



Local and Regional Governments Day at the UN Water Conference

22 March 2023

10:00-18:00 EST

Local and regional governments have been engaged in protecting their communities in such complex times, focusing on securing water supply and sanitation, avoiding water scarcity, protecting aquatic ecosystems, and fostering care systems.

In addition, city diplomacy has worked to ensure that solidarity and delivery of essential water services to those who need it most continues in the worst of times. To ensure we leave nobody and no place behind and achieve SDG6 and the other water-related SDGs, a more interconnected multilateral system based on multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder collaboration is required. Our organized constituency reinstates our commitment to the transformation of the multilateral system driven by the power of collective action, under our strategic input towards the SDGs Summit and Summit for the Future.

This renewed multilateral system must consider the many aspects of an urban world: rural and urban territories, small and intermediate cities, metropolitan entities and regions. It must also provide financial support and capacity building for local and regional governments (LRGs) to engage in this process. An approach across government and society for addressing inequality, climate change and biodiversity, and for fostering peace is equally critical to changing our systems. The renewed multilateral system will also need to consider water and conflicts where water is being used as a weapon, war crimes or crimes against humanity related to water resources.

The objective of the Local and Regional Governments Day in the framework of the UN Water Conference is to bring together the delegation of local and regional governments to discuss and agree on the constituency's Statement to the UN Water Conference, and advocate for a renewed water governance that involves all stakeholders, that is driven by the local sphere, and that involves all spheres of government in protecting our water ecosystems.

[#Listen2Cities](#)

[#WaterAction](#)

10:00-
-10:50

Opening

Facilitated by UCLG

Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, UCLG Special Envoy on the Future of the Planet
Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister for Public Works and Housing, Republic of Indonesia
Nathalie Olijslager, Programme Director of the 2023 UN Water Conference
Loïc Fauchon, President, World Water Council
Ilze Brands Kehris, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (TBC)
Guy Ryder, UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy (TBC)
Michal Mylnár, Deputy Executive Director Designate, UN-Habitat, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations (TBC)

10:50-
-11:50

Main expectations regarding UN Water conference from members, sections and partners

Facilitated by UCLG

The first segment could be an opportunity to relay local contributions to the UN Water Agenda, and to relay their expectations for the UN Water Conference, in terms of governance and stakeholder engagement. Local and regional governments in this segment could also relate how their experiences could contribute to the outcomes of the Conference.

Asa Jonsson, Head of GWOPA

Rodrigo Mundaca, Governor of Valparaiso

Jetigenov Bakytbek, Mayor of Osh

Batsimba Dieudonné, Mayor of Brazzaville

Zaidat Khalil, Mayor of the Municipality of Bani Naïm

Christine Mba Ntoutoume, Mayor of Libreville

Claudio Orrego, Governor of Santiago

André Viola, Councillor, Aude Departmental Council, representative of Cités Unies France, UCLG Policy Councillor

11:50-
-12:50

Strengthening local and regional public service provision to ensure equal access to Water and sanitation

Facilitated by UCLG

If water is to be seen as a right and as a public good, it is essential to overcome its commodification, ensuring that it is available to all residents. In that regard, local and regional governments have a privileged position to provide transparent, efficient and inclusive management of water and sanitation services and to create enabling environments for exchange and learning to empower their communities. To ensure that water remains a common good, local and regional governments in this segment will address their provision, including the need to remunicipalise, deprivatise and even bring commoning practices to the forefront.

David Boys, Deputy Secretary General, Public Service International

Florah Bogadi Mpetsane, President, Botswana Association of Local Authorities, Vice-President, UCLG Africa

Robert van Asten, Vice Mayor, The Hague

Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny

Samuel OE-Amseb, President, Association of Local Authorities of Namibia

Jawara Yuba, Vice Chairman of Basse Area Council

12:50-14:00

Pause

14:00-
-15:00

Protecting Water Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Facilitated by ICLEI

Aquatic ecosystems do not exist separately from other terrestrial and marine ecosystems. They belong to a continuum: streams and lakes join the sea through rivers, and the species that these environments support depend on this very continuum. Local and regional governments are expected to share here their views on how to achieve better and sustainable life on below water, and in all cities and territories, will only be possible through SDG localization processes that consider big and intermediate cities, small towns, and regions and territories.

Atrokpo Luc Setondji, President of the Association of Local Governments of Benin

Dewa Ratu - Pemerintah Kota Palembang

Enrique Alfaro, Governor of Jalisco

Lauren Lawson, NA Youth Parliament of Water

Franklin Galarza, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ecuador

Myrna Cunningham, Former Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

15:00-
-16:00

Renewed governance and Management of Water

Facilitated by C40

The debates in the framework of the UN Water Conference offer an opportunity to call for a renewed, more inclusive, multilateral system based on ownership, co-creation and peace, including the added value of decentralized cooperation on water and sanitation and engaging local and regional governments and their representative associations in all stages of decision-making processes. A renewed governance of water is critical to ensure the right to water to all populations, everywhere.

Kia Tsegaye, President of the Association of Mayors of Ethiopia

Datuin Elmer, Councillor, City of Baguio, Local Government Association of Philippines

Moro Omar, President of the regional council of Tangier, Tetouan, Al Hoceima,

Thiago Pampolha – Vice Governor and Secretary of Sustainability, Rio de Janeiro State

Pedro Arrojo Agudo, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

Kolade Alabi, David, President, Association of local government of Nigeria

Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, OECD

16:00-
-17:00

Financing water and sanitation infrastructure

Facilitated by UCLG-Africa

The final segment of the session will be a moment to address the renewed needs for funding for water and sanitation infrastructure and donors. Local and regional governments are expected to share innovative financial solidarity mechanisms at local level, and rethink fiscal architecture, strengthen local finance to provide sufficient financial capacity to reach the SDG targets. Establish instruments - at the national and multilateral levels - to finance water savings, with priority given to areas under great quantitative pressure, and how to best involve philanthropic organizations.

Oumar Ba, President of Association of Mayors of Senegal

Mounir Laymouri, President of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC)

Kayode Fayemi, President of the African Forum of Regions, Governor of Ekiti

Amanda Loeffen, CEO of HumanRight2Water

17:00-
-17:30

Wrap-up

Networks of the Global Taskforce

