



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Republic of Tajikistan



From COP27 to the UN 2023 Water Conference:
Accelerating action on water and adaptation

Saturday, 12 November 2022, 11:30AM – 13:00PM, Blue Zone, Room Khufu

Introduction

Our climate is changing at an alarming rate. Increasingly visible, increasingly irreversible and increasingly devastating. It threatens our cities, environment, food supply, economy and life. It threatens billions of people. Climate change has an immediate impact on the water cycle: the 6th IPCC report states very clearly that water risks will increase exponentially with each degree of global temperature rise and already forty percent of the world's population is currently affected by water scarcity. And in other parts of the world, increased flooding destroys homes, infrastructure and livelihoods. By 2050, more than half of the world's population will be at risk due to water stress, flooding and desertification. Many parts of the world are already facing the reality of having too much, too little, or too polluted water. We need to take action to change our course!

UN 2023 Water Conference

On 22-24 March 2023, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan will co-host the first UN conference on water since 1977. This is the Midterm Review of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028. The co-hosts encourage stakeholders from all sectors to announce voluntary commitments as part of the **Water Action Agenda** (WAA). The WAA will be one of the main outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference and will support Member States and stakeholders to come forward with voluntary commitments to help accelerate the implementation of water-related goals and targets, such as SDG 6.

During the PGA meeting in New York on October 25th the five themes of the interactive dialogues of the UN 2023 Water Conference have been decided upon. The themes are:

1. Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation (SDG 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 17).
2. Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development (SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12).
3. Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction (SDG 6.5, 6.6, and SDGs 7, 11.5, 13, 14, 15).
4. Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda (SDG 6.5, 6.b and SDGs 16, 17).
5. Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan.

Event

This UNFCCC side event will take a deep dive into the theme **Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment** because water and climate are inextricably inter-twinned with each other and alignment between those sectors is crucial in making the WAA a success. The event accommodates two panels to provide a podium for Member States and stakeholders to come forward with and discuss transformative commitments for the WAA that have the ability to shift our global trajectory towards a water secure world for all.

Panel 1: Water Resilience: Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions

Climate change is exacerbating an already tenuous situation for vulnerable populations and ecosystems on the brink of collapsing due to water scarcity, floods and poor water quality. For example, climate's influence on water is a direct threat to food security. This calls for a discussion on improved governance mechanisms to allow for adaptive water management for sustainable agriculture, including crop selection and water-efficient irrigation.

The strategic planning and operation of water infrastructure in the face of climate change, therefore, is essential to ensure clean, adequate and affordable supply of water for all. To enhance the resilience of critical water infrastructure, there is a need to promote multi-purpose and nature-based solutions, and strengthen institutional collaboration and regulations to be able to adapt to the changes ahead. Placing water at the heart of these strategies is an essential way forward.

Panel 2: Water for Ecosystems: from Source to Sea & Disaster Risk Reduction

Water-related ecosystems such as lakes, rivers, forests, mountains and wetlands are among the world's most biologically diverse environments and provide multiple benefits and services to society. They support water security, provide natural freshwater, regulate flows and extreme conditions, purify water, and replenish aquifers. However, many ecosystems, particularly forests and wetlands, are at risk. The degradation of ecosystems will not only lead to biodiversity loss, but also affect carbon capture and storage, natural flood protection, as well as the provision of water for agriculture, fisheries and recreation.

The United Nations World Water Development Report 2020 estimates that 74% of all-natural disasters between 2001 and 2018 were in fact water-related. As such it is important to focus on the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to reduce disaster risk. We can only meet the many challenges if we take a holistic source-to-sea approach to disaster risk reduction and engage with all actors, both upstream and downstream, from on-the-ground practitioners to those at decision-making, governmental levels.

Objectives

- Inspire Member States and organisations in the run-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference to present commitments for the Water Action Agenda;
- Encourage Member States and stakeholders to forge inclusive partnerships and enhance cooperation on water and climate.

Practical details

- Language: English
- Room capacity Khufu: 300pax
- Setting: head table for 8 speakers, including 4 table microphones, one lectern
- The event will be livestreamed on YouTube into the dedicated COP 27 side events playlist, accessible via [this link](#).

Program

Introduction & Scene Setting	
11:30am	Welcome by moderator Cate Lamb – Global Director, Water Security, CDP
	Setting the Scene by co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference: - H.E. Ms. Liesje Schreinemacher, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands - H.E. Jamshed Shoimzoda, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan
Panel 1: Water Resilience: Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions	
Approx. 11:45am	Ms. Alicia Maldonado Félix, Youth representative from Peru
	H.E. Cecilia Sandra Jerónimo Francisco Chamutota, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resource of Mozambique
	H.E. Mr. Miguel Ceara Hatton, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic
	Mr. Aromar Revi, Director Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Co-chair of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network & Lead expert in the Global Commission on the Economics of Water
	Ms. Rachel Terry, Manager Sustainability, Van Oord Dredging and Marine Contractors
Stage Shuffle (approx.. 5 min)	
Panel 2: Water for Ecosystems: from Source to Sea & Disaster Risk Reduction	
Approx. 12.20pm	Dr Phil Duncan, Senior Indigenous Water Leader, Kamilaroi (Australia)
	HL official from the European Commission (tbc)
	Mr. Majid Al-Suwaidi (Director General of CoP28 at the United Arab Emirates) (tbc)
	Ms. Loretta Hieber-Girardet, Chief, Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity-Development Branch, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
	Torgny Holmgren – Executive Director SIWI
Closing	
Approx. 12.50pm	Wrap-up by moderator
	Closing remarks by Mina Guli – ultra-marathon runner and CEO of Thirst Foundation

Speaker bio's

Moderator: Cate Lamb, Global Director, Water Security, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)

Cate manages CDP's Water Security program with a focus on working with key stakeholders to deliver significant changes in the corporate management of water. Cate has ten years of experience in the environmental and sustainable development fields and has a strong technical, scientific and project management background. Cate holds a BSc in Environmental Science from Lancaster University.



Introduction & Scene Setting

H.E. Liesje Schreinemacher (Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands)

Liesje Schreinemacher is the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and member of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD). Trade and aid go hand in hand and as a minister she hopes to strengthen the Netherlands' position in the international economy. At the same time, through development cooperation, the Netherlands will continue to look out for people in the world's most vulnerable regions, and tackle the root causes of poverty, climate change, terrorism and migration.



Before this position, from 2019-2022, she was a Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe Group). She has also worked as trainee lawyer at Pels Rijcken & Droogleever Fortuijn (2016-2018) and Croon advocaten (2018-2019). Ms. Liesje Schreinemacher has a M.A. in Communication Studies from the University of Amsterdam (2006-2008) and a M.A. in Civil Law from the University of Leiden (2014-2015).

H.E. Jamshed Shoimzoda (First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan)

Jamshed Shoimzoda is in charge of water resources and water management. In this role, he manages a portfolio of water resources projects, makes the policy, and develops the relevant legislation. Mr. Shoimzoda joined the Ministry in 2014 as a Head of the Main Department of Energy and Water Resources, and then in 2015, he was promoted to the Deputy Minister position. Before, he spent nearly eight years at the State Investment Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan, where he was responsible for attracting investments and coordinating foreign aid. He collaborated and liaised with many Tajikistan Government agencies and development partners during his tenure. He was related to implementing more than 46 investment projects in the different sectors with a total amount of more than one bln USD.



Before joining the Tajikistan Government, Mr. Shoimzoda was a co-founder of several IT and consulting companies in the private sector. In his early professional career, he also worked as a procurement specialist for several local private companies in Tajikistan. Mr. Shoimzoda received his degree in construction engineering from the Tajik Technic University, named after M. Osimi, in 2003.

Panel 1 Water Resilience: Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions

Alicia Maldonado Félix (Youth Representative Peru)

Alicia Maldonado is a medical doctor from Lima, Peru, currently studying the MSc Global Health Policy at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and Peruvian Youth Delegate to the UN, position where she represents Peruvian Youth at UN meetings, such as the Third Committee of the UNGA and the Commission for Social Development, advocating for meaningful youth involvement, climate change and social justice. She was selected as part of the first cohort of the Climate Youth Negotiators Programme (CYNP), giving her the opportunity to become youth negotiator of the Peruvian delegation for COP27



H.E. Cecilia Sandra Jerónimo Francisco Chamutota, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resource of Mozambique

Ms. Cecília Francisco holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Eduardo Mondlane University 2013. She received her undergraduate degree with the theme "Numerical Modeling of Interaction between Waves and Structures of Coastal Protection". Laboratory of Maritime Engineering of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - Barcelona Tech, in Spain and different simulations in the numerical model of generation of waves DualSPHysics. In the final phase of her course, Cecília worked as a Hydraulics I and II monitor at Eduardo Mondlane University. At Royal HaskoningDHV (formerly DHV), she supervised the construction works of 9 irrigation systems for rice in the provinces of Sofala and Zambézia and was also involved in projects of water supply networks and drainage of wastewater and rainwater.



With 9 years of professional experience, Cecília is currently the vice Minister of Public Works, Housing, and Water Resources. In this position, she has the opportunity to participate in the elaboration of legal instruments in the area of civil construction and accompany the development of several engineering works throughout the country, namely: road construction, water supply and sanitation, dams, and others. As a member of the Government, she has represented the country in various World forums and conferences, where she had the opportunity to share Mozambique's progress and challenges on topics such as Sanitation, Integrated Management of Water Resources, Urbanization, and the creation of Resilient Cities

H.E. Mr. Miguel Ceara-Hatton, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic

Economist with professional interest in the areas of Macroeconomics, Economic Development, Economic Theory, Public Policy & Economics, and International Politics. Researcher at the "José Luis Alemán" Center for Economic and Social Studies of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM), where he has taught since 2011. The focus of his research has been Dominican economic development. Consultant for international organizations and the private sector.



Ceara-Hatton graduated in Economics from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Center for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE), also in Mexico, specializing in Development and Econometrics. He served as the Minister of Economy, Planning and Development from 16 August 2020 until 7 July 2022, until he was appointed Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. He is a professor of Macroeconomics, Development Theory, Monetary, History of Economic Thought, International Trade, Econometrics and Dominican Economy, and Human Development.

Mr. Aromar Revi, Director Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Co-chair of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network & Lead expert in the Global Commission on the Economics of Water

Aromar Revi is the founding Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS). He is a global practice and thought leader, educator and institution builder with four decades of interdisciplinary experience across sustainable development, governance, economics and finance, sustainable cities, water and climate change and disaster risk reduction. He is a Co-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Leadership Council and member of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water.



He is an expert on global environmental and climate change. He was a CLA of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and of the AR6 WGII synthesis chapter on Climate Resilient Development Pathways, and helped bring the global urban & climate agendas together via the Summary for Urban Policymakers of the IPCC AR6, launched at CoP27. Aromar has led over 200 major consulting and research assignments, is a widely cited scholar across multiple fields and helped structure development investments of over \$ 15 billion.

Rachel Terry (Head of Sustainability at Van Oord)

Rachel is Head of Sustainability at Van Oord, combining her technical background as a Civil and Coastal Engineer with a drive and purpose to create a better world. She started out as a design engineer in the civil maritime industry in the UK and moved to the Netherlands to pursue a career in offshore wind projects with Van Oord.

Following this, she reconnected with her purpose and became Head of Sustainability at Van Oord, responsible for delivering net positive impact within Van Oord's existing business portfolio while integrating sustainability in the business to enable Van Oord to grow in new sustainable business areas such as Climate Adaptation and Ocean Health.



Rachel believes that the key to successfully addressing the challenges we face as a society, is collaboration. Together we need more than hope, we need courage to regenerate our world for future generations.

Panel 2: Water for Environment: Source-to-Sea and Disaster Risk Reduction

Phil Duncan (Senior Indigenous Water Leader, Kamilaroi)

Phil Duncan is from Moree New South Wales and is a member of the Gomeroi Nation and a Member of Gomeroi Nation Native Title Claimant Group. His homelands are Moree and Terry Hie Hie. Phil has almost 40 years' experience working with Aboriginal people and government to improve the lives of Aboriginal people through recognition of our rich cultural history, the return of our lands, the improvement of our living conditions and education of our next generation through both his employment and active volunteer community work.



His strategic advice, leadership and engagement is around issues of culture and heritage significance, community engagement in on-ground projects, as well as the design, delivery and implementation of programs in partnership with government. Phil has made contributions in a variety of domains from education and organisational reconciliation action through to areas of focus such as natural resource management, freshwater river management, forestry, native fish, water rights and allocations. Phil is active in managing and maintaining connections and representing and understanding different viewpoints which can be applied to creating trusting and collaborative relationships.

HL official from the European Commission - tbc

Mr. Majid Al-Suwaidi (Director General of CoP28 at the United Arab Emirates) - tbc



Loretta Hieber Girardet (Chief, Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity-Development Branch United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR))

Loretta Hieber Girardet is the Chief of the Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity-Development Branch covering risk information and analytics, climate change, disaster loss and monitoring data and capacity-building for UNDRR globally. Previously, she served as Chief of the UNDRR Asia-Pacific regional office, covering 38 of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Loretta served in various management positions at OCHA for over a decade before joining UNDRR, including overseeing the global Cluster coordination mechanism and having responsibility for IASC mechanisms on coordinated humanitarian needs assessments.



She also has a background in public health and worked for the World Health Organization in various capacities, including in emergency contexts in Afghanistan, Pakistan and sub-Saharan Africa. Her experience in emergency contexts spans more than 25 years and she is the author of several publications including Lifeline Media: Reaching Populations in Crises which promotes greater accountability to people affected by disasters. Her academic background includes fellowships and degrees from the Harvard School of Public Health and University of Paris-Assas.

Mr. Torgny Holmgren (SIWI's Executive Director)

He has previously been Ambassador at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Head of the Department for Development Policy. Torgny has served as an expert or board member on the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Water, the World Water Council (Permanent Observer in the Board of Governors), the European Advisory Group of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and with Water Aid (Sweden). Additionally, he recently served as Sherpa in UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability.



Closing

Mina Guli (Founder and CEO, Thirst Foundation, Ultramarathoner and water campaigner)

Mina Guli from Melbourne, Australia is the founder and CEO of Thirst Foundation. Mina is a global leader committed to protecting the world's water resources. Following a successful 15-year career in law, finance and climate change, in 2012 Mina established Thirst Foundation, a non-profit organisation focused on raising awareness, creating urgency and driving action on water.



Mina is currently running 200 Marathons in one year as part of the #RunBlue expedition. In 2016 Mina ran The 7 Deserts Run (40 marathons across 7 deserts in 7 weeks), in 2017 she ran The River Run (40 marathons across 6 rivers in 40 days) and in 2018 attempted 100 marathons in 100 days, as part of the #RunningDry campaign. She broke her leg on Marathon 62, with people around the world uniting to help complete the campaign. Through these expeditions Mina has built a community of water advocates in more than 190 countries and territories.

Mina has been widely acknowledged for her leadership on water, including being recognised by Fortune as one of the greatest leaders in the world. She has spoken at the United Nations and has been regularly featured in major global, local and regional media outlets around the world. Mina has committed her life to the water crisis, because she believes we can be the solution.