

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Title

Good practices sharing towards better youth inclusion within the water sector and international decision-making instances: Ensuring meaningful participation of youths in solving the rising water risks in a changing climate and in strengthening community action.

2. Institution organizing the event

World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)

3. Planned objectives and outcomes

To introduce our network, our recently adopted objectives, and how we structure our action:

- To present the World Youth Parliament for Water.
- To present the recently adopted WYPW Statement towards UN 2023 Water Conference and other water-related conferences.

To provide tools for better youth inclusion:

- To share best practices and ideas of concrete actions for fostering more meaningful youth participation within the water sector and international decision-making instances.

To foster dialogue on youth inclusion within the water sector and decision-making instances

- To exchange ideas with the audience and facilitate dialogue among parties around youth participation as well as their needs to be able to participate within the water sector. Especially looking at the upcoming UN 2023 Water Conference

4. Background / Context

The World Youth Parliament for Water:

The World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW) is a network of passionate young people from over 80 countries supported by the International Secretariat for Water. We aim to raise awareness among the youth working in the water sector, and our members take action on water issues at all levels: from concrete actions in local communities, to advocacy for youth leadership in the water sector. More specifically:

We Raise Awareness: We recognize young water leaders as change makers who can advance the values of equity, peace, and a healthy environment within the water sector. Outside the water sector, we lead efforts to improve water education, especially for youth, in all countries.

We Advocate: We mobilize youth to speak with a lens on the future for peaceful and sustainable water management for the long-term. We push for more youth representation in established institutions and organizations.

We support Local Action: We work with and support young people committed to decentralized projects on a community level. Access to safe water and sanitation and the healthy management of basins is not possible without including local contributions.

We Research: We conduct research, to improve our understanding of the connections between the environment, society and of the multitude of perspectives related to water resources management.

The WYPW is a proud member of UN-Water and has, as such, proactively partaken to numerous United Nations General Assemblies. But not only, we were most recently present during the Dushanbe Water Process and the Dakar World Water Forum, among many other events.

Our reasoning behind the organization of this side-event:

This year's Social Forum will focus on water for human rights and sustainable development. On good practices, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, with a view to making a human rights contribution to the conference on the midterm review of the Decade, to be held in 2023. Every three years, the WYPW holds a General Assembly during the World Water Forum, to identify new members, elect new representatives, and especially, to plan our collective actions as a network and a partner for the following three years - until the next General Assembly meets. This year, our General Assembly adopted in Dakar a WYPW Statement that, for the first time, will be guiding all of our interventions and actions for the upcoming years and, namely, our preparation and advocacy efforts towards the UN 2023 Water Conference. In it, we specify not only our vision but also our objectives as a youth water network, and we list concrete actions that everyone within the water sector could implement, to help us reach the objectives.

Because, at the end of the day, the youth demographic represents a significant source of skills, innovations and agency for solving water and sanitation problems in the context of climate change, connecting local communities and ready to take the necessary risks in a rapidly changing world. Yet "youth" (people under the age of 35, who represent more than half of the global population and who are among the most affected populations by global crises such as water conflicts and ineffective water governance, climate change, and pandemic-related economic crises), they are not meaningfully included in the majority of the decision-making processes around water. And, at the World Youth Parliament for Water, we firmly believe that the integration of the vision and the actions listed in our network's statement that we will be presenting during our side-event would significantly contribute towards a successful UN Water Action Decade.

5. Presenters

World Youth Parliament for Water Advocacy Working Group representatives.

6. Methodology of the discussion

The following structure would guide our presentation:

PART I: Introducing the WYPW and our statement towards the 2023 Water Conference, but not only

1. Present our network
2. Present our organization's structure and main goals
3. Present our 3 main advocacy messages. Namely:
 - a. Local youth action is recognized and implemented in all water sectors;
 - b. Job Opportunities are improved and diversified;
 - c. Youth inclusion in decision-making is the norm, not the exception.
4. Provide some examples of the reasoning behind their adoption as objectives by our network: how did we come up with them? How do we wish to act and what do we wish to do with them to rally a youth water movement towards the UN 2023 Water Conference - but not only.

PART II: What you could do

1. Share some of our ideas of what concrete actions could be taken towards reaching these objectives and give examples of good-practices.

PART III: Discussion (questions, suggestions, and/or debate)

NB: Depending on the number of people attending, we could also adapt our discussion method to do something more interactive with brainstorming sessions on post-its/Canva/Kahoot, etc.

1. How does the room think we should include youth in the upcoming UN 2023 Water Conference? How could the WYPW (but not only) better advocate for this?
2. Why (or why not) should young people be better included in water-related discussions? How? What not to do?
3. How could youth-led water networks better advocate together for better youth inclusion within the sector? Do you know any other statements that you think could complement ours?