potential to mitigate climate change, and it is crucial to achieving the objectives of the UNFCCC’s Paris Climate Agreement. This roundtable aims to make concrete the interlinkages between sustainable water and sanitation management and climate change in order to spotlight water solutions toward ambitious and transformative climate water and climate and spotlight water solutions for ambitious and transformative climate action.

### Objective of the event towards the following issues:

#### ***Pre-2020 action:***

In this roundtable, we aim to identify and demonstrate how integrated, holistic, efficient, effective, equitable, resilient and sustainable water solutions can ensure the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and ensure that parties reach the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. It will feature examples of progress to date on a diverse range of issues relating to SDG6 and other water related targets, while simultaneously being part of climate action implementation to deliver a just, prosperous and low-carbon future.

Some key messages:

- 1) Strengthened water governance is key to successful adaptation and mitigation solutions. Water can serve as a catalyst for peace and cooperation at different levels and between sectors, ensure inclusiveness, and develop collaboration and partnerships;
- 2) Investments into water-related solutions for adaptation and mitigation actions can offer a strong return on investment;

- 3) Water is key to resilient landscapes and societies. Water should be at the center of sustainable agriculture and food production, sustainable forest and landscape management, and urban water resilience, through source-to-sea actions that improve management of land, water, coastal and marine linkages;
- 4) Poverty alleviation and climate justice require the protection of and solutions that address ecosystems such as wetlands, clean water and sanitation and reduction of water-related disaster risk;
- 5) Innovative water management solutions can contribute to the circular economy and to sustainable energy generation and consumption.

***Climate Action Pathway/Yearbook of Global Climate Action/Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA) / 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit***

We will use this event to make direct linkages to the Global Commission’s Water Action Track and as well as other UNCAS initiatives that strongly link to water including: Nature-based solutions, resilience and adaptation, cities and infrastructure. The aim is to enhance the NDCs and NAPs and bring these initiatives more fully into the MPGCA and NAZCA processes.

**Programme**

Building a Resilient Future through Water Date: 9 December 2019 Time: 16:30 - 18:00 Room: San Pedro de Atacama (Hall 4)	
16:30 - 16:35	<i>Welcome and opening remarks by <b>Maggie White</b>, Senior Manager, International Policy, SIWI and Co-Chair, AGWA</i>
16:35 - 16:55	<i>High level discussion conducted in a “fireside chat” format to allow for interactive dialogue, moderated by <b>Maggie White</b>, Senior Manager, International Policy, SIWI and Co-Chair, AGWA</i>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. <b>Ingrid-Gabriella Hoven</b>, Director General, Global Issues – Sector Policies and Programmes, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</li> <li>2. Mr. <b>Leo Heller</b>, UN Special Rapporteur for the Human right to water and sanitation</li> </ol>
<i>Moderator begins the roundtable discussion and explains the rules for the event. Invited speakers will have maximum 3 minutes (with strict timekeeping). During the open round, each intervention from the floor will be limited to one minute.</i>	
16:55 - 17:10	<i>Question set 1: What role can water play and what actions need to be accelerated to reach Paris Agreement goals? What are the most important water related ecosystem approaches and nature-based solutions for climate action and for building resilient communities? Which incentives exist for governments to invest in water related solutions that tackle both their national climate action plans and the 2030 sustainable development agenda?</i>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. <b>Henk Ovink</b>, Special envoy for Water, Kingdom of the Netherlands</li> <li>• Ms. <b>Karin Kemper</b>, Global Practice Director for Environment, World Bank</li> <li>• Mr. <b>Loïc Fauchon</b>, President, World Water Council</li> <li>• Ms. <b>Monika Weber-Fahr</b>, Executive Director, Global Water Partnership</li> </ul>

17:10	<i>Interaction with the Audience</i>
17:15 - 17:30	<p><i>Question set 2: What lessons can we learn from good water governance which have promoted both SDG and climate action goals while fostering cooperation between countries, cities, and local communities?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. <b>Minna Arve</b>, Mayor of Turku, Finland [tbc]</li> <li>• Mr. <b>José Luis Martínez-Almeida</b>, Mayor of Madrid [tbc]</li> <li>• Mr. <b>Claudio Castro</b>, Mayor of Renca [tbc]</li> <li>• Ms. <b>Louise Ellis</b>, Arup and the City Water Resilience Approach (CWRA) initiative</li> <li>• Mr. <b>Jonathan Farr</b>, WaterAid</li> <li>• Ms. <b>Birgitta Liss Lymer</b>, Director, Water Resources, Stockholm International Water Institute</li> </ul>
17:30	<i>Interaction with audience</i>
17:35 - 17:50	<p><i>Question set 3: New business models are emerging through creating new opportunities along the whole value chain. What is the business case for water solutions and innovation from the private sector and how do they contribute to sustainable development?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. <b>Claudio Muñoz Zúñiga</b>, Aguas Andinas, President [tbc]</li> <li>• Ms. <b>Ezgi Barcenás</b>, Global VP, Sustainability, AB InBev</li> <li>• Mr. <b>Pär Larshans</b>, Director of Sustainability, Ragn-Sells Group</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Christian Stammkoetter</b>, Senior Vice President for Europe, Noram, Turkey-Middle East Waters &amp; Evian Volvic International, Danone,</li> <li>• Burberry [tbc]</li> </ul>
17:50	<i>Interaction with audience</i>
17:55	<i>Closing remarks by High-Level Champion <b>Gonzalo Muñoz</b></i>
<p>Contact person (only one person to be published on the UNFCCC online side event system):</p> <p>Name: Jennifer Jun          Organization: Stockholm International Water Institute          Email address: jennifer.jun@siwi.org          Telephone number: +46 (0) 720 50 60 01</p>	
<p>Logistical requirements: Standard AV equipment, Computer/Laptop in case of PPT projection</p>	