

Call for Expressions of Interest

Together towards sustainable
water and sanitation for all

The 4th
Global WOPs Congress
18—29 October 2021
Online



GWOPA
Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Learn

Share

Inspire

Call for Expressions of Interest

Thematic Sessions → WOPs Sessions → #OPERATORsSTAGE → Side Events

The 4th Global WOPs Congress

The need for strong water and sanitation operators is more critical now than ever before. As we deal with growing inequalities, depletion of resources, a fast-changing climate, and an enduring pandemic, we increasingly need to find solutions by working together.

This October, UN-Habitat's Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance will convene the 4th Global WOPs Congress to discuss common challenges in the provision of water and sanitation, and to share solutions.

The goal of the Global WOPs Congress is to accelerate the scaling-up of effective peer-to-peer partnership between water operators worldwide.

In meeting this goal, the Congress will work through a three-tiered approach



Learn

Increase collective knowledge on peer-to-peer partnerships and the work of water operators.



Share

Strengthen partnerships and exchange of experiences between water operators.



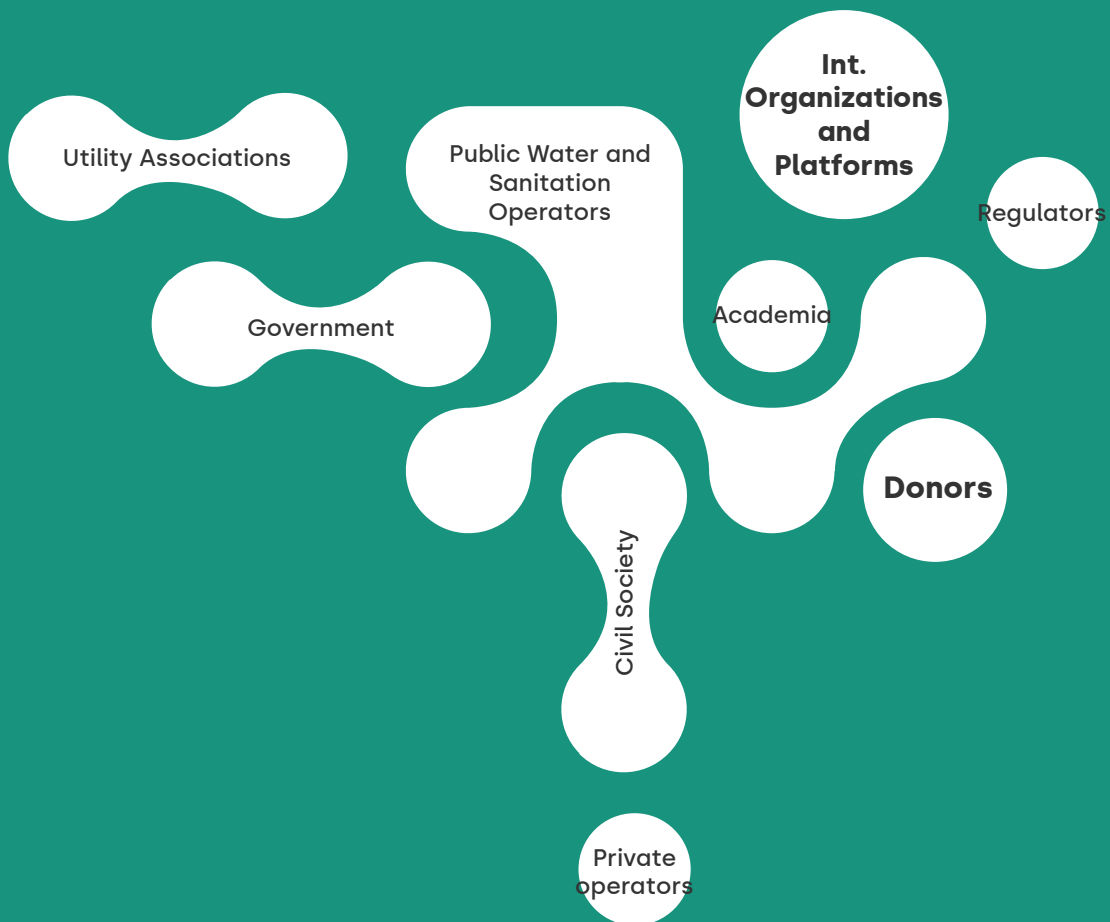
Inspire

Expand support for water operators and the peer-to-peer learning amongst relevant stakeholders and the general public.

Who will be there?

Around half of all congress participants are staff from public water and sanitation operators.

The other half are representatives from international and development agencies, donors, civil society and other water and sanitation stakeholders and decision makers.



Congress Events

The WOPs Congress will address a range of issues relating to the work of water and sanitation operators and the WOPs practice.

Thematic Sessions

Thematic Sessions will take stock of current water and sanitation operators' issues, showcase good approaches, and offer recommendations for how operators can tackle challenges through peer-to-peer partnerships.

- **Ensuring access for all**
Extending services, pro-poor initiatives, social inclusion, gender mainstreaming, informal and community operators, decentralized systems
 - **Advancing sanitation**
Wastewater collection and treatment, protecting water quality, fecal sludge management, reuse
 - **Climate adaptation**
Climate change adaptation, ecosystem services, water conservation, source protection, water safety planning, emergency response planning
 - **Circular development**
Regenerative urban waters, nexus approaches, carbon neutrality, water-sensitive urban design, energy efficiency
 - **Managing crises**
Lessons from the COVID-19 response, preparedness for disasters, remote WOPs
-

WOPs Sessions

WOPs Sessions will highlight the latest trends, challenges, and possible ways to increase and improve the WOPs practice.

- **Governance**
Enabling frameworks for WOPs
 - **Finance**
WOP funding and financial linkages
 - **Knowledge**
Connecting capacity and informing better WOPs
 - **Monitoring**
Tracking results and progress of WOPs
-

How do I get involved?

The GWOPA Secretariat is inviting proposals for the following types of contributions towards the Thematic and WOPs sessions:

- Co-convene a Session under one or more of the Thematic or WOPs themes above.
- Thematic presentations or case studies about partnerships experiences in the field relevant to the congress themes.
- ◆ Submit your proposal [here](#)

#OPERATORsSTAGE

Water and sanitation operators have a long history of solidarity and cooperation, especially in times of crisis. Many operator staff are actively helping their peers on a collaborative basis.

The #OPERATORsSTAGE is an open space for operators anywhere to share their experiences of peer-to-peer support, partnership or working together.

#OPERATORsSTAGE events can be flexible in format but must adhere to GWOPA's principles, such as not-for-profit and solidarity objectives.

Side events

Opportunities for side events are open to Alliance partners who want to showcase their ongoing projects and initiatives or convene other debates and discussions.

Event proposals will be screened based on criteria linked to the main themes and focus of the Congress and in accordance with the GWOPA's [Guiding Principles](#).

GWOPA will provide the basic virtual platform systems with polling, Q&A, and other audience engagement tools. GWOPA will endeavor to provide, but cannot guarantee, interpretation services.

- ◆ Submit your proposal for a side event [here](#)



About your proposal

Proposals can be made [here](#) until the 30 April.

The GWOPA Secretariat may not be able to accept all proposals and may consult with authors to adjust and align content to fit session requirements. Feedback will be provided by 30 June 2021.

Congress Registration

Online participation is open to everyone and free-of-charge.
Registration will open in June 2021.

The 4th
**Global
WOPs
Congress**

Find out more
www.gwopa.org/wop-congress

