



SIDE EVENT

Friday, 24 March, 12:30 — 13:45
Conference Room 11
UN Headquarters

Forget about SDG6 without strong water management organizations: commitments to capacitate and finance professional, climate-resilient water service organizations.

Global in ambition, the dedicated water and sanitation goal SDG6 can only be met with local water and sanitation service providers and catchment authorities. They are at the forefront of the action! Local public water and sanitation organizations contribute to each of the SDG6 targets – from wastewater management to water-use efficiency to integrated water resources management. But so many of them are critically underperforming; therefore, it is still a long way to go until reaching the ultimate performance criteria: sustainable access and water safety for all!

This special session gives local actors the floor. It showcases promising approaches and commitments of transformative action that raise utilities and water authorities to the height of their mandates.

The session emphasizes the role of these organizations and their skilled staff in maintaining essential infrastructure and optimizing water resources to ensure the sustainability of services. In addition, it showcases new financing facilities and initiatives critical for accelerating utilities and water authorities in their improvements and transitions. Above all, the session highlights the massive potential for peers to support one another to build capacity and performance that links to finance for inclusive services. By helping one another, peers can accelerate their mandates to achieve SDG6 at lower cost and greater sustainability.

Facilitator

Åsa Jonsson, Head, UN-Habitat/Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA), Germany

Keynote

Kitty van der Heijden, Director-General, International Cooperation at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Speakers

Tania H. Vorwerk, Dep. Director General Global Health, Resilience, Equality of Opportunity at Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Luzette Kroon, Dijkgraaf Wetterskip Fryslan, Dutch Water Authorities, The Netherlands

Toine Ramaker, CEO VEI B.V. and Director, Water for Life Foundation, The Netherlands

Bernard van Nuffel, President, Aqua Publica Europea and VIVAQUA, Belgium

André Dzikus, Chief, Urban Basic Services Section, UN-Habitat, Kenya

In collaboration with GWOPA members and partners



Panelists

Hadi Touré, Project Coordinator on the Water Operators Partnership (WOP) partnership between the Malian water utility (SOMAGEP SA) and Waternet (Amsterdam water utility), Mali

Arnaud de Vanssay, Team Leader, Water at the European Commission, Belgium

Sikhumbuzo Mangisi Ncube, Director, the Engineering Services Department, City of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

David Boys, Deputy General Secretary, Public Services International, France

Gcinile Lomakhosi Dlamini, Communication Officer, Environmental and Water Resources Specialist, Joint River Basin Authorities – Project Board, Eswatini

UNDP, Co-Chair of the Local2030 Initiative

Actions

- [Towards climate adaptive utilities in Africa and Asia](#)
- [Fostering Knowledge Exchange for Capacity Development among Public Water Utilities](#)
- [Localizing SDG 6- Transforming Access to Water by Strengthened Capacity of Operators Closest to Water Provision](#) (GWOPA)
- [Doubling annual financial commitment and increasing capacity in supporting water managers in 17 partnerships around the globe](#)
- The Urban Water Catalyst Initiative