

- 8th World Water Forum -

Day One – Opening Session

March 18, 2018

Day Two

March 19, 2018

Americas – how we can transform water and sanitation services into effective and sustainable economic development

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Rooms 9, 10

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-02]

The role of water in the economy and its contribution to the wellbeing of people depends on a set of economic, social and geographical factors, many external to water management and on the way in which institutions respond to the characteristics of the water resource and its development. The regional process of the Americas towards the 8th Forum has engaged with governments, civil society, the academia and the private sector to identify the main issues challenging water management in its countries. This session will open the discussions for the Americas and will discuss those aspects considered as key for the region, **focusing on the access of the population to quality water and sanitation services; the development model based on the exploitation of natural resources and the water-food-energy nexus; the needed protection of water resources** and the fact the region is extremely vulnerable to extreme weather events.

Opening Session of the Regional Process

Monday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-01]

The Session will present (1) a short description of the Regional Process, depicting its structure and showing some statistics about participating organizations and people mobilized and (2) will discuss the whole Program of the Regional Process Sessions indicating what people could find along the week

Moving from climate vulnerability maps to policy action in adaptation to climate change in the Arab Region

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 5

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-39]

Global and regional climate and hydrological models as well as vulnerability maps showing the likelihood of distribution of hotspots to be hit hard by climate change impact on water, livelihoods and nature show that the knowledge base for policy action is sufficient to start action in adaptation to climate change in the region. The session will provide a platform to share with the world the current flagship projects countries and organizations are already implementing in water, agriculture and territorial development planning. A question to be also debated is about other regions' experience in planning and acting in the realm of uncertainties of Climate change impacts and what experiences related to institutional innovations could be learned (worldwide) on proofing the water, cities and agriculture sectors through climate change adaptation mainstreaming in climate policies.

Towards Improving Sanitation and Wastewater Management: Challenges and Good Practices in the Asia-Pacific Region

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME People **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-48]

The session will review the current situation of sanitation and wastewater management in the Asia-Pacific region and highlight the challenges faced in both urban and rural contexts by introducing concrete examples of how administration, utilities and operators, civil society organizations are responding to the challenges in the following areas: 1. Overviews of wastewater management in the Asia-Pacific and its related problems; 2. Off-site sanitation; 3. On-site sanitation and septage management; 4. Securing human resources for sanitation and wastewater management; 5. Institutional and regulatory frameworks; 6. Sanitation issues in rural areas; 7. Circular economy (wastewater reuse and sludge recycling)

European Cities: why waste water and energy?

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 7

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-55]

Cities require the adoption of sustainable and integrated processes for urban waste and water management. Water scarcity in drier times, as well as excess water in rainy periods, directly affect the dynamics of cities and people's lives, leading to diseconomies and major losses, which require urgent measures. Despite the increasing investments in promoting its rational use, the use of water in urban environments generates significant and increasing volumes of effluents, whose treatment and final destination is of paramount importance. In this scenario, methodologies for water treatment and reuse and waste recycling, associated with campaigns to reduce consumption are gaining importance to improve life conditions in cities. In this session the topics of circular economy - reduce, reuse, recycle, water and cities, and treatment and reuse technologies in Europe, including risk analysis, will be discussed. A comprehensive and multidisciplinary perspective of these topics will be provided, including public policy, technology, economic, environmental, and social components. The diagnosis reported in the Europe report will be discussed. Issues such as relevance, perception, level of engagement and performance and examples of good case studies will be addressed. The outcomes from the session will be key lessons, messages and recommendations to enrich the report and to disseminate around the world.

Managing and restoring Mediterranean ecosystems for water services and biodiversity

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 8

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-57]

Most wetlands in the Mediterranean basin are at low altitudes and are predominantly coastal. A number of large river deltas are well known in the Mediterranean. They include the Camargue at the mouth of the Rhone in France, the Po delta in Italy, the Ebro delta in Spain, the combined delta of the rivers Axios-Aliakmon-Loudias near Thessaloniki, the Nestos delta in Northwest Greece, the Evros delta on the border between Greece and Turkey, the Menderes delta in Western Turkey, the Medjerda delta in Tunisia and, of course, the enormous Nile delta in Egypt. These ecosystems provides a wide range of services (fresh water, food, recreational, flood protection, biodiversity) but are in great danger due to human activities as well as climate change. This session will present different cases where these ecosystems have been used as Nature Based Solutions for water resources management in Mediterranean countries, as well as an innovative

monitoring tool (that can also support SDG6.6 reporting) and will feature a round-table on the governance structures to ensure the success of ecosystem restoration and Natural Based Solutions at river basin level.

Africa Water Infrastructure Investment Programme (AIP) Water Security for Job Creation, Industrialisation and SDGs Implementation

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 11

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-07]

Africa is generally characterized by high level of poverty and poor access to infrastructure and social services. It is highly vulnerable to impacts of climate change.

Achieving water-related SDG targets will require governments, societies and the private sector to change the way they use and manage water.

As part of the Action Plan of the High Level Panel on Water, Africa took an initiative to close the gap in achieving water-related SDG targets. **The Africa Water Infrastructure Investment Programme (AIP) aims to strengthen the business case for investments in water security as an instrument to stimulate transformative economic growth, address the root causes of migration, youth unemployment and prepare bankable project.**

The African Special Session is to urge African Governments and its global partners to prioritize water infrastructure investment for job creation, contributing to reduced conflicts and migration.

Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (on behalf of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan) - 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources among China, Japan and Korea (closed meeting)

Monday - 12:00 - 14:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 13

DESCRIPTION

[SE-42]

Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (on behalf of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan)

The Ministers of Water Resources from China, Japan and Korea will discuss water-related policy developments in the three countries and explore cooperative projects. The Ministers will adopt a Joint Declaration to further strengthen trilateral cooperation on water resources.

AcquAwareness

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Regional Process , Regional Process **ROOM** Room 12

DESCRIPTION

[SS-J-CF+RP 02]

In Europe and beyond turning on the kitchen tap or running a bath seems an effortless decision. However, in Europe people face water shortages, lack of sanitation, and floods. In the Pan-European region 62 million people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities: functioning toilets and safe means to dispose of human faeces.

Are we aware of the actual state of affairs of access to and use of water for all kind of purposes, do we think our infrastructure is sustainable, future proof?

A questionnaire amongst European organisations and young people in Europe and Africa, revealed low awareness of the situation of water and impacts. Believing there is always sufficient water for multiple uses, not aware of the changing situation, leading to little long term investments coping with the O&M of water infrastructure and meeting quality standards.

Examples are shared during the interactive session aimed at **collecting ideas to become AquAware!**

Bridging Water and Climate

Monday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Climate , Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 22

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 5]

As shown by the preliminary NDC submissions, over 90% of countries with adaptation sections acknowledge water in their commitments, which shows the significance of water and the demand for it to be addressed systematically and strategically. Countries recognize the need for water to be addressed both as a potential risk and as a vector for solutions as they implement at the national, local and project scale level. The water community possesses vast experience, knowledge and skills in the management of natural resources, which can help Parties fulfill their commitments through integrated and resilient water resources management. However, **formal acknowledgement within global frameworks such as the SDGs and UNFCCC of water's crucial role in climate change adaptation and mitigation remains missing.** In addition, traditional water concepts are not always tailored to the specific needs and specifications which are increasingly required by specific donor and climate funds.

Political Governance versus Sustainable Governance: financial resources, interests and power

Monday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 23

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-12]
DESCRIPTION

The session will explore how can the local communities address the political challenges limiting the implementation of sustainable and equitable WASH interventions and how does de-motivating factors influence the ability of the poor people to participate in decision-making about WASH.

SPECIAL SESSION - Water Security and SDGs

Monday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 24

DESCRIPTION

[SS-TP-03]

Water-related international organizations like the World Water Council have played an important role in creating the dialogue and communication platform of World Water Forum and solving global water security issues, and topics about water security are drawing attention from the international community at international water events. The Ministerial Declaration of the 7th World Water Forum called for sound governance of water resources on all levels, encouraged public participation, and asked for better infrastructure and management system to effectively address water security challenges. The Budapest Water Summit 2016 jointly organized and the World Water Council adopted the Budapest Statement 2016, which stated that water resource must be included in relevant policies of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also stressed that all countries should intensify political and technical cooperation, coordinate with each other in making water policies in areas such as economy, energy, climate change, health, food and bio-diversity, and strongly guarantee water conservancy investment and financing, so as to better realize global water security.

The water security and SDG session stands ready to conduct multi-level and multi-field exchange and cooperation in the field of water resources. China is willing to work with other countries to identify challenges, take measures, realize water-related goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development facing water security. It is committed to establishing a new pattern of global water governance that is green, circular, economical, efficient and safe, to enhance the wellbeing of the mankind.

Session 3.a.1 - Soil and Water Conservation Practices for Improved Food Production

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-22]

Soil conservation practices in agriculture are an effective way to promote a real increase in the availability of water in watersheds. Correct soil management, soil infiltration and porosity monitoring and improvement, new cropping technologies, and efficient irrigation management can help farmers to better understand water productivity and soil health conditions. However, without the direct involvement of the farmer, the information will not be put to effective use. This session will include case studies, as well as discussions on ways to successfully introduce and implement effective tools and techniques for disseminating information and technology on improving soil and water conservation practices and availability of water in river basins. SDG Goals: 6.3, 6.4, 6.6 and 2.4

Session 8.a.1 - Information and training for decision makers

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 24

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-76]

Decision makers and water related stakeholders need information and the development of knowledge skills and capabilities relative to socio-environmental processes and dimensions of water. Participatory processes imply different stakeholders should be empowered to enter into dialogue around water-related issues, and this is key for better integrated water resources management processes in emerging, developing and transitioning countries. Training case studies for specific decision makers or for new technologies can be used to facilitate problem-oriented dialogues and to improve interdisciplinary education processes. Gaps and best practices can be shared to bring lessons to suggest new pathways.

Session 6.a.1 - Financing the ecosystems services dynamics

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 25

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-58]

Payment for Ecosystem Services mechanism is already included in several legislations with a variety of financial incentives combined with environmental regulation. On the other hand, collaborative multi-community actions for biophysical basin preservation is undergoing in some developing countries based on traditional knowledge. Both approaches offer complementarities to strengthen the biophysical dynamics of the basin and preserve volume and water resources quality under polluters pay principle and/or cooperative arrangements at river basin scale. In addition, green infrastructure needs metrics to quantify impacts to get increasing funds. The sessions aim to identify innovative financing mechanisms and approaches for green infrastructure (including river basin financing institutions) with support of national and local water and land management authorities.

Session 7.a.1 - Multi-stakeholder platforms and practices as a solution to SDG 6' shared challenges

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 26

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-67]

The targets under SDG 6, whether WASH related or water resources management related, can only be achieved if stakeholders from different sectors – e.g. government, NGOs, communities, research, business, etc. – and different backgrounds – incl. women, youth, indigenous – come together in an inclusive way and find collective solutions to the challenges shared. This session is meant to present the most successful and inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms and best practices, covering the different aspects of SDG 6 and the six main themes of the World Water Forum.

Session 4.a.1 - Design for water - wise cities

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 27

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-37]

Building up water-wise cities demands integrated planning design as tools for better management: cities that continue renovation, development and maintenance of territory by articulating urban design, infrastructure and community-based land management. A new vision requires a paradigm shift, considering water as a fundamental resource and favoring comprehensive vision of social responsibility, fostering participation of all. Sustainable financing models are just as crucial, especially in rapidly growing cities. Opportunities for low-impact urban development range from considering water as a major design element in urban interventions, to re-naturalization of water bodies, and new solutions, such as Blue Green - and nature-based solutions for urban drainage, aiming for livability, inclusiveness and resilience.

Session 9.a.1 - Transformational IWRM for the 2030 Agenda

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-87]

IWRM is pivotal to the 2030 Agenda actualization. Building on preceding decades of experiences, IWRM in the 2030 Agenda must become transformational and deliver results at a higher scale and speed. This session will use case studies and synthesis of learning from alternate models for integrating water resource management horizontally across sectors, stakeholders, states/provinces, legal institutions, and vertically across levels, to test the prevailing IWRM framework. Participants will identify how to revitalize IWRM principles and operational strategies to guide IWRM decision-makers, practitioners within/outside states/countries in the 2030 Agenda.

Session 5.a.1 - Balancing water needs for humans and nature

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-46]

Balancing the water needs for humans and nature poses a major challenge for society, requiring improvements in water use efficiency, and the recognition that environment has its own legitimate water needs. Restoration of hydrological connectivity and the identification and provision of environmental flows for river and wetland systems are fundamentally important to protect aquatic biodiversity and to maintain healthy ecosystems capable of providing sustainable services. This session will examine how water needs for the environment are being recognized in water planning, and provide success case studies in this perspective, showing multiple benefits collected and the approach of Nature Based Solutions.

Session 1.a.1 - Uncertainty, vulnerabilities and resilience

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-01]

Disaster risk reduction and building resilience are among the themes chosen by the **Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio + 20**. On July 2014, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) released the Human Development Report 2014, the title of which is self-explanatory: "Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Reinforcing Resilience". This session aims to discuss adaptation to climate change in a context of uncertainty, as a strategy to reduce local vulnerability and to **form processes of transition to more sustainable states of social and environmental resilience**.

Science-Policy dialogue: key to solve global water challenges and support decision making

Monday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Capacity , Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 27

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 13]

The Session will focus on the **political commitment concerning the key role and contribution of science to solve both present and future global water challenges**. A major goal of the Session is to bring water management scientific knowledge and advances closer to public policies formulation and decision-making. In addition to sharing knowledge, **there is the ambition of establishing a political commitment, through the presence of Brazilian, European and International authorities**, together with Development Agencies and Scientific Community, highlighting the importance of a long term scientific, technological and innovation research support. The Session will also enable discussing **the need of creating Roadmaps and action plans, able to influence political agendas of different countries** in aspects, such as, sanitation, access to water, monitoring and price, with a special focus on UN SDGs. The Session will be **an opportunity to bring decision-makers closer to academia, and vice versa, so that responses be faster and scientifically-based**, but also, publicly endorsed. At the end of the Session, **a Letter of Intentions is expected to be prepared to be included in the WWF's final document** on the inclusion of Science Session as a cross-disciplinary field in future event.

Political Governance versus Sustainable Governance: financial resources, interests and power

Monday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 23

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-12]

The session will explore how can the local communities address the political challenges **limiting the implementation of sustainable and equitable WASH interventions and how does de-motivating factors influence the ability of the poor people to participate in decision-making about WASH**.

SPECIAL SESSION - Water Security and SDGs

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THEME Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 24

DESCRIPTION

[SS-TP-03]

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The water security and SDG session stands ready to conduct multi-level and multi-field exchange and cooperation in the field of water resources. **China is willing to work with other countries to identify challenges, take measures, realize water-related goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development facing water security**. It is committed to establishing a new pattern of global water governance that is green, circular, economical, efficient and safe, to enhance the wellbeing of the mankind.

Global launch of the United Nations World Water Development Report 2018 on 'Nature-based Solutions for Water'

Monday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Sharing , Partners , Partners **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[SS-PT-01]

The **United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR)** is the UN-Water flagship report on freshwater. It is a comprehensive review of a specific topic that also gives an overall picture on the state of the world's freshwater resources **and aims to provide decision-makers with the knowledge to implement sustainable management of water**. The Report is the result of a joint effort of the UN-Water Members and Partners and it is coordinated by the **World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)**, UNESCO. It is released on an annual basis with a thematic focus on different strategic water issues; **the theme of the 2018 edition is "Nature-based solutions for water"**.

The topic of the report is aligned with that of **World Water Day** to provide the knowledge basis for discussions taking place throughout the year. For this reason, the report is usually launched annually on 22 March to mark the global celebrations observing World Water Day.

The WWDR 2018 global launch at the 8th World Water Forum will give the participants the opportunity to discover for the first time the key findings of the report and get a chance to discuss challenges and opportunities with putting nature-based solutions into policy and practice.

Blue Peace: From Recommendations to Action

Monday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Governance , Regional Process , Regional Process **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 16]

Water is among the major challenges of the 21st century. Human-induced climate change; rapid population growth and urbanization; deteriorating water quality and competition between its different uses, among others, are causes of growing tensions around this vital resource. At the same time, because it is so vital, water is also a key instrument for cooperation and, in the longer term, for peace. **It is with this positive vision that fifteen countries from all around the world established together, in November 2015, the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace.**

The mandate of the Panel was to make a set of recommendations aimed at preventing water-related conflicts and at making water an instrument of peace. After two years of work, the Panel has adopted its Report: "A Matter of Survival". The Report strives to address the water challenge in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

This **High-Level Panel "Blue Peace: From Recommendations to Action"** will allow for the presentation of the Report, "A Matter of Survival", by the President of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, H.E. Dr. Danilo Türk, Former President of Slovenia. The Panel will count with keynote speeches from Ministers of different countries, followed by a debate with Members of the Panel and representatives of civil society.

Water and Migration

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Sharing , Regional Process , Regional Process **ROOM** Room 34

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 14]

Migration is a universal and common process and is linked to development in multiple ways. When mainstreamed in broader frameworks, especially in development planning, migration can benefit the communities at both origin and destination. Migrants can and do support their home communities through remittances as well as the knowledge and skills they acquire in the process while contributing to the host communities' development. Safe, orderly and regular migration can contribute to agricultural development, economic growth, food security and rural livelihoods. **Migration can also be a part of climate change adaptation efforts.** Yet, those migrants who are poor and low-skilled face the biggest challenges emanating from migration that occurs on involuntary, unsafe and irregular basis.

This high-level panel has been organized by FAO on behalf of UN-Water.

Water and Disasters

Monday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Climate , Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 36

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 1]

Water related disasters account for 90% of all disasters in terms of number of people affected. Water-related disaster risks will increase with the current trend of rapid population growth, urbanization and climate change, and could be a major obstacle in achieving our common aspirations **for eradicating poverty, promoting inclusive economic growth, preserving the environment, and ultimately, moving towards sustainability.** Recent global agreements including the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and COP21 Paris Agreement, all call for addressing water-related extreme events in more concrete and integrated manner. By bringing together top level political leaders and high-level participants from governments and organizations around the world, together with experts and scientists in the field of water and disasters, **this session aims to translate the global agreements into political commitments and concrete actions with a special focus on topics such as boosting financing and investments for water-related disaster risk reduction, and promotion of science and technology.**

Business Commitment to Water Security

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Development , Sustainability Focus Group **ROOM** Room 36

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 11]

The objective of this session is to launch and promote a debate over the Brazilian Business Commitment for Water Security. During this session, the high level business representatives (CEOs and COOs) will present the goals of the commitment and potential paths to fulfill it with the companies. Direct contributions to the water security agenda and the SDGs will also be addressed. During the panel, there will be a debate with representatives of the World Water Council and governmental authorities, aiming to discuss next steps, integration with government and other initiatives. The outcome will be a **set of suggestions for concrete actions, an invitation for companies to engage** and the announcement of companies that has already joined.

Water related SDGs in crises prone regions: turning reconstruction into sustainable development

Monday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance , Regional Process , Regional Process **ROOM** Room 39

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 15]

The panel will discuss on what makes a and sanitation policy transition from reconstruction to sustainable development in water and sanitation sector within the frame of Sustainable Development Goals. The perspectives of **both countries recovering from conflicts and countries hosting refugees will lead to an agenda for preparedness to be built for anticipation and mitigation of human tragedies in cases of conflicts**. The post-conflict time could be turned into an opportunity to adequately plan and implement sector and cross sectoral programmes for universal access to the right to water and sanitation within the 2030 vision in countries and regions.

Day Three

March 20, 2018

Urban Rivers: Citizen as transformers of this environment

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Rooms 16, 17

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-3]

Citizens of the cities should advocate for maintaining good water quality in their rivers but more than this, there are citizens working to restore urban rivers worldwide obtaining important results. Portugal, Holland, Japan, South Africa and Brazil are examples of relevant projects in course. This session will explore case studies on urban rivers restoration, considering the leadership of citizens, and will discuss actions and how policies can scale up these experiences.

Water services in Europe: long-term sustainability at what price?

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 5

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-54]

Public drinking water supply and waste water services are essential to the well-being of citizens, public health and economic activities. Governments shall be able to provide almost total universal access of citizens to these services, supplied with suitable quality by the utilities, at socially acceptable prices and with an acceptable level of risk. In this session the topics of water and public health, integrated sanitation for all, and enough safe water for all in Europe will be discussed. The level of development of water supply and waste water services in European countries is quite different. The concept of good quality of service has historically tended to pass through three stages, namely the quantity stage, in which the main task was to satisfy the basic quantitative needs of the population, the quality

stage, where the water quality objectives were joined to the previous stage, and the excellence stage, which seeks to add the strand of good asset management and financial sustainability. A comprehensive and multidisciplinary perspective of these topics will be provided, including public policy, technology, economic, environmental, and social components. The diagnosis reported in the Europe report will be discussed. Issues such as relevance, perception, level of engagement and performance and examples of good case studies will be addressed. The outcomes from the session will be key lessons, messages and recommendations to enrich the report and to disseminate around the world.

Reducing risks and building resilience through green solutions

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-30]

Integration of natural and grey infrastructure is key for addressing the challenges the Americas face, including flood and drought control. The rate and intensity of natural disasters has increased at exponential rates. In the last 10 years, the Americas have been affected by severe droughts and floods. **Through drainage systems, restoration of rivers, mainstreaming hydro-environmental services into water infrastructure planning, the region must change the paradigm from grey to green infrastructure.** Governments have the responsibility of internalizing new approaches into policies and creating enabling legal environments and adequate incentives. Water utilities and private companies can play a role by adopting and promoting innovative water-efficiency solutions and technologies that can be replicated by their peers. Under this framework, this session will discuss how to build resilience and risk reduction through green infrastructure.

Water-Energy-Food Security (WEF) Nexus: potential applications and lessons from Africa

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 7

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-26]

The Water-Food-Energy (WEF) Nexus approach in Africa is facilitating better interactions and synergies between the water, food, and energy sectors in order to unlock and optimize development potential for economic growth and transformation in Africa. The session will focus on sharing experience and lessons from some of the WEF Nexus initiatives in the African continent, especially focusing on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Niger Basin in West Africa sub-regions.

Mobilizing science for the SDGs through enhanced freshwater ecosystem management in Asia and the Pacific

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 8

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-46]

The session showcases how the water-related benefits of healthy ecosystems can be enhanced to improve ecosystem services, and takes note of the ecobiotechnologies we rely on using existing science networks for achieving the SDG 6 in Asia and the Pacific region.

Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) dilemma in the Arab Region, what makes private sector operation optimal and cost effective in PPPs - Public Private Partnership

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 9

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-42]

The results of recent experience in Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) and commercial contracts with private sector have had a mix of successful and failing experiences in countries in the region and worldwide. The central question to be debated in this session is about BOT and delegation/sub-contracting experiences. What's new and how the "truism" narrative and skepticism about the role of private sector in water supply and sanitation could be shared. The experience of Morocco, Gulf countries and Jordan (government and private sector) shed light on the frame conditions for working and sustainable PPPs to buffer the cost of universal access to water and sanitation as stipulated in SDG 6. A second layer of this question is about ways to make adaptation in the water sector a sustainable business case the way renewable energy has attracted huge investments.

Water for food security and rural development in the Americas – current issues and opportunities

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 10

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-32]

The main objective for this section is to discuss strategies to increase the water security in rural areas and food production system, as a prerequisite for sustainable human development.

National hydrological networks in continental sized countries – past, present and future, problems and perspectives.

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 11

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-05]

This session highlights a discussion conducted by leaders from national water institutions responsible for the operation of hydrometeorological monitoring networks of countries of continental dimensions.

The focus will be an evaluation of the combined experience and the operational complexity in **producing high-quality hydro-meteorological data reliably, timely, for the most diverse applications; to the challenges of producing useful information for a rapidly-changing socio-economic population;** and the future challenges and opportunities with climate change and the physical changes on the world.

Water governance in Europe: how to add value block by block?

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 12

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-53]

One of the factors that define the road to sustainable development is how water is used and managed. **The development that meets the needs of the present and does not jeopardize those of future generations requires sharing water and its benefits in an inclusive manner, seeking for food security, clean energy, smart infrastructure, responsible consumption, efficient irrigation, competitive industry and economic growth.** Implementing this development model requires participation of different sectors, political push, public and private investment, capacity building and, above all, effective and efficient water governance, largely based on the trust engagement of all relevant parties. In this session the topics of efficient use of surface water and groundwater, water-energy and water-food security nexus, inclusive and sustainable growth, water stewardship and industry, infrastructure for sustainable water resource management and services, SMART implementation of integrated water resources management, **cooperation for reducing conflict and improving transboundary water management,** and effective and efficient governance: enhanced political decisions, stakeholder participation and technical information in Europe will be discussed. A comprehensive and multidisciplinary perspective of these topics will be provided, including public policy, technology, economic, environmental, and social components, and governance reforms that help improving all these dimensions. The diagnosis reported in the Europe report will be discussed. Issues such as relevance, perception, level of engagement and performance and examples of good case studies will be addressed. The outcomes from the session will be key lessons, messages and recommendations to enrich the report and to disseminate around the world.

Plenary session - From local water governance to the international agendas

Tuesday - 9:30 - 10:30

THEME Local and Regional Authorities **ROOM** Room 15

DESCRIPTION

Water resource management is one of the building blocks for sustainable development. Although water is rising on political and global agendas, it still requires a more prominent place. Along with the actual work of implementation beginning, cities and regions are becoming leaders in ground-level realization. **This discussion is inspired by the political nature of water resource management and hence, the need for sound governance.**

Citizenship Education for Water: Worldwide experiences

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 18

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-9]

In view of the water management challenges in the world and the perspective to achieve the sustainable development goals, focusing on SDG-6, the mobilization and participation of the world societies become essential. This session will explore different educational approaches that go beyond capacity building. An education that enables the active citizenship to be strengthened with social and political engagement of the basis of society in environmental and water management for the construction of societies based on democratic, social justice and environmental values, ensuring quality of life for all.

Session 3.a.2 - Water for food processing: waste reduction, optimization and reuse

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** 22

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-23]

One-third of all food is wasted as it moves from field to fork. Besides the economic costs, wasted food consumes a quarter of all water used by agriculture annually, while putting pressure on land and energy resources. Thus, cutting food waste could get us closer to feeding 9 billion people by 2050. This session will explore strategies for accounting and reducing food losses in the supply chain, while integrating opportunities for water optimization and reuse in the food-processing sector as an additional approach to reduce waste. These strategies will be analyzed using tools and comparison metrics for the decision making process. SDG Goals: 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6

Session 2.a.2 - Water as a human right: Implementing sustainable financing and institutional tools and strategies

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME People **ROOM** 23

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-14]

This session will explore the institutional changes needed to achieve the human rights to water and sanitation, everywhere. How to mobilize sustainable financing and implement the 3T model while respecting all the dimensions of the human rights to water and sanitation? How to convince Governments and general public that for every €/€ spent on water services, economic and social and health benefits yield multiples? What are the appropriate frameworks and best practices to be put in place at institutional and societal level to help achieve the goals of water and sanitation services for everyone, forever, everywhere; (and most disadvantaged/discriminated first);

Session 8.a.2 - Education and training on water are not costs but investments

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Capacity **ROOM** 24

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-77]

The lack of skilled professionals results in design faults or deficiencies in the way water infrastructures and collective services and utilities are managed, operated, maintained or renew. In every countries and sectors, such as basin management, drinking water and sanitation, energy, agriculture, inland navigation and others, thousands of employees or individuals are concerned, the majority of them being of low educational level. It is vital to optimize investments and ensure their smooth operation: this means increasing skills based on lasting and better founded training programmes and organizations. This session will present the best experiences within the DGIC that demonstrate the economic interest of training professionals.

Session 6.a.2 - Broadening the access to financial resources to periurban low-income areas and small scale water services

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Finance **ROOM** 25

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-59]

Peri-urban low-income areas and small scale services are often out of the market. In addition, in some cases governments cannot reach dispersed rural communities. Grouping or re-locating rural communities and adopting new institutional arrangements are WASH strategies often implemented in these contexts, along with adapted technology and the required investment. Microfinance through local and rural banks, lending associations or cooperatives and public revolving funds have gained experience in recent years. The Session aims to identify strategies to provide a sustainable access to financial resources to deliver water and sanitation services both in low-income peri-urban areas and in dispersed small scale communities.

Session 7.a.2 - Sharing technological, social and financial innovations

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 26

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-68]

Innovations can be the future key to today's water challenges. This session is meant to highlight some of the most promising innovations in the area of water and to stimulate the exchange of good practices between peers. An important element of that session is that not only technological innovations will be discussed but also social and financial innovations in the area of water are equally important for truly sustainable solutions. **How can small-scale innovations be brought to scale and how can innovations of a larger scale be further replicated in other geographies of the world?**

Session 4.a.2 - Connecting Cities with their Basins for a Water Secure Future

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 27

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-38]

Water Security for Cities depends on their use of the river basin as a planning unit. **This requires cooperation between stakeholders across the basin, implementing programs to reduce vulnerability and risks upstream and downstream.** Cities can play a leadership role in driving investments in their watershed combined with urban projects that protect and recover water resources, through integrating urban drainage, sewage infrastructure, reestablishing vegetation coverage and water sensitive design in the urbanization of surrounding settlements. All these measures – adding up to progressive improvements – can increase water security and become key risk prevention strategies to address water quality, water scarcity and extreme events such as floods and droughts.

Session 9.a.2 - Operationalising IWRM Adaptively Across the SDGs

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-88]

The critical challenge for IWRM in **the 2030 Agenda** is to translate principles into change-actions that deliver benefits across the SDGs. This session will examine results from diverse models for IWRM currently used pragmatically to address problems like water allocation, corporate water risks, drought and flood management, ecosystem conservation, etc. Participants will develop recommendations from these experiences on **how to maximize the effectiveness of operationalizing IWRM in the SDGs on: stakeholder participation and maximizing synergies across public policies and sectors (within states and across jurisdictions); bridging the gap between IWRM concepts/strategies and actions; and monitoring goals and its achievement.**

Session 5.a.2 - Water basin revitalization for supporting water quantity and quality and human well-being

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-47]

Considering regional development and water security, restoring ecosystems for water services and biodiversity can be articulated in a series of revitalization actions in a basin scale perspective, such as soil conservation measures, prevention of sediments flows to the rivers, regeneration of the natural vegetation, sustainable ecological economics activities for the local population, ichthyofauna preservation and implementation of techniques for recovering degraded areas. The use of new technologies, green and blue initiatives, sharing of information and fostering of funding for those activities can potentiate programs with these targets. The results converge to water quantity and quality, preserved ecosystems and human well-being.

Session 1.a.2 - Hydro-climatic risk in land planning and management

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-02]

Addressing hydro-climatic risks is unanimously recognized in international guidelines, and is based on the general principles of integrating public policies which impact water management across a region. The planning and management across a region can contribute to the prevention of hydro-climatic risks inherent in disaster situations and to the mitigation of their impacts effects, including management of water use in agriculture, urban and rural areas and industry. With this

session, we intend to discuss different strategies and methodologies for resolving management problems such as the use of decision support systems and economic instruments for building resilience to floods and droughts.

Increasing Financial Flows for Sanitation and wastewater management

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Finance, Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 34

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 10]

Since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established, concerted efforts have been made to improve access to basic sanitation, yet one third of the world's people still lack it. **Now that the MDGs have been superseded by the Sustainable Development Goals**, the definition of adequate sanitation is being tightened and the figures will look even worse. **Although the economic and health benefits of access to basic sanitation have been extensively acknowledged, the issue is often low on politicians' priorities, mostly because of financial issues.** Indeed, the costs for implementing sanitation projects and the maintenance of deteriorating infrastructure are too high and the investments needed are unsustainable. While the traditional financial instruments in place to improve sanitation have proven to be inadequate in many cases, the sanitation sector has proven to have a potential for mobilizing financing through innovative and adapted technology. **The World Water Council started a work programme aiming at identifying and publicising innovative financial mechanisms to accelerate sanitation services around the world.** The objective of this High-Level Panel is to present to Ministers and Local Authorities, the outcomes of the program on the applicability of innovative financial mechanisms to the sanitation sector, complete with policy implication and guidelines. The purpose of the session is to facilitate a political dialogue about sanitation-related investments by: Raising the profile of the issue on the international political agenda and within the investment community; Identifying and overcoming the barriers preventing the financial flows to sanitation; promoting impactful and practical ways of financing sanitation-related investment.

Water for Food/Agriculture

Tuesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development , Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 36

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 09]

The overall goal of the initiative is to deliver an outstanding Water for Food High Level Panel for the 2018 World Water Forum in Brasilia, by combining relevant sub-topics for discussion by outstanding and knowledgeable panelists beyond the traditional "water" community. Some of the elements we envision are:

- Technologies that support the increase of agricultural productivity
 - Efficient use of water in agriculture and food production
 - **Managing water through the food chain: stopping food loss and food waste**
- Conflict resolution among multiple users of water (Urban, Industrial, Ecology, Agriculture)
- Mining and use of big data, spatial information and in-field sensors for optimizing production
 - Verticalization of production and water use in new agricultural development areas
 - Water storage to improve availability for production
- Financing of Infrastructure for measuring and managing surface and groundwater

Expected Outcomes: A summarizing document with the key messages presented by the panelists and captured from the responses to moderator and audience questions.

Water Crisis in Brazil

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance , Regional Process , Regional Process **ROOM** Room 36

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 04]

This session will discuss how Brazilian metropolitan regions are facing water crisis. Water rationing, supply problems or reservoirs at alert levels are a reality in several metropolitan regions in Brazil and in the world, impacting on the population, as well as on sanitation companies, industries, farmers or the electric sector. **This problem is influenced by environmental aspects, including the average rainfall below expectations and also by political issues and the economic development model.**

Recently, Campina Grande (Paraíba State) reached a regular water supply after a strong 5 days a week rationing caused by a 5-years drought. Full collapse was avoided by the beginning of operations of the São Francisco Water Transfer Project (PISF in Portuguese), a large infrastructure built by the Ministry of National Integration. Anticipation of this operation was made possible by strong cooperation with São Paulo State that lent pumping systems originally used to face the 2014/2015 water crisis in their metropolitan areas.

Federal District is facing a strong drought that made local Government adopt measures to rationalize water consumption. New infrastructure plants were also build in cooperation with the Ministry of National Integration.

Ceará is also facing a 5-years drought that made State's reservoirs reach a zero volume. The main effort to avoid collapses in Fortaleza and other major cities is to finish another operational axis of the São Francisco Water Transfer Project coupled with transitional water pumping systems.

Lessons learned from the water crisis in the cities of São Paulo, Campina Grande, Fortaleza and the Federal District based on strong political cooperation and approximation of technical and political decision makers are going to be presented and discussed.

Climate change, disasters and water related adaptation in the Asia Pacific Region

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 5

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-44]

The Asia Pacific region is undergoing rapid change, driven by twin megatrends of climate change and urbanization, which threaten their crucial water-provisioning services for over a billion people across Asia and undermine quality of life, economic development, and environmental sustainability within the region. This region is home to the Hindu Kush Himalayas – also called the Water Tower of Asia or the Third Pole as this region is the third largest repository of ice and snow after the two Poles. The region is also home to Pacific and other small islands, which are especially vulnerable due to sea level rise. This session will discuss the various aspects of climate change in the Asia Pacific Region and focus on successful case studies on adaptation.

Progress in efficient Water and Sanitation Services in the Americas

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-37]

This session will analyze how the agricultural, urban, and industrial sectors, can carry out actions to increase the efficiency of surface and ground water use at different operational and administrative levels, as well as the associated social, technical and institutional complexity to implement them.

Will the future wastewater treatment plant be water and energy suppliers to the Arab Region

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 8

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-43]

Treated wastewater collaborates will multiple SDGs and support countries to achieve universal access to clean water and proper sanitation. Beyond the SDG 6, treated wastewater offers an opportunity for energy and food production and contributes to achieve the goal the targets for resilient cities. The general trend in wastewater treatment in the region has been consistently increasing. Yet, the environmental co-benefits of reducing the discharge of untreated wastewater remains unknown. Project scale wastewater plants are energy neutral and supply cities and dams with high quality water. The challenge of scaling up best practices and show cases in making treatment plants energy neutral and financially sustainable. A few flagship projects show that optimal performance of wastewater treatment plants requires a proactive policy, a conducive regulatory framework and a sound an efficient technical and financial management. The session will be a platform for Knowledge and experience exchange between countries, NGOs and private sector on ways to scale up best practices in turning the "orphan" sub-sector of wastewater treatment and reuse a performing enterprise that helps countries and regions to face water scarcity, protect the environment and create wealth and jobs in cities and suburbs.

Enhancing Africa's Capacity for Financing water security in Africa

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 9

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-27]

The session will emphasize on demonstrating how the capacity of Africa could be enhanced to leverage financial resources for investment in water security to meet SDG targets. It will also review the various financing mechanisms that Africa needs to tap and share some experiences and lessons to date.

Experiences from South America: Water as a core strategic resource for sustainable development

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 10

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-13]

This session presents the experiences of South American countries, such as Argentina, Uruguay and Ecuador, in how they sustainably develop and manage the water resource. From the P3 model in Argentina, to a public and constitution included model in Uruguay, or the inclusion of community management in Ecuador, such different managing models lead to wide experiences in the region.

The industry's engagement on water resources management in different regions

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 11

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-07]

This session will present and discuss good practices on how industries and their representatives have been participating in the sound management of water and how these practices could be scaled in a way to enhance the governance structures and to amplify efficiency and benefits of water use. Experiences from Brazil, USA and Europe are going to be presented.

Asia to World Water Solutions through multi-stakeholder partnerships

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance, Partners **ROOM** Room 12

DESCRIPTION

[SS-PT-10]

This special session is focused on how to promote cooperation with MPs to have tangible water solutions based on water projects to achieve common prosperity by way of water. In addition, the outcomes of this special session could be applied as tangible examples to Brazil, South America, and countries around the world

Diversity and inclusion in power relations and decision-making processes in water management

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 18

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-11]

The challenges of public engagement in decision-making processes in water management have to include opportunities of talking, being listened, and power for invisible groups. Vulnerable communities, refugees, indigenous groups and other are frequently neglected in participatory approaches and discussions. The session will explore new visions for participatory approaches, appointing its benefits, that work the inclusion of these groups in water management, converging sustainability with social justice.

Reinforcing local governments' capacities on water provision

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Local and Regional Authorities **ROOM** Room 19

DESCRIPTION

[PP-LRA-05]

Urban service providers supply over half of the global population with basic services, including water and sanitation. However, local governments in many regions of the world lack technical, institutional and financial capacity to provide basic and universal water services, not leaving anyone behind. The breakout session will explore how local governments can work with all stakeholders, and learn from one another, in order to develop capacity on water-sensitive governance and ensure that water and sanitation services are provided on a universal basis with a quality and sustainability that limits the impact on the environment.

Fostering strong local governance on water

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Local and Regional Authorities **ROOM** Room 20

DESCRIPTION

[PP-LRA-04]

Local and regional governments are at the closest level of governance to the people. They are the best placed to put the inhabitants at the core of decision-making on water, building a new social contract. The session will explore how local and regional governments can work with other stakeholders, national governments,

civil society, private sector in order to respond in an accountable and transparent manner to the challenges of **a universal provision of water** and sanitation services.

Financing water for the future

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Local and Regional Authorities **ROOM** Room 21

DESCRIPTION

[PP-LRA-02]

Investment in the water sector is overdue. Decentralized financing must be increased to allow local and regional governments to meet the immediate needs of inhabitants, while innovative financing mechanisms must be explored to ensure the future of infrastructure and services.

Session 3.a.3 - Floods, Droughts, Wind, Fire: Building Resilient Agricultural Systems

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-24]

DESCRIPTION

Changing climate will pose additional challenges to agriculture, livestock and food production systems with more frequent climatic extremes. **Building resilience to these events includes a number of conservation practices as well as the use of information resources and biotechnology.** The introduction of better soil and water conservation practices, the development of crop varieties resistant to drought and other stresses, the introduction of sustainable irrigation systems and the implementation of climate monitoring and early warning systems are some of the ways we can ensure food security despite uncertain climatic conditions. This session will explore some of these techniques along with infrastructure needs and information systems to improve resilience in agricultural areas. **SDG Goals:** 13.1, 13.3, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 6.4

Session 2.a.3 - The Invisible Realities: Safe Water in Slums, Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster Situations, and Other Communities

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 23

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-15]

Vulnerable groups and settlements, such as slums, post-conflict and post-disaster camps, and rural and indigenous communities with specific characteristics and needs, require particular forms of intervention in **WASH services**, both for environmental, technological and educational issues as well as for management and sustainability. Investments in water and sanitation infrastructure historically have been concentrated on public policies aimed at urban areas at the expense of these communities. As a result, **populations in remote, rural and indigenous communities; informal settlements; and post-conflict and post-disaster areas do not have (proper) access to these services.** Therefore, it is fundamental to provide them with equitable access to WASH services.

Start with water: Making equitable access to water a priority

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Local and Regional Authorities **ROOM** Room 24

DESCRIPTION

[PP-LRA-03]

It is known that around 1/6 of the world population lacks proper access to water, according to the UN. Top up access to water as a major concern in the political ground is essential to leave no one behind. This session will pose how to fight water scarcity at local level. Solutions to any tailored need of access can be displayed and debated. **From complex water course transposition to simple and low cost desalination tools can be used to share water with those who needs the most: people!** Income, geography and gender will draw how access to water can become a reality to all.

Session 6.a.3 - Sustainable market-based mechanisms and national-regional economics and financing

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 25**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-60]

Market mechanisms are important to ensure financial sustainability but can exclude those that have less; tariffs need to be sustainable, affordable and also promote conservation of water resources as an economic and social good. **It demands comprehensive understanding of national and regional economic and financial conditions to allow or discourage such mechanisms. At the country level, sustainable water-economic reforms need to be identified.** This session aims to identify experiences and proposals to boost inclusive market-based mechanisms, as well as sustainable country level water-economic reforms that could enable more access to water, for multiple purposes, and to sanitation.

Session 7.a.3 - Empowering people, developing capacities and sharing information

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 26**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-69]

Solutions in response to many of the challenges in the area of water already exist, however they are not necessarily known or implemented by the people faced with those issues. **For instance, the training of smallholder farmers on irrigation best practices can have a significant impact on the sustainable management of water resources. This session will therefore focus on ways to empower people,** develop capacities and share information across the different sectors and segments in society.

Session 4.a.3 - Water Governance and communication in Cities

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 27**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-39]

Water governance raises the question of city boundaries for water and the need for institutional coordination among key stakeholders. This requires an enabling environment that allows cross sectoral urban planning that promote water as a major asset and involving cross-scale partnerships between technical, legal, economic and social actors. **Communication and awareness raising are central to transparent and cost-effective management, with the engagement of all stakeholders and the adoption of water integrity practices. Information systems designed with the perspective of integration enable participatory processes regarding the multiple uses of water as well as risk mitigation of water scarcity and the consequences of extreme events.**

Session 9.a.3 - The New Policy Agenda for IWRM

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 28**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-89]

The **SDGs demand that IWRM is implemented at all levels by 2030, including transboundary as appropriate. In just 12 years following the 8th World Water Forum, IWRM must deliver benefits for billions of people by seizing synergies across sectors and goals relating to, among others, food and energy systems (the "WEF Nexus"), climate change, sustainable cities, gender equity, clean seas, ecosystem conservation and peace and security. This session will build on conclusions about revitalization of IWRM practice, to raise questions of how policy and investment frameworks for IWRM need to change to increase the scale and speed of results from IWRM. Participants will identify key policy innovations for IWRM in the 2030 Agenda.**

Session 5.a.3 - Sharing information with transparency for better and more effective decisions on management and restoration of water ecosystems

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-48]

Managing and restoring ecosystems for water services demands a whole preoccupation with the population to be served with the water, with the residents nearby or in the ecosystems as well as with ecosystems themselves. Legislation, funding, sharing information with transparency in an inclusive chamber, capable of unite

and consider the opinions, sometimes conflicting, of all the stakeholders involved is a way of creating empathy and accelerating important decisions. This session will bring experiences of these chambers of discussion for effective decision to preserve ecosystems for water services and biodiversity, and show the importance of sharing information to produce better decisions.

Session 1.a.3 - Addressing hydro-climatic risk of vulnerable communities on a sub-national level.

Tuesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-03]

Whilst impacts of climate change and its influence on increasing hydro-climatic risks are primarily experienced at local and regional levels, existing policies and disaster risk reduction implementation strategies are often created without the adequate involvement of local communities. Hence, this session aims **to facilitate a dialogue between different stakeholders about the realities and challenges of hydro-climatic risk management models and a need for inclusive, 'bottom-up' participatory action with local communities at every step of the process.** Through presenting successful community-based initiatives and innovative arrangements, this session will contribute to community resilience and demand-driven disaster risk reduction approaches that deliver sustainable solutions.

Water Security and Climate Resilience for Africa's Sustainable Development

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 5

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-01]

In light of climate change, African countries will demonstrate measures to increase resilience to the impacts caused by climate risks. **The session will discuss alternatives to social vulnerabilities, especially women and youth, and environmental vulnerabilities in the search for resilient development to climate change.** The session will focus on sharing experiences from some programs in Africa on climate-resolving investments.

Water Funds, financial mechanisms for watershed conservation through nature-based solutions.

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-11]

Water Funds are financial and institutional mechanisms that promote public and private sector participation for the conservation of watersheds **to improve urban water security through nature-based solutions.** They may channel long-term investment for **conservation projects in a way to maximize seepage and reduce sediments and other pollutants of water flows that supply cities.** They strengthen watershed governance by bringing together relevant stakeholders – users, water utilities, corporations, authorities and civil society – and providing solid scientific knowhow to facilitate the decision-making process. This session will present Water Funds mechanisms and discuss their applications, focusing in good experiences and learned lessons. Conditions to replicate the experience at other locations will be discussed also.

Ministry of Environment of Portugal - Title TBD

Tuesday - 14:00 - 18:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 7

DESCRIPTION

[SE-45]

Ministry of Environment of Portugal

Portugal and Spain share five rivers and since 1998 have had a Convention that regulates the shared management of these basins. This Agreement is considered internationally **as an example of shared management of transboundary watercourses and an example for many other countries in the world,** especially for Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries. In the year celebrating the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Albufeira Convention, the Ministers of the Environment of Portugal and Spain will organize an event to present the results obtained during the 8th World Water Forum, dedicated to the theme "sharing water". these 20 years that will be followed by a moment of sharing successful experiences in Portuguese and Latin American countries.

Circular Economy: Reuse in the Mediterranean and its impact on territories

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 8**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-59]

Based on lessons learned and successful experiences, this participative session will **highlight the potentials and the impacts of Reuse, Recycling and Reduction** processes in the Mediterranean territories. It will involve some decision makers as well as elected representatives, researchers, and civil society.

If Water is a Currency, Would you Waste It?

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 9**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-47]

Policy, actions, strategic frameworks to attain SDGs by gaining financial sustainability and resilience of water systems and infrastructure, the need to strategically mobilize public resources and augment opportunities for private investment - will be the focus of this session. Given the diversity of the countries in Asia-Pacific, this session is intended to highlight experiences of policy makers, recognizing variety of financial systems, namely on:

- improving planning, implementation processes by **creating scenarios to address issues of cross-thematic nature by enhancing sustainable business models of water services and infrastructure;**
- **bringing in commercial lenders, private sector as participants to help attain water-related SDGs via impactful investments from public and private sources;**
- creating funding, oversight programs, policy frameworks, **incentivizing decentralized water management financing system and collaborative partnerships.**

Hydrological monitoring network of Latin American & Caribbean countries

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 10**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-29]

Through the International Hydrological Program (IHP), National Committees and Focal Points of each country (CONAPHIS) of the Latin America and Caribbean subregions are aiming to address a special session **on their hydrological monitoring networks and exchange experiences through this cooperation network.**

Lessons in Sustainable Groundwater Management from the Mid and West U.S.

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 11**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-34]

Recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach in water management, we offer lessons learned from nine case studies that span six western U.S. states, capturing the different physical, political, and socio-economic contexts that influence management strategies and tools. Each study offers fresh and unique insight for water managers — a sort of toolbox — on how they could adapt proven methodologies to best fit their own local context. Some key solutions explored in the report include scenarios from Colorado, Nebraska and Arizona, USA. Developing and implementing groundwater policy isn't easy. In fact, it took some of the places mentioned in the case studies decades and a lot of expertise and investment to get to where they are today. But the basins obligated to comply with water usage regulations — not to mention regions around the world struggling to meet water demands — have an advantage: they can learn from the experiences of water managers across the American West.

Transboundary water: Turning potential tensions into partnerships for regional development

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 12**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-RP-08]

The session purpose is to **analyze the role of international and custodian law in preventing conflicts on transboundary water resources and how the water convention and its programme of work is supporting countries to achieve the SDG 6 indicator 6-5-2 and turn tensions into meaningful, just and equitable development partnerships as stipulated in SDG 17**

Inclusive Multistakeholder Partnerships and Participatory Governance

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Governance , Citizens Process **ROOM** Room 15

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 06]

Over the past 25 years, there has been mounting recognition that stakeholder participation in the development, **implementation and management of water service provision is truly beneficial, and that the chances of improved performance and sustainability are greatly increased with the inclusion of all stakeholders in the planning and operation of water supplies.** Taking stock of the implementation of participatory water governance, there are pockets of success. In many countries of the world however, the inclusion of **Civil Society groups (Women, Youth, Indigenous People and CBOs) is still in its infancy.** With the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028 around the corner, a joint High-Level session during World Water Forum 8 is proposed to take stock of the progress and gaps in the development of participatory water governance approaches over the past 25 years; to illustrate some key success and failure factors; and to bring to the fore the preconditions for building inclusive Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to effectively address the mounting water challenges.

Planning for Water-friendly Cities

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Local and Regional Authorities **ROOM** Room 19

DESCRIPTION

[PP-LRA-06]

Planning for Water-friendly Cities

Cities are increasingly experiencing flooding or drought – often one right after the other! Many of the hydrological challenges that cities face result from the way they are - or are not - planned. **Urban sprawl, slums and car-focused development affect water flows and the ability of cities to make the most of precious water when, and how, it arrives. Special attention will be given to the relevance of integrated long term planning and intergovernmental cooperation, as water-related issues usually cannot be solved by the city council only.** This break out session will gather city leaders to discuss strategies for planning water-friendly cities.

Addressing the sanitation gap

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Local and Regional Authorities **ROOM** Room 20

DESCRIPTION

[PP-LRA-08]

Sanitation must be placed at the top of the water agenda. **As over 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation, while poor sanitation endangers life, health, growth and dignity, local and regional authorities face complex challenges to find solutions.**

Adapting cities to face water-related challenges

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Local and Regional Authorities **ROOM** Room 21

DESCRIPTION

[PP-LRA-07]

Climate change is manifesting through many water-related shifts, and cities must be prepared and able to act. The session will look into how local governments can actively plan out risk and build in resilience, with particular attention to water-related hazards, through tested tools and approaches. **It will explore how intensified and changing natural hazards mean and how local governments can look beyond traditional risks and take action to prepare for sudden shocks and progressive stresses.**

Session 3.b.1 - Optimizing the water-energy production value chain

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-25]

There are numerous opportunities for achieving sustainable water use in the energy sector. This includes: **improving water efficiency for energy production through water reuse, using water of a quality fit for purpose, reducing water loss in energy processes, producing more kWh per drop of water, applying the circular economy concept to water use in energy production and promoting conservation practices.** These can be supported through approaches such as water footprint, water impact assessments and value chain analysis.

Session 2.b.1 - Realizing the human right to sanitation

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME People **ROOM** Room 23**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-16]

In 2010, there was consensus at the Human Rights Council recognizing the human right to sanitation. Now, with the 2015 agreement on the Sustainable Development, which also refers to the right to sanitation, governments are struggling with how to realize the right to sanitation. **This session will examine how the human rights principles of access to information, participation, non-discrimination, accountability and sustainability can help governments to make the right decisions to make sanitation accessible to all, focusing on the needs of the most disadvantaged individuals and communities.**

Fighting Scarcity with Efficiency: Making every drop of water work for cities

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Local and Regional Authorities **ROOM** Room 24**DESCRIPTION**

[PP-LRA-09]

As cities face longer, more frequent and severe periods of water scarcity, they are becoming keenly aware of just how precious a resource water is. Local Governments, through technical and political choices, play a major role in deciding how far their water will go and implement innovative solutions to access water where there is no access. In this session, **cities and regions will share their strategies – from conservation to wastewater recycling - for getting the most out of every drop.**

Session 6.b.1 - Financing Water Governance

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 25**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-61]

Debates on water financing are mostly related to investments in infrastructure and services, demand management and on service provision. **There is an increasing gap on financing water resource management and governance systems that are critical for all users, aggravated by climate change. IWRM needs a holistic and sustainable approach to overcome the fragmented decision focused mostly on the supply side which is close related to good water governance and financing.** This session intends to discuss the needs and means to finance water governance in a coordinated and integrated approach necessary to ensure water security and sustainability, focusing on the demand side, and assessing what functions should be funded, how should they be financed and by whom.

Session 8.b.1 - Enhanced capacity building to align Policy with up-to-date Science and Technology

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 26**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-79]

Drafting and applying policies that make solutions available from lab to practice, requires policy and decision makers to be prepared to take advantage of S&T developments. Scientists and technology developers shall make these advancements “understandable” to “policy ears”. This session will explore the capacity needs in both sides to communicate and collaborate better. It builds on the conclusions of the 7th World Water Forum, highlighting the importance of policies enabling lab-to-practice solutions, using case studies to illustrate challenges and benefits of this approach and the way forward.

Session 9.b.1 - Managing water across sectors and borders: Institutional frameworks and approaches for efficient transboundary basin organizations

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-90]
DESCRIPTION

Creating and strengthening joint organizations in transboundary lakes, rivers or aquifers basins is key to ensure reasonable, equitable and sustainable management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems across sectors and borders. Effective basin organizations require a clear mandate, a robust structure and a set of permanent means (financing, staff, capacities etc.) in order for them to facilitate exchange of information, manage conflicts, develop a joint vision and sharing of benefits between riparian countries and all water users. **Stakeholders, including local authorities, economic sectors and NGOs should also be involved.** These requirements will be analysed during this session through case studies and exchange of good practices, in order to prepare recommendations on how to create well-functioning basin organizations.

Session 5.b.1 - Wastewater management and multiple benefits arising from nature-based solutions

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-49]

The session will focus on the complimentary roles that nature-based and engineered solutions can play in reducing pollution, removing contaminants, re-using (waste) water and recovering useful by-products (nutrients, metals and energy), recognizing that the best blend of solutions depends on local conditions (bio-physical, social and economic). Tools and instruments supporting innovative approaches to wastewater management and multiple benefits arising from nature-based solutions will be discussed. As highlighted by the [UN World Water Development Report 2017](#) "In a world where demands for freshwater are ever growing, and where limited water resources are increasingly stressed by over-abstraction, pollution and climate change, neglecting the opportunities arising from improved wastewater management is nothing less than unthinkable in the context of a circular economy".

Session 1.b.1 - How climate change affects all the different water users: The need for cross-sectoral approaches for adaptation

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-04]

The session aims to promote an integrated vision through the main actors affected by climate variability and its implications on water management. A cross-sectoral approach aims to **bring together the many human demands and activities depending on the management of hydrological systems under a common adaptation strategy**. The session will address different levels of actions, tackling the shortcomings towards an integrated distribution of surface and underground water resources and environment towards adaptive and resilient systems. Discussions may include speakers from different sectors (national and local authorities, water utilities, business, farmers, communities, NGOs...) presenting practices and challenges they have been making and facing to deal with this new integrated paradigm.

Perspectives in financing water investments in America

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Finance , Regional Process , Regional Process **ROOM** Room 34

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 12]

America has a strategic global position in water resources and development banks have been supporting the governments and private sector along the last decades in a way that great results were obtained in agriculture, sanitation, industry and integrated water management. Nowadays, **mankind is facing the challenges to turn make Sustainable Development Goals a reality and it is possible to enhance financing instruments and organize complementary efforts in a way to achieve results in the shortest time**. This session will show examples of good practices, focusing in ways to identify new challenges and to propose innovative approaches to finance water sector.

Business, Water and Sustainable Development

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Development , Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 35**DESCRIPTION**

[HLP 7]

Over the past 15 years numerous major multinational corporations (MNCs) have made remarkable progress in terms of improving their water use efficiencies and wastewater management practices not only in their manufacturing processes but also throughout their supply chains. There are many reasons as to why this remarkable transformation has been possible in such a short period of time. The first reason is primarily existential. Many CEOs of MNCs have realized that if their companies are to survive and thrive, they must have reliable access to appropriate quantity and quality of water supply consistent with good wastewater management practices, including extensive reuse and recycling practices. Second, they have realized sustainability is more than a slogan: it is no longer window-dressing. **By extensively using sustainable processes and practices, a business can gain competitive edge over their rivals in terms of costs and thus profits, steadily enhance their market share and boost their shareholder values.** Third, such practices add to their global reputation as environmentally and socially conscious companies and add to their "green" credentials. Fourth, by improving their water use efficiencies, they also reduce their energy and carbon footprints which add to their environmental reputation and also increase their net profits. Accordingly, CEOs of many MNCs have realized that reducing their water requirements will not only increase their net return to their shareholders but also add to their social and environmental reputation. Some businesses, by changing their manufacturing processes and management practices can already operate in a net zero-water environment. **The objective of the proposed HLP will be to explore what have been the enabling environments that have allowed MNCs to make many revolutionary changes, how they plan to improve further their water management practices in the future, how to encourage other national and international businesses to follow their footsteps and what roles business can play in promoting water-related sustainable development goals in the coming years.**

OUTPUTS: 1. A Policy brief that will be prepared by the co-chairs for extensive publication in the global media; 2. Assuming the 8th Forum can video the entire session, the co-organizers will ensure it is widely distributed in the social media and made available in the websites of several institutions.

Source-to-Sea Management: Towards joint action by the freshwater and ocean communities

Tuesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Ecosystems, Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 36**DESCRIPTION**

[HLP 02]

Millions of tons of plastic enter the ocean from land-based sources every year. Nutrient loads from agricultural runoff and inadequate wastewater treatment continue to cause eutrophication and spread of dead zones in our coastal and marine waters. Flows of some rivers are so highly diverted that little water actually reaches the sea, robbing coastal ecosystems of the water, sediment and nutrients they need. The importance of improving fresh- and marine water quality and reducing marine litter is recognized by several goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Primarily, two different communities are responsible: the freshwater community with focus on SDG 6 and the Green Economy and the ocean community with focus on SDG 14 and the Blue Economy. At the moment there is little dialogue between these two communities. In June 2017, the Ocean Conference was held in UN Headquarters in New York to catalyse action on SDG 14 on marine life below water. One important outcome was the more than 400 voluntary commitments made by countries, private sector, NGOs, development agencies and others to address marine pollution from land-based sources, in response to the first target of SDG 14. **The freshwater community has an important role in making sure sufficient amounts of water of good quality reaches the sea. Water management priorities reflected as targets in SDG 6 include ensuring good water and sanitation services delivery, improving water quality and water use efficiency, implementing IWRM and protecting ecosystems. Given the interconnectedness of all water-related ecosystems, it is important to design such efforts so that they benefit people and ecosystems along rivers, as well as further downstream, along the coast and at sea.**

Scale Up and Impact for a Global Water Agreement

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Rooms 16, 17**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-CF-10]

The global fresh water shortage is one of the world's most pressing challenges, yet the issue is not scheduled to be a Global Agreement about water as Climate Change with Paris Agreement. This panel has the objective to promote a discussion in high level about challenges and opportunities in addressing a civil society movement for a **Global Water Agreement and potential steps for establish a binding commitment in global level.**

Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Opportunities in the Water Sector at the Mediterranean

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 5**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-56]

The Mediterranean region faces many climate change challenges, with projected increase in temperature, decrease in precipitation, and more frequent extreme events (floods and droughts). These climate change effects will significantly impact the water sector and multiple economic sectors, including vulnerable people, assets and food security. **There is a need to develop appropriate climate-smart water policies and practices to build climate resilience to lower the risks.** Many

Mediterranean countries have already or are in the process to develop adaptation plans and strategies. However, it remains challenging to include measures to climate-smart water security. **Policymakers should be fully aware of the latest scientific knowledge in managing risk and uncertainty for climate resilience**, and be capable of utilizing those scientific findings to make informed decisions to embrace sound policy instruments to support climate change adaptation. **Technology transfer to make climate-related water information available is essential**. Policy instruments for climate-smart adaptation in the water sectors should investigate various options including desalination, groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse, water demand management and planning for less future water and extreme events. Innovative financing mechanisms should also be sought.

Have the Americas reached the conditions to guarantee the implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation?

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME People **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-36]

This session will assess the state of water and sanitation in the Americas and present the successful measures, initiatives taken and tools designed in some countries to deal with problems that comprises lack of access to water and sanitation for the most vulnerable population, low water quality and absence of monitoring systems to assess it, water networks and pipelines with expired useful life, deficient or not enforced legal frameworks, stakeholders overlapping attributions, lack of technical capacities, highly politicized water sector, among others.

Tackling the Nexus in the Asia Pacific Region

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 8

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-45]

Water, energy, land and ecosystems are essential for satisfying basic human needs and development. Access to these resources and their sustainable management are the basis for smart, equitable and sustainable development. Sector policies regarding water, energy, land and ecosystems have deep and consequential relationships. **With the world population predicted to reach 9.6 billion people by 2050, with 8.3 billion people living in developing countries it will be required to increase food production by 60% during the next 40 years in order to feed the growing world population**. Meanwhile, there is little room for increasing the amount of irrigated water against competitive water demands. **This session will examine all four aspects of the Nexus and attempt to uncover the complex nature of the Water, Energy, Ecosystems, Food Nexus**. Each aspect of the Nexus will be discussed individually, to contribute to a greater conversation concerning pathways to greater cooperation between sectors.

European Ecosystems: Bridging Systems and Services

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 9

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-51]

Natural ecosystems are strongly dependent of the presence of adequate amounts of proper water quality. The ecological services that come from the natural dynamics of hydric systems promote the physical, biological and chemistry processes that generate sustain and guarantee most forms of life. Also human beings depend directly on these water ecological services. **Due to its key role for biodiversity sustainability, it is of upmost importance to monitor, manage and restore aquatic ecosystems. It is crucial to increase the efforts to value the ecological role of aquatic ecosystems and environmental services as they are related to water. In this session the topics of managing and restoring ecosystems for water services and biodiversity, water and land use, ensuring water quality from ridge to reef, and natural and engineered hydrological systems in Europe will be discussed**. A comprehensive and multidisciplinary perspective of these topics will be provided, including public policy, technology, economic, environmental, and social components. The diagnosis reported in the Europe report will be discussed. Issues such as relevance, perception, level of engagement and performance and examples of good case studies will be addressed. The outcomes from the session will be key lessons, messages and recommendations to enrich the report and to disseminate around the world.

The cost of no action in Climate Change in the Americas

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 10

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-35]

The identification of the impacts of climate change and its inclusion in the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure is a key element for resilience increase. Evidence indicates that the consideration of the impacts of climate change in the construction or reconstruction of infrastructure reduces its vulnerability and increases its useful life, with additional costs that are generally less than those of repairing or reconstructing. For instance, a global analysis on the economic costs associated with climate change impacts on transportation infrastructure shows the advantages of a strategy where resilience to climate change is considered from the initial phases of the design and construction.

Regulatory services and the promotion of water related SDGs

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 12

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-09]

This session will discuss how regulatory services in water resources and Sanitation can contribute to implement water related Sustainable Development Goals, mainly SDG 6. Successful experiences from Europe and Americas will be presented, focusing in learned lessons. Present and future challenges to be reached by regulatory authorities will be detailed in a way to build new approaches.

Sharing water: Cooperation at all levels

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Regional Process , Regional Process **ROOM** Room 15

DESCRIPTION

[PP-LRA-10]

Civil unrest, mass migration and insurgency resulting from water crises reflect the need for more hydro-diplomacy. Politics of scale allow these issues, which transcend all levels of governance, to be tackled. Thus, there is a growing need for intra and inter cooperation. This discussion calls for more shared knowledge and practices on water resources, an increase in consensus around water and its related aspects.

Civil Society and Social Capital

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 18

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-15]

Social capital is considered an important instrument to induce collective action in natural resource management. It can be defined as: the internal social and cultural coherence of society, the norms and values that govern interactions between people, and the institutions in which they are embedded. The social networks of civil society, notably of Women, Youth and Indigenous People, unite and represent large groups of citizens. They present a mechanism of horizontal integration: across professional backgrounds, political or religious affiliation, ethnicity or interest. They also integrate vertically: from local and national to international level, within their own peer group and across. As such, they provide an existing institutional framework that can be a valid partner of governments to reach down into the capillaries of society and mobilize its social capital. This session discusses the drivers, benefits and challenges of coordinated actions and engagement between water sector entities and social networks of civil society.

Session 3.b.2 - Securing water for energy through resilience to global change

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-26]

Water resources are under increasing pressure due to unprecedented population growth, a changing climate, rapid urbanization, expansion of infrastructure, migration, land conversion and pollution. These global changes are impacting the flows and stores of water – from rapidly melting glaciers to the decline of groundwater due to overexploitation. Despite the increasing threat to water resources and the resulting impact on energy production, there are innovative approaches to improve resilience including low energy systems, energy production from wastewater (biogas) and water distribution networks (microturbines), generating energy through decentralised systems including geothermal energy, as well as improving watershed management for energy generation.

Session 2.b.2 - Whole sanitation approach, sanitation chain, innovation

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME People **ROOM** Room 23**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-17]

The indicator of success on reaching SDG target sanitation is the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services, which means "excreta are safely disposed in-situ or transported and treated off-site". **This session will provide an opportunity to discuss sanitation chain through the stages of collection, storage, transport, treatment and recycling/reuse of faecal matter. Participants will consider innovative technological, social and economic models that can accelerate progress towards achieving safely managed sanitation services.** Participants will also examine ways of sustaining these services in a global context of rapid urbanization and high population growth, especially in developing countries with limited financial resources.

Session 8.b.2 - Preparing policies that release the S&T potential to (better) solve the water crisis

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 24**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-80]

How can S&T find in policy the best ally for innovation? Solving water issues requires S&T to scale up solutions that address short and long-term needs. Policies that foster such solutions require better understanding of their impacts over S&T developments. **This session explores capacity needs in the S&T and Policy communities to provide faster and innovative solutions suitable for applications from small to large corporates, and from pilot to full scale applications,** while improving public and private sector collaboration. A presentation on how policies address S&T development opens the session, followed by case studies illustrating how policies can accelerate innovations.

Session 6.b.2 - Optimizing existing financial resources to enhance Water Services Sustainability

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 25**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-62]

In the next decade huge amounts of capital investments will be needed to develop urban water infrastructures, globally. In most regions, water systems are aging and becoming increasingly inefficient due to large backlog of rehabilitation investments. In others, recent water infrastructures are collapsing due to inadequate management practices. Climate change effects will also impose new investments. **This session will discuss approaches for financing the infrastructure gap while enhancing water services sustainability, including new business models for wastewater recovery and reuse.** Experiences from repayable financing, climate funds and blended finance and new requirements for engaging additional ODA will also be discussed.

Session 7.b.2 - Implementation of Inclusive Policies with the Participation of All Stakeholders

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 26**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-71]

Implementation of inclusive policies (such as the freedom of information act, web-based platforms for retrieving public information) allows stakeholders to develop further analysis, to verify that their messages have been taken into consideration, and to rely on the system's transparency. **This session is meant to highlight the most promising inclusive policies in the water sector.** The need for more government data available online will be highlighted.

Session 4.b.2 -

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 27**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-41]

Water recycling is an opportunity and challenge to advance research and dialogue around sustainable water management solutions. Thanks to technology resources it can be used for a variety of purposes inclusive potable water use and, in this context, must follow quality parameters that vary according to the **applications that will be destined.** In regions with high water scarcity, this solution becomes essential for social, economic and environmental sustainability because it reduces stress on the water resource. Recycling water promotes productive activities across sectors, and consequently reduces negative economic and environmental impacts and diminishing potential c

Session 9.b.2 - Monitoring, assessment, data and knowledge sharing in transboundary basins

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-91]

We cannot manage that we cannot measure! This is even more important in transboundary basins where information, data and knowledge exchanges must be organized and harmonized between the riparian countries in order to elaborate common diagnosis, take joint decisions and monitor their effects. Or in many situations, the knowledge available is insufficient, inadequate, partial, difficult to inter operate, poorly funded or even regressive.... **The first step to achieve transboundary cooperation is to develop data and information sharing and better science policy interfaces** which can facilitate dialogue and trust. This session will allow for a sharing of experiences from different continents on how to reinforce data, information and knowledge exchange between riparian countries, States and provinces, the scientific community and water stakeholders and how monitoring and assessment can support cooperation.

Session 5.b.2 - Implementing natural and engineered solutions – the need for innovative financing

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-50]

Innovative financing based on integrated economic models is needed to implement the right mix of natural and engineering solutions to improve water availability, access and sustainability. One challenge is the appropriate consideration of all co-benefits and costs in economic models from the initial investment until long-term operation and maintenance, which is particularly challenging for (combined) nature-based solutions. It will also be discussed how legal and market based approaches and other enabling conditions make public-private partnership effective. Furthermore, **ways to increase finance and scale up effective green and grey solutions for water will be deliberated using examples from around the world.**

Session 1.b.2 - Innovative financial mechanisms for adaptation to climate change

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-05]

Countries worldwide have adopted INDCs and NAPs under the UNFCCC, with a strong focus on adaptation of water management, as many economic sectors highly depend on the availability and quality of this resource. A major financial effort is required for implementation of structural and non-structural measures for adaptation: basin management, monitoring, flood protection, drought forecasting, demand management, aquifers and wetlands protection and restoration, soil conservation, multipurpose storage reservoirs, resilient cities or efficient irrigation.... This session will discuss the lessons-learned in planning and financing basin adaptation worldwide and in particular in Latin America and promote financing tools (incl. redistributive financial mechanisms, payment for ecosystems services, users/polluters pay systems...) for the development and implementation of adaptation measures and projects.

Revitalising IWRM for the 2030 Agenda

Tuesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Finance , Regional Process , Regional Process **ROOM** Room 36

DESCRIPTION

[HLP 3]

The Sustainable Development Goals aspire to transform pathways for development, fairness and equity in the global economy and how nature and development co-exist. **The dedicated Goal on water – SDG6, to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all – has brought a spotlight to water policy at global level and in national planning for SDG implementation.** There are numerous UN-Water assessed that of 169 SDG targets, 59 have synergies with water and another 13 are in potential conflict with water targets. Integration of water is hence critical across the sustainable development agenda and the wider **2030 Agenda. In principle, water policies are well-equipped to meet the challenge of integration because of the evolution over decades** – beginning with the adoption of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in 1977 – of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The importance of IWRM in the SDG agenda was foreseen in Target 6.5, **which calls for implementation by 2030 of integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.** UN-Water concluded as a result that IWRM provides the framework for addressing the synergies and potential conflicts related to

water among targets “by balancing the demands from various sectors [and stakeholders] on water resources, as well as potential impacts of different targets on each other, to form a coordinated planning and management framework.” Despite the vote of confidence that the global community has given to IWRM through the SDGs, **IWRM in the 2030 Agenda faces a critical challenge. IWRM must deliver concrete outcomes at a larger scale and more quickly than it has achieved before.** An updated and forward looking IWRM is needed. This will build on what has been achieved in past decades, but given the scope of SDG6 and the transformational vision of the SDGs, **IWRM must rapidly become capable of delivering impacts that are counted in the billions of lives transformed.**

Day Four

March 21, 2018

Strengthening citizens participation: policy, representativeness and challenges

Wednesday - 9:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Rooms 16, 17

DESCRIPTION

[SS-CF-3] SPECIAL SESSION - This session will analyze the political and institutional context for managing basin committees and watershed organisms as a participatory approach to water management. There will be considered three main dimensions in the discussion: a) **influencing public policy for implementing and maintaining basin organisms**, b) representation of citizens in the committees and c) **effectiveness of the society participation as a multi-stakeholder management forum.**

Development finance to reach the water SDG 6 - perspectives from International Development Banks

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Finance , Partners , Partners **ROOM** Room 5

DESCRIPTION

[SS-PT-04] This session, to be coordinated by the World Bank, will involve major international and regional development Banks working in LA&C, Africa, Europe, Middle-East and Asia regions to **discuss the official development finance to water and sanitation** showing case based situations, with their good results and learned lessons, and new sources of finance. The water sector would benefit from a more coordinated effort among international development institutions, as a tool for addressing most major development challenges, as water is a critical ingredient for achieving all the SDGs.

Experiences in facing droughts in the Americas

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-31]

The objective of this session is to discuss what adaptation and co-existence strategies governments, and drinking water and sanitation service providers can develop and implement when dealing with drought extreme events. The discussion will present, in crisis management, how national policies can be shaped, the experiences of service providers, how to regulate the competition for resources between regions and sectors, or technology innovations including the use of more exact measurement.

Sustainability challenges need integrated solutions in the Arab Region: Is Water, Energy Food the answer?

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 7

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-40] Since 2014, A regional initiative by the League of Arab States, regional organizations and donors joined efforts to promote an integrated approach for efficient use of depleted resources that are a threat for sustainable and secure supply of water, energy and food. Several projects were conducted focussing on regional policies pinpoint the multiple challenges to be considered in planning similar experiences in other regions worldwide, The silo approach is entrenched in the institutional landscape in countries. Despite the fact that SDGs narrative stresses the necessity of an integrated approach to achieve SDGs, the reality of sectoral policies and strategies in countries requires several framework conditions to operationalize the WEF nexus approach and ensure coherent and integrated planning mechanism. The central question to debate in the session is How nexus is helping to achieve the Sectoral SDGs and how countries could use [the Agenda 2030](#) to promote an integrated approach to ensure sustainability through efficiency of use of water, energy and land.

Financing the water sector in Europe: how to bank it and blend it?

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 9

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-52]

All functions of water services, water resources management and water security require specific funds that go beyond the resources invested by sectors in their own activities. Proper financing policy is essential to effectively achieve its main social and economic objectives. **New challenges related to climate change and the SDGs add to those objectives, and are unlikely to be achieved without sufficient funding. In such context, not only challenges, but also financial and social costs related to water services, water resources management tend to increase.** Ensuring access to proper funding is key to face current problems, as is proposing innovative ways and new sources of funds that can meet the new agendas. **In this session the topics of economics and financing for innovative investments, financing implementation of water-related SDGs & adaptation to climate change, finance for sustainable development - supporting water-friendly business in Europe will be discussed.** A comprehensive and multidisciplinary perspective of these topics will be provided, including public policy, technology, economic, environmental, and social components. The diagnosis reported in the Europe report will be discussed. Issues such as relevance, perception, level of engagement and performance and examples of good case studies will be addressed. The outcomes from the session will be key lessons, messages and recommendations to enrich the report and to disseminate around the world.

Water-Food-Energy Nexus in large infrastructures

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 10

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-08] **Large hydric infrastructures may involve complex institutional, legal and technological arrangements that can move the whole enterprise from a economic sustainable scenario to an unsustainable one.** The equilibrium point may be found by coupling innovative energy production systems with hydraulic infrastructure in order to reduce costs and allow the agricultural sector to access water. This session will present and discuss the Energy-Water coupling that has being planned to the Water Transfer Project of the São Francisco River - PISF, as well as how it occurs in infrastructures of other countries as USA, China and Australia. It aims to identify similarities and convergences.

National water quality networks in continental sized countries - past, present and future, problems and perspectives.

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 11

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-06]

Water quality monitoring networks are essential to take over surveillance and control trends of water quality parameters. Collected data, after processing and validation, guide the adoption of preventive/ corrective actions and public investments, define historic backgrounds, provide general information, and support judgments in crisis situations. The session concerns on a wide discussion conducted by professionals in directive positions in national water institutions responsible for the operation of water quality networks in continental-sized countries. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to: a brief history of the network, how data is used, lessons learned, operational challenges, and future directions. There will be a strong emphasis on the next generation network, on the techniques and equipment of data collection, and methods of physical-chemical analysis; equipment, parameters to be measured, information processing and applications.

Liability, Justice, and Compensation for Environmental Crimes and Rights Violations

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 18**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-CF-5] This session aims to bring together people impacted by various water related crimes to forge a clear path on the role that civil society can play in protecting communities, advocating their rights, bringing justice to those affected and identifying best practices in compensation.

Session 3.b.3 - Promoting good water governance for sustainable energy production

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-27]

Choices and actions around water and energy will impact each other, therefore decisions on policies and investments need to sustain or improve benefits and minimize trade-offs. Unfortunately, in many regions, water use planning and energy production policies are not aligned so infrastructure development and shortage management plans are non-functional during extreme events (e.g. droughts). Current practices must make water provision as energy efficient as possible, and to ensure the impacts of energy production on water and their ecosystems are minimised. The **establishment of a supportive enabling environment with financing, policy, planning and regulation is essential for sustainable energy production, and equitable distribution.**

Session 1.c.1 - Water and land management contributing to Climate Mitigation targets

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 23**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-07]

How can water resource and land management effectively contribute to climate mitigation and the uptake of measures be accelerated to achieve global targets by 2030? There are opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through different sectors and orders of magnitude within a **watershed such as water reuse in agricultural production, using water quality fit-for-purpose for landscaping, green infrastructure and sustainable approaches to capture rainfall in aquifers, ponds and wetlands.** Also, larger scale approaches using water in renewable energy production (e.g. hydropower, biofuel crops) exist, although these need to consider the value chain of energy production to account for a positive carbon balance.

Session 8.b.3 - Adapting institutional policies to collaborative water governance: the path to enable S&T and policy dialogue

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 24**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-81] Failed investments to improve collaborations between policy makers, bureaucrats and S&T communities are not rare. **Water solutions need a change of mindset, and institutions and governance need to provide the right environment for professionals to develop the necessary new skills.** This session will explore the institutional, structural and governance needs to enable capacity building for S&T and policy makers to work together. Identify research gaps and needs, the business opportunities for the public and private sectors and the benefits to society in general. Case studies will illustrate successful and failed attempts leading to propose recommendations and a way forward.

Session 5.d.1 - Understanding Water Quality from Ridge to Reef

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 25**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-55]

Water of adequate quality is an increasingly scarce resource. Understanding the quality and use of water resources is essential for its better management. The complexity of assessing water quality is increasing with emerging pollutants and multiple diffuse sources that are difficult to identify/manage. Showcasing several case studies, including small island states, **this session examines examples of how data can be used to build more robust integrated water resource management models, and the importance of sharing this information.** This also includes understanding the competing uses of water, the dominant sources of pollution, and how pays and benefits from pollution abatement.

Session 7.b.3 - Involving All Through a Stakeholder Driven Process

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 26

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-72] The importance of having a stakeholder driven process as part of the development of plans, feasibility studies, and basin assessments is important to solve the issues around efficient water management. However, a key question is to what extent does involving all stakeholders potentially complicate development processes. **This session is designed to answer that question via a discussion about the advantages of involving all (including the most vulnerable such as young and old citizens, indigenous people, and minorities) during the entire process and how to mitigate the challenges resulting from participatory approaches.**

Session 3.c.1 - From water use efficiency to stewardship: Is industry aware of its water-related risks and opportunities?

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 27

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-28] This session will focus on the challenges and opportunities of engaging in **water stewardship**, including the presentation of successful initiatives from private and public sectors. **Water stewardship is a simple concept but challenging to implement effectively. It goes beyond individual business efficiency, requiring a wider vision of the water resource. Stewardship requires an understanding of the resource's context, how it is shared, and how water users' activity is affected by and affects other water users and the environment in general.** The engagement in water stewardships can contribute to business sustainability and water security, within an inclusive and sustainable growth pattern.

Session 9.b.3 - Successful negotiation and implementation of global, regional and bilateral transboundary cooperation agreements

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-92] Legal frameworks and agreements on transboundary water cooperation at basin, regional and global level are paramount for the good governance of transboundary basins. Examples of these agreements include the UN Watercourses Convention, the UNECE Water Convention, the SADC Protocol on Shared Water Resources, the EU Water Framework Directive and basin-level agreements. However, negotiating successful agreements and ensuring their long-term effective implementation is challenging, for example due to lack of resources, lack of political will, increasing water stress and climate change, etc. This session seeks to share and discuss recent examples and lessons learned of global, regional, bi- and multilateral legal agreements on transboundary water cooperation, approaches to water diplomacy and success factors for negotiating and implementing effective agreements.

Session 5.b.3 - Grey or/and green – Can integrated solutions help to avoid conflicts and facilitate cooperation among users?

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-51]

Can integrated solutions to water management challenges that consider the right mix of natural and integrated systems help to avoid conflicts between users and facilitate cooperation in the long-term? Although primarily targeted at improving the economic, social and environmental benefits of water resources management, considering and understanding the multiple co-benefits (including building resilience) or threats in a holistic approach, remains a challenge. **Traditional knowledge from indigenous peoples and local communities can also help support a cooperative long-term sustainable approach.** Appropriate governance structures that foster stakeholder participation will be examined.

Session 1.b.3 - Do not reinvent the wheel: Making the most of no-regret adaptation measures

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-06]

At UNFCCC COP21 (Paris) and COP22 (Marrakech), fresh water was recognized as a full priority of the **Global Climate Action Agenda**: 359 organizations in 94 Countries have signed the Paris Pact for water resources adaptation in basins and commit themselves to act quickly. They identified key issues for action from capacity building, stakeholder involvement, risk prevention, demand control to ecosystems services solutions...all are non-regret measures successfully implemented in different regions. **This session will mobilize the Paris Pact signatories and organizations sharing the same approaches to show their initiatives and exchange best practices to facilitate their adoption by different actors and to mobilize energies to react quickly.**

Communication strategies for adaptation of vulnerable urban and rural communities to Climate Change

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Thematic Process, Citizens' Forum **ROOM** Room 34

DESCRIPTION

[SS-J-CF+TP 02] **The use of alternative energies such as wind, solar (photovoltaic and concentrated solar power), biomass and biogas produced from organic matter, etc. have been presented as one of the most promising options to ensure the supply of energy with diminishing environmental impacts.** The advantages of these forms of energy are always exalted and **current reduction of costs** is making possible the competition of these alternative sources with the traditional ones. However, little emphasis has been given to the advantages that these forms of production can bring in **reducing the demand for water resources**, especially in hydroelectric generation, **avoiding that more rivers have their natural connection destroyed and their natural flow pattern changed abruptly and highly impactful.** On the other hand, little has been said about the production processes of the inputs of these energy sources, such as wind turbines, solar panels, mirrors for CSP plants, etc. the destination of this material after the end of its useful life, and the impacts this can have on water resources. In this line, this session will address the aspects of energy generation by alternative systems and their potential positive and negative impacts on water resources, as well as seek to answer these questions that are currently being disregarded.

Urban Poverty and Water

Wednesday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 36

DESCRIPTION

[SS-TP-04] SPECIAL SESSION

Rapidly growing cities face the challenge of unequal access to water and sanitation where vulnerable groups in particular women and Youth suffer the most. Urban upgrading of precarious settlements demands specific approaches and urban design standards, aiming at the universalization of essential services and **rehabilitation of all neighborhoods.** Solutions for these matters require, simultaneously: **establishing new governance arrangements, with multisectoral models – sanitation, housing, social and environmental development and water security; as well as developing a legal framework for intervening in these settlements, using land-tenure regularization tools and avoiding unnecessary evictions.** The main objective of this session is to raise awareness about the major gap in providing water and sanitation services to all, and to share key successful experiences in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It will be organized jointly with the People Thematic Process and the Citizens process, and will bring together Senior Officials from major Organizations with representatives of Local Governments, Utilities, NGOs and Community Groups. It is expected that this session will complement the ones organized within the Urban Thematic process by **highlighting the dimension of poverty and access to services for all that are currently not dealt with, as well as clearly show its crucial contribution to poverty alleviation.** It is expected that the session will contribute to the following outcomes: a) act as a call for action if universal access to Water and Services for all and SDGs 6.1 and 6.2 have to be reached by 2030; b) propose key messages to the Political Process and major donor communities; c) foment partnerships that could continue the efforts generated during the World Water Forum into actions Groups.

Urban Water Challenges in the Americas

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-60] Urban Water Challenges in the Americas Urbanization is a worldwide phenomenon. **Since 2011, for the first time in human history human population lives preponderantly in cities. In the next 40 years, cities will receive 800,000 additional inhabitants per week. This scenario and the absolute or partial lack of services for people living in many cities worldwide, combined with population and economic growth, are factors that will demand improved and new approaches for management of urban water.** Worldwide rapid urbanization demands innovative ways to conceive and operate water management. **New approaches are required to optimize the joint management of water, land use and energy, as well as to decrease the water footprint of cities and to control the transportation of contaminants into water and the transfer of pollutants among water, soil and the urban air**

Finance for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 7**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-58] This session will be based, among others, on the concepts presented in the report "WATER: FIT TO FINANCE?", discussing key issues regarding water finance set out in the Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean (Dialogue 5+5), approved by Water Ministers in March 2015, and financial strategy to undertake the commitments of the recently adopted Mediterranean Water Agenda by the Union for the Mediterranean Ministers (Malta, April 2017). The session will be conducted by staff of the Permanent Technical Secretariat of MENBO and **the participants will exploit synergies with the main Themes from the Thematic Framework of the World Water Forum, namely: Climate change mitigation; Integrated sanitation for all; Water for Energy; Treatment and reuse technologies and Managing and restoring ecosystems for water services and biodiversity.**

How regulatory South American and European authorities could promote the Human Rights to water and sanitation?

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 8**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-22] The objective of this session is to **debate the role of the regulatory authorities in the implementation of Human Rights to water and sanitation, once they are essential actors to sustain sound public policies on water services to accomplish these Rights.** Europe and South American practices will be presented, focusing in regulators' role in promoting and controlling the other components: strategic plans, legislative framework, institutional framework, governance models, quality of service goals, tariff and tax policy, financial resources, construction of infrastructures, operation and maintenance, human resources, research and innovation, entrepreneurship, competition, consumer's protection, social engagement, ethics, integrity, and information. Good results and learned lessons will be showed in a way **to promote better awareness of the regulatory authorities to reach Human Rights to water and sanitation.**

Source to Sea priorities in the different regions

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 9**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-11] This event will present experiences from multiple regions on **how to instigate action among upstream actors to reduce land-based impacts on coastal and marine environments**, drawing upon experiences of S2S Platform members and other key actors in the regions.

Building Resilience to Climate Change in Americas and Africa

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 10**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-03]

This session will **debate successful experiences addressing the challenges and effects of climate change on freshwater systems and the services they provide, encouraging the discussion with the general public to share new solutions and proposals.** It will you answer questions such as: How can the countries build resilience to climate change? Which factors play a key role in increasing resilience in a context of adaptation? Water infrastructure, designed specifically for this purpose? Governance, to consider the multi-sectoral needs and multi-level stakeholders in the public policies? Increased inter-linkage among the scientific and political fields? **Legal frameworks, to prevent land use change aiming to sustainability?**

Transboundary Cooperation: sharing experiences in the different regions

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 11**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-23] In this session about transboundary watercourses, discussions between different stakeholders will take place to share experiences, examine good practices, lessons learned and face the challenges down the road. **The benefits of transboundary water cooperation and water sharing, improved opportunities for economic development, as well as the development of a system to exchange quantity and quality information will be assessed.** Around the world cases that can be discussed are the South-American Prata Basin and other water bodies in Europe or Africa.

Community-based action on water management and watershed governance

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 18

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-18] Community-based action plan has urgency to promote reliable feasibility of water management in the context of watershed governance. There is a huge discrepancy of effectiveness, efficiency and trust between planning and implementing participatory processes in water governance. **This session will discuss success and failure case studies of community-based experiences in order to analyse legislation, budgeting and performance evaluation on the ground.**

Session 3.c.2 - International water stewardship standard

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-29]

This session will examine **the appeal of a common water stewardship framework as well as the institutional and other barriers to widespread adoption of the Alliance of Water Stewardship international standard and certification process.** Financial support, appropriate regulatory frameworks, **robust decision-making processes and community ownership are just some of the ingredients necessary for water stewardship to facilitate sustainable development.** Barriers include education, capacity building and engagement for the sustainable use of water, relevance for industrial and agricultural sectors, making the business case, as well as the limitations of the international standard itself.

Session 2.b.3 - Putting in place the necessary building blocks to reach Sanitation for All

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 23

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-18]

Achieving sustainable access to sanitation for all, while prioritizing the needs of the most disadvantaged individuals and groups, will require realistic plans and strategies; adequate institutional and human resource capacity; robust institutional arrangements; adequate and efficiently-utilized financing, and **strong accountability mechanisms.** This session will focus on these essential building blocks for a well-functioning sector. Participants will discuss the gaps and challenges in the sanitation sector, the difficult decisions that face policy-makers and practitioners particularly in **eliminating inequalities in access, and approaches to unblocking bottlenecks which impede progress.**

Session 8.c.1 - Use of mobile phone technology, sensor technology, remote sensing, drones and modelling in water monitoring and management

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 24

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-82] As the title of this session suggests there are many different ICT innovations which benefit the sector and increase the capacity of water managers. Therefore, this session aims to have a wide array of cases presented. It will be a "market type" event whereby as many participants as possible can make a pitch; to demonstrate and advocate for a specific ICT related innovation. These innovations should help different stakeholders in the water sector to reinforce their capacity to better manage the resource.

Session 6.b.3 - Exploring synergies between water-related SDGs and the UNFCC Adaptation Agenda.

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 25

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-63]

The session covers the **North-South dialogue on innovative financing arrangements for achieving water-related targets for both 2030 Agenda** and the UNFCC Adaptation Agendas in developing and emerging countries. It also handles about climate change adaptation financing, resilience and Disaster-Risk Management as well as finance of hydrological and meteorological data collection for drought/flood management. The session also includes water security financing in semi-arid regions presenting case studies.

Session 7.c.1 - Fostering new cultures of participation

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 26

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-73]

The session aims at **fostering the cultures and mechanisms of participation by involving and empowering women, youth, indigenous people, traditional and local communities, and civil society on an equal basis together with men, legislators and institutions for more efficient water management, and inclusive and fair water governance**. It seeks to **foster the development of the capacity and leadership of youth and women as a key component to equitable participation in decision-making at project, as well as at policy levels**. The new culture of water governance should open space and modalities to utilize the limitless and untapped potential of youth, women and indigenous activists for user-driven design **as agents of change in accordance with legislation, national and regional practice and human rights**.

Session 4.b.3 - Promoting circular economy by building an enabling environment

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 27

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-42]

Making circular economy a reality requires a conducive and enabling environment. It will require coordination mechanisms at all levels of government and the involvement of all stakeholders. **The transition to a circular economy, which generates new sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits, implies social dialogue and communication and education strategies, which must be active, deliberate and tailored**. It will also imply innovation, regarding innovative and sustainable technologies, new interrelationships, new business models, new funding policies **and new forms of governance, which have to be inclusive**, with the participation and commitment of all stakeholders, especially the civil society.

Session 3.d.1 - Efficient use of water through Governance

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-31] Proper management of surface and groundwater is a strategic mechanism to promote efficient water use. In many countries, surface and groundwater are managed separately due to political, social, geographical and historical precedents. This session will explore the existing and emerging opportunities for effectively engaging stakeholders in the planning and implementation of coordinated water management to **promote efficiency use of water with social, environment and economic approaches**.

Session 5.c.1 - Urban land and water use: can natural systems thrive in unnatural environments?

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-52]

Water sensitive city design, incorporating blue and green infrastructure, can play a role in improving water quality and quantity in urban settings. **The challenge is integrating biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functions as essential design components in retrofitting existing cities, a task that requires adequate institutional, regulatory and funding frameworks.** This session will focus on devising and debating ways to promote ecosystems functions related to water, based on case studies from around the world consistent with SDGs 6 and 11.

Session 1.c.2 - Low carbon water services to achieve climate mitigation

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-08]

Population growth and urbanisation are estimated to increase the demand for water and sanitation services by 40% in only 15 years. Globally, approximately 80 percent of wastewater is discharged to the environment untreated, a crucial area of emissions reduction. Utilities can anticipate the need to expand service levels to ensure adequate water supply and sanitation services, while investing in low-carbon urban water services that include energy efficiency and GHG reduction technologies to prevent water insecurity. **Those include the reduction of water losses, increased energy efficiency, improved wastewater treatment, conversion from waste to energy and the reuse of nutrients.** What are the key challenges and how can these be overcome?

Global Monitoring and Reporting of SDG 6

Wednesday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 36**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-TP-02] SPECIAL SESSION

Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires an integrated approach, as the 17 goals are interlinked and, thus, interdependent. Likewise, this approach is needed within SDGs implementation to safeguard the success of the Agenda.

To ensure integration and coherence towards SDG, 6 implementation, UN-Water has developed and leading a coherent and integrated monitoring approach. The UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 encompasses the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP, targets 6.1 and 6.2), the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS, targets 6a and 6b) and the Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets Initiative (GEMI), which is responsible supporting the monitoring of SDG 6 targets 6.3 to 6.6.

UN-Water has extended its integrated monitoring approach to include reporting by developing the SDG 6 Synthesis Report (to be launched in May 2018). As water-related issues extend beyond SDG 6, the SR SDG 6 will focus on the global status of targets and indicators as well as on an analysis of interlinkages with other goals. Furthermore, key policy messages will be included to assist policy and decision-makers to evaluate and adjust their policies and strategies.

The purpose of this session is to review progress in developing an integrated approach towards monitoring SDG 6 targets, to showcase the experience from countries involved in the 2017 baseline exercise, to present preliminary analysis from the SDG6 Synthesis Report and to discuss the implications for policy making.

The presentation of the UN-Water monitoring and reporting initiatives at the 8th World Water Forum will give the audience the opportunity to take stock, discuss the challenges faced and opportunities ahead, as well as the lessons learned by countries and other stakeholders for the successful implementation of SDG 6.

Innovation of young Water Entrepreneurs

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Rooms 16, 17**DESCRIPTION**

The session will **select young water entrepreneurs and innovators from a wide pool of youth to present their innovations to the public and empower other youth to take action.** The innovation can be social, technical and the session will focus on the process these change makers had to go through to bring about change.

Facing impact of mining activities on water resources

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Thematic Process , Sustainability Focus Group **ROOM** Rooms 19, 20, 21

DESCRIPTION

[SS-J-SFG+TP 03]

Mining is a very important economic activity that generates inputs for basically the entire production chain.

Mining methods have always evolved in search of greater efficiency and reduction of costs and risks in mineral exploitation. In spite of this, the activity generally involves large works such as tunnels, open pit excavations, tailings dams, among others, which **represent a relevant environmental risk often materialized by the contamination of water resources.**

Recently, the Hydrofracking – a new technology for natural gas extraction has been developed. This process makes mining in dense shale economically feasible, where before it was not.

Hydrofracking, differently from conventional gas drilling, uses significantly more water, as well as a mixture of water, sand and chemicals that is pumped into the shale to fracture the rock and release the gas.

The use of chemicals creates an increased potential for toxicity with long-term impacts that sum themselves with the environmental impacts of the drilling, especially groundwater and surface water contamination.

In this session, examples of impacts of mining on water resources will be presented and discussed with a focus on finding **solutions to the problems caused by using nature-based solutions.**

Extreme Events: examples of connection between Science and Public Policies in Americas, Europe and Africa

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 5

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-02] Extreme weather events which cause floods, droughts, and other impacts have major implications on the performance of water infrastructure and services, and the availability of good quality water. **The occurrence of extreme weather events is increasing, and providing adequate services has to address cross-cutting topics which include scientific solution and implementation through public policies.** Climate-resilient planning for water supply and sanitation services have to combine political and scientific efforts to be correctly applied and guarantee proper water supplies in catastrophic scenarios.

Wastewater reuse from an integrated resource management perspective

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-24] Water resources suffer increasing pressures and competing uses. In this context, a sound water resources management and planning is essential. This implies not only taking care of water quality, but ensuring a sustainable balance between supply and demand. **In this context, wastewater reuse plays a key role as part of the combination of water resources in the water planning process. In addition, a robust regulation of quality requirements for wastewater reuse is needed in order to minimize risks and ensure compliance with environmental standards. Both aspects -quantitative and qualitative- must be addressed jointly in order to effectively promote water reuse on a national or even a regional scale.** The challenge of rising populations in urban areas and the increasing demand for food demand should be seen as an opportunity to promote planned water reuse, resulting in a higher efficiency in water resources management.

Efficient use of water in irrigation - sharing water, energy and food

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 7

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-10]

Many sites in Brazil and in the whole world are facing water restrictions that amplify conflicts between users of different sectors. In the same time, pressure for more and better food production are increasing. Sometimes it is possible to find solutions that compatibilize enhancing water efficiency, innovative financing tools and negotiation of water allocation. This session will present and discuss some good practices implemented in Rio Grande do Sul and Bahia, facing them with experiences from Asia in order to amplify food production and reduce water conflicts.

Integrated Sanitation for all - Whole sanitation approach, sanitation chain, innovation in MEDITERRANEAN and AFRICA

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME People **ROOM** Room 8**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-19] Integrated Sanitation for all - Whole sanitation approach, sanitation chain, innovation in MEDITERRANEAN and AFRICA Located between the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa, the Mediterranean Sea offers the countries that surround it similarities but also diversity, in particular in terms of their population, natural resources, cultures and economic conditions. The session "Integrated Sanitation for all: Whole sanitation approach, sanitation chain, innovation" organised by the Mediterranean region aims to create a space to exchange and discuss between stakeholders in the sanitation sector from the region and those from other regions of the world around the modalities and innovative approaches adopted for the development and implementation of sanitation services. Based on a representative sample of Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Spain, Jordan, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia), case studies will be presented with a view to proposing innovative technical solutions for the whole sanitation chain: wastewater collection, transportation and treatment as well as reuse of the treatment by-products. The session will also be an opportunity to exchange views on financial mechanisms and the means of **generating sustainable sanitation services in a context of rapid urbanisation linked to population growth but also emigration**. Partnership models between the countries in the Mediterranean region that facilitate the transfer of knowledge and best practices will be discussed. The session will also allow to tackle institutional mechanisms linked to sanitation such as governance, legal and regulatory instruments but also specific indicators and their follow up to accelerate the upscaling of access to safe sanitation services and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6.2).

Economic development of hydrographic basins and safety of hydro infrastructure: risks, monitoring and preventive actions

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 11**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-RP-10]

The aim of this session is to discuss dam safety, identification and monitoring of risks, the development of contingency plans and other preventive measures, remedies and losses in recent cases and their lessons learned, like Lawn Lake Dam and Samarco Dam.

Which public policies for water services to comply with the SDG and Human Rights?

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 12**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-RP-14] This session will show practical cases of water basin recovery in vulnerability situation and environmental degradation, as well its full magnitude and complexity. River basin recovery for water services and biodiversity can be articulated in a series of revitalizations actions in a basin scale perspective, executed in an integrated, articulated and permanent way. In Brazil, two main reference cases are suggested for the discussion: the São Francisco basin Revitalization Program and the Doce river basin and the Água Boa Program. Other regions will be included in the discussion with local cases.

Community based management for water and sanitation: how to ensure participatory approaches?

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 18**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-CF-8] The session will discuss perspectives on how the right to participation is expressed in practice. The perspective of society representatives will be explored, as well as the dimension of governments and providers. Also the entitlement of the service's users will be highlighted by the speakers.

Session 3.c.3 - Water allocation: demand management and water availability

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-30]

This session will bring together shared experiences in systems and technologies to allocate, regulate and efficiently manage water use by all stakeholders including industry and the environment. Water markets, metering, licensing, centralized management, user pays and leveraging private investment are all being tried, in combination and alone, to achieve the rational and efficient sharing, management and use of water among competing stakeholders. Using a workshop format with three or four case studies, participants will debate the relative merits of different approaches in achieving genuine triple bottom line outcomes beyond narrow economic parameters.

Session 2.c.1 - Safe Water: What still needs to be done for the prevention of WASH and waterborne diseases?

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME People **ROOM** Room 23**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-19]

Nowadays, people still do not have adequate access to public health and WASH in terms of quantity and quality. Such issues are aggravated in humanitarian crisis, affecting populations as refugees and other displaced citizens as a result of conflicts, poverty or lack of opportunities – in rural areas and others vulnerable due to natural disasters. **Such scenario may increase waterborne diseases outbreaks in these populations, demonstrating recurrent social and environmental inequities everywhere.** This session aims, while discussing strategies for waterborne diseases outbreaks prevention, indicate and develop adequate and sustainable infrastructure, financing, integrated management, policy making and enforcement, considering cultural particularities.

Session 8.c.2 - Enhancing transparency, accountability and inclusiveness by stakeholders through ICT and capacity building

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 24**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-83] This session will focus on how the **ICT revolution** has helped the different stakeholders to have an impact on the governance of the resource. Civil society, research institutes and universities will be given the opportunity to show how ICT developments contribute to greater transparency and accountability in the sector. A few key note addresses and a panel of experts from civil society, government and private sector will further debate these opportunities and interact with the audience.

Session 6.c.1 - Financing innovation for water technology and business

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 25**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-64] This session intends to bring together experts and leaders from various sectors to present cases of success and proposals to overcome challenges related to the development of public-private and private-private partnerships for water sector development, including mechanisms and metrics adopted by the financial markets. **The engagement in water stewardships and new business can contribute to sustainability and water security.** New opportunities linked to the circular economy also create new niches for development, as the approach on water-energy-food nexus.

Session 7.c.2 - Cultures of sharing and the rights of nature

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 26**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-74]

Water brings all life together — human and non-human, individuals and communities, ecosystems and environments — creating a collective wealth, responsibility, and promise. In every environment on Earth, people have developed water practices sensitive to present and future needs, to inter-community equity, principles of reciprocity and the indubitable necessities of surrounding species and environment. **Sustainable water cultures are still evident within innumerable living indigenous and local traditions.** This session invites discussion and case studies of the practices and principles of water-sharing, as they can help us to understand the full significance of the local and global relationships between people and nature.

Session 4.c.1 - Reuse Technologies: Can We Handle Innovation?

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 27

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-43]

Water reuse isn't the future – it is the present. But are we ready to unleash this innovation that promises to transform our relationship with water? This session presents the technologies that can be implemented for reuse, rainwater harvesting, and desalination. Case studies will show how these innovative technologies and approaches can diversify sources of water while at the same time decreasing costs, protecting human health, and increasing resilience of communities. The session will **discuss the importance of investing in human capacity and the need to integrate systems for successful reuse.**

Session 9.c.1 - How to Enhance Multi-Level Water Governance?

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-93] Water is a fragmented sector where co-ordination is essential to manage interdependencies across multiple scales, responsible authorities and policy domains. But in practice, role and responsibilities for the management of water resources, services, and water-related disasters are still highly fragmented; combining multiple scales is still a challenge, despite greater attention to the basin level; and **the broad range of public, private and non-profit stakeholders affected by decisions on water still do not all have a say on how policies are designed or implemented.** Is water governance well-equipped to handle these challenges? The session will explore what can be done at city, basin and country level to enhance co-ordination across policies, places and people.

Session 5.c.2 - Farming for ecosystem services: can farmers save rivers and still make a profit?

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-53]

Agriculture is a keystone activity, modifying and altering landscapes, habitats and ecosystem functions at a large scale. Historically, the spread and intensification of agricultural activities has had effects on native biodiversity, water availability and quality, and ecological system resilience. This session will focus on policy frameworks and management tools to integrate profitable small and large-scale farming practice with ecosystems functions related to water and improved catchment management consistent with SDGs 2, 6 and 15.

Session 1.d.1 - Science and Policy: Improving Collaboration at National and Project Scales for Climate-Informed Decision Making

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-10]

The influence of science quantitative and qualitative data and tools are fundamental for integrated water resources management and to move towards climate informed decision and policy-making. Several challenges need to be addressed regarding current governance structures, which are often scattered by multi-sectoral approaches and with overlapping responsibilities, and with limited human and financial capacities. This **session focuses on best practices and lessons learned regarding natural and social science integration with policy and decision making, and explores how changes in governance structures could allow for better science-based decision making in the water sector.**

Alternative energies: their potential positive and negative impacts on water resource availability.

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Thematic Process , Sustainability Focus Group **ROOM** Room 34

DESCRIPTION

[SS-J-SFG+TP 02]

The use of alternative energies such as wind, solar (photovoltaic and concentrated solar power), biomass and biogas produced from organic matter, etc. has been presented as one of the most promising options to ensure the supply of energy with diminishing environmental impacts. The advantages of these forms of energy are always exalted and current reduction of costs is making possible the competition of these alternative sources with the traditional ones.

However, **little emphasis has been given to the advantages that these forms of production can bring in reducing the demand for water resources, especially in hydroelectric generation, avoiding that more rivers have their natural connection destroyed and their natural flow pattern changed abruptly and highly impactful.** On the other hand, little has been said about the production processes of the inputs of these energy sources, such as wind turbines, solar panels, mirrors for CSP plants, etc. the destination of this material after the end of its useful life. and the impacts this can have on water resources. In this line this session will address the aspects of energy generation by alternative systems and their potential positive and negative impacts on water resources, as well as seek to answer these questions that are currently being disregarded.

SPECIAL SESSION - Data and tools to facilitate water management and decision making

Wednesday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 36

DESCRIPTION

[SS-TP-06]

There is still a great deal of uncertainty on the extent of hydrological cycle disruptions and even more on the efficiency of measures to be implemented to face effects of climate changes and other water challenges such as increasing demand for irrigation, industry or drinking water. Or many countries face a lack of reliable data and water information, covering all the fields necessary for identifying the main challenges and proposing non-regret measures in the frame of resilience-driven permanent analysis. In too many situations the level of monitoring is worse and worse for decades.... The consequence for water and adaptation to climate change and other challenges is clear: you can't manage what you don't measure. **There is an urgent need to create or strengthen water information systems at all appropriate levels to allow modeling and forecasting of situations and evolutions and follow-up the measures taken.** The session will set effective options and vanguard experiences in the adaptation field, scaling up data production and information for decision making facilitating efficient and adaptive water management.

This session will present cases and bring experts that have been working with different ways of addressing adaptation and its decision-making processes. Interesting points include **means to identify no-regret measures**, intelligent data management, communication for adaptation and, resilience-driven analysis under the context of uncertainty. The expected outcome is a clear setting of effective options and vanguard experiences in the adaptation field, scaling up adaptive water management systems.

Rights of the river: perspective of people and citizens till environmental law

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Rooms 16, 17

DESCRIPTION

[SS-CF-1] SPECIAL SESSION - **New Zealand, Ecuador and Bolivia's law are working on recognition of nature's right. The theory of giving rights to nature was proposed in the 1970s and has been gained concrete examples and cases worldwide in recent years as an environmental defence strategy. As examples, a New Zealand river, Whanganui River, is now a person under domestic law, and India's Ganges River was recently granted human rights. This session will analyze case studies of recognition of river rights, in governance and law perspective, and the diverse cultural approaches and relation to water and rivers, from people, ethnic groups and countries around the world.**

Continued funding of water research.

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Finance , Partners , Partners **ROOM** Rooms 19, 20, 21

DESCRIPTION

[SS-PT-02] This session proposes **a discussion on stable and sustained funding to support research in the area of sanitation and water resources aimed at improving technologies, systems, practices, methodologies, processes and procedures, with the following objectives:** - to discuss mechanisms, processes and solutions for guarantee the continuous financing of actions aimed at the development of scientific research, technologies and synthesis of knowledge in the area of water resources; - propose ways to strengthen and improve human resources training and capacity building initiatives; - define strategies for communicating and disseminating ideas and solutions to problems related to availability and water quality in an efficient manner, adaptable to different local realities. This session is complementary to the High Level Panel proposed by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). During the discussions it is hoped to identify **effective ways to finance in a stable and continuous way** the best experiences, optimizing existing resources and involving users, water and sanitation agencies, and decision makers from different levels of governance, as well as guiding possible mechanisms and **financing instruments aimed at compiling and disseminating existing and dispersed information**, how to transform it into applicable products, processes and methodologies, and how to make them accessible to society. In order to implement stock financing, new financing models (Foundations, Networking - JPIs, Private Sectors, Seed Money) should be devised, involving partnerships between the different spheres of government and private initiative, making decisions that include the various sectors of society

Water and climate change in Europe: the tip of the iceberg?

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 5

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-50] Climate change impacts manifest first and more strongly through water. Changes in climate mean changes in the water cycle, in rainfall and runoff distribution patterns, in river water flows, and in the severity and magnitude of extreme hydrological events, such as drought, flooding, storms, ice melting, etc. The expected changes affect the water availability for human activities and increase exposure to more frequent water related critical events. **Its cross sector nature make water the clear centre of adaptation** – which requires articulated policy, planning and action, involving governments at all levels, sectors and society. Europe faces multiple challenges in adaptation to climate change. In this session the topics of water and adaptation to climate change and managing risk and uncertainty for resilience and disaster preparedness, besides climate science and water management priority: the communication between science and decision/policy making and water and climate change mitigation in Europe will be discussed. A comprehensive and multidisciplinary perspective of these topics will be provided, including public policy, technology, economic, environmental, and social components. The diagnosis reported in the Europe report will be discussed. Issues such as relevance, perception, level of engagement and performance and examples of good case studies will be addressed. The outcomes from the session will be key lessons, messages and recommendations to enrich the report and to disseminate around the world.

Sanitation-wise cities: new approaches for optimal sanitation services

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-38]

Cities and communities are key actors for a sustainable development. The adoption of the new urban agenda on the Habitat III Conference in Quito in 2016 adopted new targets and orientations for a sustainable urban development. The 2030 agenda highlights the importance of safely managed sanitation as a key element to ensure public health. This session will explore how sanitation contributes to city-wide sustainable planning. Cities are using a variety of solutions and programs to provide sanitation service for all. This session will explore some of these proven solutions in the Americas, discussing the development of sector frameworks in Colombia, condominal sewerage and decentralized wastewater solutions in Brazil and Bolivia, and the use of microfinance to connect low income families to existing grids in peri-urban areas of Lima.

Water & Energy in a Crisis Context: Experiences in Brazil and France

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 7

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-09] This session will discuss how the energy sector is participating in governance of water resources and how situations of scarcity and excess water availability are increasing conflicts with stakeholders: environmental, transport, agriculture and sanitation, as well as how the safety and cost of energy are affected. Situations involving the São Francisco, Tiete - Paraná and Madeira Rivers Basins in Brazil and the Durance and Verdon - Provence, France basins will be presented.

Reaching the Urban Unserved: sanitation and water supply in slums and the water-related SDGs

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME People **ROOM** Room 8

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-20] Brazil and most of the underdeveloped countries have lived with the existence of huge slums in their cities for decades. Water supply and sanitation have represented challenges in these areas and have mobilized innovative ideas from decision makers, researchers, civil society and service providers. This session will discuss water supply and sanitation in slums facing the perspective of a full implementation of the water-related SDGs in order to highlight problems and solutions that the overall society must build. Experience from different regions will be presented, aiming to identify similarities and applicable solutions.

Water cultures of the indigenous peoples of Latin America

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Regional Process , Regional Process **ROOM** Room 10

DESCRIPTION

[SS-J-CF+RP 01]

Indigenous peoples of the Americas have their own vision on water and water related issues. Water is a first-order component of their cosmivision, well beyond a human right. Indigenous peoples have created systems of integrated water management and governance throughout the centuries that still adequately respond to challenges associated with water security. These traditions, in dialogue with indigenous knowledge, inspire the search for innovative technologies and forms of organization for the sustainable provision of water in the continent. Indigenous practices related to hydrosocial cycles and hydropolitics remain largely invisible, likewise connected holistic values including spirituality, regulatory frameworks, hydraulic practices and conflict resolution. This session give visibility on the Forum agenda about the importance of the water cultures of indigenous peoples. The session gives the floor to indigenous leaders of the region to present their visions and cultures on water.

Upscale innovation for a water-secure Asia and the Pacific: Synthesis of Asia-Pacific regional process

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 11**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-RP-04] The objective of this session is to discuss how to implement the "Yangon Declaration: Pathway Forward," which was adopted at the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (3rd APWS) in December 2017. It will introduce the background of the Summit and its "Call for Actions" by showcasing ways to deliver and scale-up through the discussion of good practices from Asia and the Pacific. It will then discuss the opportunities and barriers to implement these policies and measures in the different sub-regions. It will also discuss how to gear up efforts and foster more leadership, capability and innovation in policy, institutions and education. Finally, it will examine ways to stimulate funding and collaborative actions by government, the private sector, civil society and local cross-sector partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve Water Security for Sustainable Development.

Interfederative relationship in the management of river basin water transfer projects in the regions

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 12**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-16] Management of river basin water transfer projects, by itself, presents peculiar challenges regarding priorities and competences of source and destination basins authorities. The Brazilian case Pisf - Integration Project of the São Francisco River, adds to this scenario, an interfederative relationship involving many state governments, multiple river basin committees and the Union. It's suggested to discuss too the experiences from USA, Australia and China.

Monitoring and evaluating the social participation in water management

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 18**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-CF-14] This session will explore indicators of monitoring and evaluation for social participation on water management. Institutional analyses, studies and models on social participation processes in local, regional and national scale will be considered in the basin territory and its revitalization. The session will discuss achievements and challenges concerning this issue.

Session 3.d.2 - Efficient use of water as a development inductor

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-32] The waste of water in the productive processes, in the process of supplying water to the population, among other situations, increases the possibilities of water restriction for its various uses in the planet. Thus, there is a worldwide trend of supply constraints and cost increases, also influenced by climate change. Water efficiency is therefore one of the drivers of sustainable development that generates social, environmental and economic benefits. This session aims to bring experiences of water efficiency promoted by practices of management, use of technologies, reuse of water, and other examples that are being implemented by the private, social and government sectors to reduce the consumption of water and scale the sustainable development.

Session 2.c.2 - Synergies beyond SDG 6: access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for improved nutrition and public health

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME People **ROOM** Room 23**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-20]

The beginning of the **SDG era** calls for joint multi-sector action, collaboration, engagement; and is a right time to demonstrate, practically, how nutrition and WASH actions can be integrated for better health outcomes. The WHO estimates that 50% of cases of child undernutrition are the result of repeated diarrhoea and intestinal infections caused by poor sanitation and hygiene conditions or lack of safe water. This session will present experiences from countries advancing on WASH, nutrition and health linkages at research, policy and implementation levels, aiming to overspread feasible ways to improve the situation.

Session 8.c.3 - Open Source and big data for water use efficiency and sustainable management.

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 24**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-84] This session will not only try to have an overview of the recent developments in open source and big data science relevant to the water sector, but will also attempt to look into the future of ICT and do some "out of the water box" thinking. Water use efficiency is a key objective in an increasingly water scarce world and the potential of ICT in this field is great for reinforcing capacity. This session will encourage organizations from outside the water sector to give their reflections and future suggestions/predictions for capacity building.

Session 6.c.2 - Financing multi-purpose infrastructure for sustainable growth

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 25**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-65]

This session identifies and promotes new business models and new funding mechanisms to encourage the development of actions in the public and private sector with a focus on multi-purpose infrastructures and new technologies. Financial support, appropriate regulatory frameworks, **robust decision-making processes** and community ownership **are some of the necessary ingredients for water stewardship towards sustainable development**. Role played by regulation to create an enabling environment for financing and investments in water, both for structuring and non-structuring actions along with success stories will be also presented.

Session 3.e.1 - Multipurpose Water Infrastructure Planning and with Multiple Objectives in Management Units

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 26**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-34] **With the growing need for water resources in agricultural, industrial, environmental and service sectors, comprehensive and multipurpose planning, development and management of water infrastructure should be prioritized both in the UN's SDG agenda and in finance.** In this session, we will discuss proposals for planning, financing, maintenance, and management of water resources and water infrastructure, and the current trends and proposals for the conciliation of conflicts in management units. It is important to have multi-objective planning and management both in the physical and temporal sense, including at the level of river basins, counties and cities, in order to reconcile the conflicts among various sectors including human, environmental, economic, and others.

Session 4.c.2 - Lemons to Lemonade: How Technology is Turning Sludge Management Into Opportunity!

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 27**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-44]

Sludge was traditionally considered a waste in the water sector. But now technology has turned it into a valuable resource from wastewater that can be used to generate electricity, recover nutrients, and reduce landfill disposal. This session will present case studies where technology and innovation were used for sludge management in ways that lowered costs, built community resilience, and benefited human health and the environment. The session will explore how viewing sludge as a resource has led to more integrated approaches for water and waste management.

Session 9.c.2 - How is Water Governance in Your Country? Indicators to Assess Institutional Performance

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-94]

Indicators are means to an end. They provide evidence to governments and key stakeholders to identify challenges and tackle them. The session will introduce **OECD water governance indicators and other assessment frameworks on water resources, services and water-related disasters that can be used to build consensus** on what work, does not work and what can be improved; and discuss/draw lessons from experiences of "measuring" water governance in cities, basins and countries, including from Malaysia, Morocco, Colombia, Peru, Spain, UK, Cabo Verde, Austria, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Netherlands.

Session 5.c.3 - Integrated land and water management: focus on the big picture

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-54]

Effective catchment/watershed management requires complex, multi-dimensional adaptive management. Actions delivering positive outcomes in one area or sector can have unintended environmental social and economic consequences at catchment level. Similarly, policy prescriptions with narrowly defined benefits can result in wasted time, money and resources, and heightened community frustration. **This session will be a workshop on managing competing pressures to achieve SDGs 2, 6, 11 and 15, using catchment management case studies. Issues will include managing tensions between cities, agriculture, conservation and development; information, communication and funding for ecosystems and water conservation; and, economic incentives and legislation.**

Session 1.d.2 - Citizen science approach in hydro-climate services for achieving the SDGs and global goals

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-11]

The session will discuss the interaction between the decision-making process and the necessity of **benefit-sharing partnerships that promote the convergence of decisions towards common goals**. The role of citizen science is highlighted as an important driver in hydro-climatic data collection and validation. Water information network systems and accessible, innovative technologies have the potential to be developed further in support of SDG implementation. **The session will present best practices to empower and inform the public as way to strengthen the triangular interface of academia, the public and government.**

SPECIAL SESSION - From the 7th to the 8th World Water Forum: Three years of Implementation Roadmaps

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 33

DESCRIPTION

[SS-TP-01] SPECIAL SESSION

Implementation Roadmaps (IRs) emanated from the 7th World Water Forum as a mechanism to support continued progress on key water-related issues in between editions of the World Water Forum. **They meant to catalyse collective learning and action for water, in addition to identifying ways for the international water community to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

Sixteen different roadmaps were created, based on the 7th World Water Forum's Thematic Framework, each one piloted by respected members of the international water community who mobilize a wider range of partners (DGIC Champions).

By harmonizing efforts to move forward on the **global water agenda**, Implementation Roadmaps provide a much-needed framework to help achieve water security and ensure a sustainable, resilient world for future generations. Indeed, they provide dynamic guidance for 90 organizations and other stakeholders to rise to common challenges, offering results that are more impactful than what can be achieved individually. Everyone is welcome to contribute.

This special session aims at highlighting IRs achievements of the three past years. To this occasion the World Water Council and Korea Water Forum will launch a final publication compiling successful case studies of implementation of these Roadmaps in addition to their formal contribution to **the 2018 High-Level Political Forum, which will be reviewing the SDG 6.**

The expected outcomes are (1) to bridge the 7th and the 8th edition of the World Water Forum, (2) learn about an innovative mechanism catalyzing multistakeholders action and (3) contribute to global processes, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Wednesday - 16:30 - 19:00

THEME JP , JP **ROOM** Room 35

DESCRIPTION

[PP-JP-05] Instead of a traditional closed law school competition with a problem statement with hypothetical stakeholders, this "Water Justice Moot Court" is a collaborative, transparent, and real-world effort to bring forward and share with all WWF participants, and with the global community, the most current and highest level of legal expertise to address actual pressing issues involving critical freshwater resources.

Efficiency of indicators to foster sustainable use of water

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Thematic Process , Sustainability Focus Group **ROOM** Room 36

DESCRIPTION

[SS-J-SFG+TP 05] Indicators are widely used in all areas of knowledge and management. They are basically a measure, usually quantitative, that can be used to illustrate and communicate a complex set of phenomena in a simple way, including trends and progress over time. In the case of water resources management there are many indicators in use and a greater number under discussion with numerous proposals for its application. In general, the simplest indicators to be obtained are used in management because they can be obtained even in river basins with few monitoring data. On the other hand, they represent a rather limited view of the overall situation, generally not including important elements covering environmental and social issues, for example. **The more complex indicators such as the water footprint are more difficult to obtain and monitor.** And because they are more complex and wider, they also go through more technical questions. However, the importance of using indicators not only for the management of water resources, but **also for the awareness and information of the society** that has no technical knowledge on the hydrological parameters is not ruled out. Thus, the discussion about the proper use of each indicator and its application in improving the management of water resources is a relevant topic that needs to be discussed in order to contribute to the advancement in the sustainable use of water. This session will discuss several indicators and assess the most appropriate situations for their use, always aiming at a sustainable, transparent and participatory management of water resources.

Integrated Freshwater Management for Sustaining Humanity and Environment: Addressing the Socio-Economic and Scientific Challenges

Wednesday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Development , Partners , Partners **ROOM** Room 39

DESCRIPTION

[SS-PT-09] As we know, most of fresh water reservoir used for human consumption are gathered in high range lakes. This session will discuss the role of cooperation and governance of fresh water reservoirs. Great volume of water and biodiversity of those ecosystems many times lay in borders of nations, states and cities, making governance crucial for preservation, human and economic sustainable use. Experience of Brazil, Japan, USA and Canada will be spotted as good example of how can integrated management and cooperation can ensure water supply to millions of people.

Day Five

March 22, 2018

Building the Water Resources Management Agenda in the countries of Central America and Caribbean

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Rooms 19, 20

DESCRIPTION

[SS-PT-11]

This session aims to **introduce and strengthen the international cooperation projects for water resources within the framework of South-South strategy**. In addition to this main objective, it seeks to integrate water resources management institutions of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, using the discussion area of the World Forum for recognition of common and shared challenges, as well as national initiatives that enable greater efficiency and accomplishing management in the countries. In order to do so, the water directors of the countries will be presented the results of participatory workshops, held with the countries in the year 2017, in Santo Domingo and Brasilia. After this presentation, there will be a debate about the main opportunities and constraints to the establishment of a Water Management Development Agenda.

The main questions to be addressed in this session are: i) what are the main challenges of water resources management in Caribbean and Central American countries; II) how to develop the governance of water resources management in those countries; III) how countries can organize to meet internal and external objectives and goals (ODS, Paris); vi) **what is the role of international cooperation in advancing the management of water resources in the countries**; v) what is the role of international cooperation in transboundary water resources; vi) how to build a strategy for South-South cooperation in the area of water resources.

Youth participation in decision making processes.

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Rooms 16, 17

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-17]
DESCRIPTION

The role of youth, as the main stakeholders that can influence changes in the process of water management. Youth vision to stimulate the breeding of a future generation of water stewards and innovators.

Crisis Management: strategies for River Basins in Americas and Asia-Pacific

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 5

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-13] The **São Francisco river delivers 2.846 m³/s**, is 2.800 km long and about 16 million people lives in the whole river basin that evolves 505 municipalities in 7 Brazilian states. The river has a major hole in Energy, Irrigation, and water supply in Brazil and in past was very important for navigation. From 2012 to now the river is facing a very long and severe period of reduction on its hydric availability and in its ability to provide hydric and environmental services. **Actually, the River delivers 550 m³/s** at its mouth and the flow reduction is impacting Sanitation, Irrigation and Energy sectors, besides environmental services. The session will present and discuss measures that were adopted, from new approaches in negotiating water allocation during crisis, to innovative technological solutions to amplify water efficiency and new efforts tried to promote the revitalization of the river. The cases presented will discuss crisis management in light of disasters, floods and droughts, including experiences from Australia and Asia.

REUSE in the "Africa – Mediterranean – Europe" axis: Territorial Impact and Search for a Common Strategy

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-25]

Based on shared experience, this session wants to highlight the potentials of an enhanced cooperation between European, Arab and African countries; the Mediterranean region will serve as an interface between all these different regions given its strategic position. This session will be based on REUSE; main topic addressed by the last UN Water Report in 2017. It will involve some decision makers as well as elected representatives, researchers, and civil society.

The new development agenda: the regional components for the preparation to implement SDG 6 to achieve the targets linked to this goal

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 7

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-15] **To implement the Sustainable Development Goal on Water (SDG 6), countries must align the national planning frameworks with the SDG targets**, they will also have to prepare in terms of financing, monitoring and strengthen the institutional capacities. The session will include experiences from countries in the regions, to show the steps they have implemented on this regard, as well as the bottle necks and lessons learned.

Water and migration: how to face the challenge?

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 8**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-18] The world is witnessing some of the largest refugee flows since the Second World War. Meanwhile, water crises are highlighted as one of the most pressing global challenges. In this context, migration and refugee flows are increasingly explained in terms of water scarcity – perpetuated by climate change. In this session the topics of water and migration in Europe, Mediterranean and Africa will be discussed. A comprehensive and multidisciplinary perspective of these topics will be provided, including public policy, technology, economic, environmental, and social components.

Water & Transportation: Public Policies and Perspectives

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 9**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-04] This session will discuss how the **Transportation Sector is involved in water resources governance and how restrictions in water availability are amplifying conflicts with environmental, energy, agriculture and sanitation stakeholders**, as well as how transport security and costs are being affected. The Tiete-Parana river and the Amazon basin are being presented, as well as others like the Canadians and Chinese Systems. People from Energy and Agricultural Sectors are going to discuss taking into account the perspectives of Transportation stakeholders.

Wetlands for mitigation, adaptation, nature and livelihoods in the Arab region

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 11**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-RP-41] Over years, several wetlands suffered the multiple anthropogenic and natural depletion. As a result, extreme events, the loss of ecosystem services and of biodiversity have raised awareness and engagement of countries in projects to protect wetlands. This is particularly relevant to the region where countries that experienced unrest where environment degradation was serious. This could be turned into a remarkable opportunity. **Wetlands could provide a double dividend investment for sustainable development. The issue for debate in the session is How to make wetlands a buffer to weather extreme events (floods) that are likely to increase with Climate change, while preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services in reconstruction and rehabilitation endeavor.** How to put wetlands at the heart of nature friendly reconstruction efforts in countries that went through conflicts over the last five years. What innovative partnerships under SDG 17 could support countries in making wetlands resilient to internal (conflicts) and external shocks like climate change.

Women: Perspectives and challenges

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 18**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-CF-6] **Transforming our World, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development proclaims an 'all-of-society engagement and partnership' to end poverty and hunger and to achieve sustainable and equitable development in harmony with nature.** In the water domain, the participatory and multi-stakeholder approach at different levels is already anchored in the Rio/Dublin Principles for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), **translation of these principles into practice however, is often still in its initial stages.** This session zooms in on Rio/Dublin Principle 3 **concerning the role of Women as one of nine identified segments of society (Major Groups of Agenda 21) that play different and complementary roles in achieving sustainable and equitable use and management of water resources.**

Discussion Towards the Sustainability Declaration of the 8th World Water Forum

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 21**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-SFG-01]

For the first time, the organizers of the 8th World Water Forum expressed the will of issuing a declaration directly reflecting the debates and results obtained during the forum. This declaration, called SUSTAINABILITY DECLARATION (SD), is supposed to be adopted by consensus before the end of the forum and adopted during the closing session of the Forum on Friday March 23rd.

To ensure that the participatory process involves everybody willing to contribute, this open session is organized to present and discuss the draft declaration. **A draft version of the declaration will be distributed at the beginning of the session.**

Session 3.d.3 - Water-use efficiency and sustainable withdrawals: coping with water scarcity

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-33] Continued economic development leads to growing water demand through all water users with direct impact on water security. Globally, urbanization is expanding, as it is the intensification of agriculture potentially triggering water use conflicts due to the paradigm of "demand vs supply" of water. Given the "business as usual" scenario, increased over-allocation of scarce resources combined with weak governance often results in long-term water security issues and looming water crises. This session will share experiences and examples of the challenges faced by water-scarce regions and of approaches to get ahead of the curve.

Session 2.c.3 - Risk communication related to quality of water for human consumption: seeking population's empowerment and the minimization of health risks

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 23

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-21]

Dialogue promotion incorporates community's needs in policy making process. **Integrating population in risk management and public health policies, through a confidence relationship is essential.** A routine surveillance, mainly by drinking water monitoring, generates information that can become public, enabling community engagement and empowerment, especially young people, who can be agents for a better WASH practices. Such practices contribute to individual and collective behavior change. Hence, **this session will debate the importance of empowering the people** as well as the need for transparency of governmental and non-governmental actions, contributing for public health and related policies effectiveness.

Session 8.d.1 - How to expand support to international cooperation and capacity building to achieve SDG 6?

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 24

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-85] The data on international funds for financial and technical assistance to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS show that after an increase between 2005 and 2010, **disbursements declined again between 2010 and 2014** (OECD). At the same time, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls for enhanced international support and establishment of multi stakeholder partnerships for implementing effective capacity-building in developing countries; the Doha declaration underscores the importance of capacity development and strengthening technical cooperation for developing countries to attain their development goals. **How do we reconcile the strong international commitment to support international cooperation and capacity building with the declining financial assistance?**

Session 6.c.3 - Financials cases for water security investments

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Finance **ROOM** Room 25

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-66]

This session intends to identify public and private cases in local, regional, national and international instances in cases of funding for water security with replication capacity in other regions of the world with a focus on technical, legal, institutional and financial aspects. Water and effluent treatment stations, reuse, metering, licensing, centralized management, leveraging private investment, to achieve rational and efficient sharing, management and use of water among stakeholders. In addition to the infrastructure financing mechanisms, linkages with water governance will be addressed to maintain sustainability of institutions and encourage investments and mobilization.

Session 1.c.3 - Strengthening waterwise management and climate mitigation through integrated policies, regulation and financing

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 26

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-09]

There are strong synergies between climate and water action. Emissions from the water sector (especially drinking water and wastewater services) present new opportunities to contribute to Nationally Determined Contributions limiting global temperature rise. Holistic water management approaches guided by good policies and governance require special emphasis, for example for using water to produce renewable energy. Integrating water and climate agendas, promoting coherence between adaptation and mitigation approaches, and sound accounting methods for GHG emissions will improve access to financial mechanisms and drive the so-needed upscale of mitigation measures. How to create an environment enabling the mitigation in the water sector?

Session 4.c.3 - One System Does Not Fit All! Navigating the Costs for Urban Water Management

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 27

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-45]

There seem to be an endless – and often confusing – combination of challenges and solutions when it comes to urban water management, particularly when it comes to cost. What are the benefits and trade-offs of centralized, semi-centralized, and decentralized systems? What are the human health issues to address? How does affordability factor in? Through a series of case studies, this session will explore cost issues including capex, opex, and asset management, as well as operation and maintenance and distributing costs among stakeholders. ICT will be discussed as an enabling technology to increase safety, efficiency, and accountability.

Session 3.e.2 - Improvement of Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-35]

As industrialization and urbanization development deepens, the comprehensive and sustainable management of water infrastructure to improve its resilience to global challenges becomes more important. This session will discuss the challenges faced by water infrastructure and share the experiences of different countries in balancing the demands for infrastructure development and sustainable water resources management. This includes the management of water diversion projects, water storage infrastructure, water supply projects, and irrigation and drainage facilities at both local area and river basin scales. Strategies for coping with these challenges and enhancement of related services will be discussed in this session.

Session 5.d.2 - Emerging Policy Solutions to Manage Water Quality from Ridge to Reef

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-56] Managing water quality is a complex task for policy makers. It is a challenge to know which policy tools would be most effective to meet water quality standards in different situations, locations or scales. Examples of innovative policy instruments are emerging, but have limitations. How to conceptualize and implement suitable governance arrangements to find the right incentives, funding sources, technologies and capacity to improve water quality is specific to each location, and must adjust to constant demographic and climatic changes. This session will examine examples and frameworks of how to replicate and scale up or scale down innovative policy solutions.

Session 1.d.3 - Uncertainty and limitation of science and science communication

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30**DESCRIPTION**

[OS-TP-12]

Climate science has made significant advances during the last two decades. However, this knowledge has not yet been implemented at the policy level for decision making in the medium and long term, due to a mismatch in spatial and temporal scales and the significant uncertainty in projections under climate change scenarios. Innovative approaches are needed to bridge the gap between climate science and policy making in order to better integrate climate risk informed decision-making, and to provide a framework to foster community-based adaptation strategies for improved water resources management, disaster prevention, and to reduce the impacts of global change.

Control of Water Resources: responsibility of many, interest of all

Thursday - 9:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 35**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-PT-13]

Water is the fundamental element of life. In addition to representing two-thirds of the human body, its multiple uses are essential for a wide range of human activities, such as industrial supplies, agricultural irrigation, electric power production and recreational activities. In this context, the water shortage experienced by different countries demands that responsibility for this public good be shared among several actors, in order to allow access to water with sufficient quantity and quality for all interested parties. Therefore, water, as a public good of high value, requires effective management and an adequate control system that has the participation of these actors and takes into account the precepts of sustainable development. This diversity of views and interests is reflected in the existence of multiple institutions involved in the control of water resources, ranging from Ministries, Regulatory Agencies and Courts of Accounts to committees and social organizations, as well as numerous other public and private entities directly or indirectly linked to the management of water resources. The goal of this panel is to promote the debate among these actors, in order to foster the construction of a collective vision on the possible ways to improve the management and the use of this essential good for our survival. It also seeks to stimulate the establishment of institutional arrangements that can improve governance and the sustainable use of water resources.

SPECIAL SESSION - Multi-stakeholder Dialogue: Water-Energy-Food Nexus and SDGs Implementation

Thursday - 9:00 - 10:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 36**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-TP-05] Building on key milestones from Stockholm (WWW 2016) and Cancun (WWC 2017) promoting WEF Nexus as a foundation for SDGs implementation, the objectives of this special session are to:

- 1) Share WEF Nexus lessons learned across scales and sectors toward SDGs implementation;
 - 2) Facilitate dialogue between funding agencies, banks, academics, private sector, public sector, technology providers, entrepreneurs and civil society on the role of WEF Nexus in SDGs implementation; and
 - 3) Discuss ways to improve policy coherence across WEF sectors and across scale.
- Facilitated audience engagement (45 minutes) will encourage dialogue between funding agencies, banks, academics, private/public sectors, technology providers, entrepreneurs and civil society on the role of WEF Nexus in SDGs implementation, with the goal of addressing key questions:
1. How can scientific tools, technology (in particular information, communication technology) data, and case studies contribute coherence to WEF systems / SDGs implementation?
 2. What policies and incentives are needed to promote implementation of SDGs in the context of WEF systems?
 3. What are some successful, cross-scale, governance and technological lessons?
 4. How can we communicate the WEF systems complexities and share positive messaging, while maintaining momentum towards change for a sustainable future?
 5. How do we maintain the integrity of human rights issues in the context of WEF systems solutions?
 6. How can opportunities be better promoted and coordinated between cross-sectoral players, at different scales?

Panel discussions will identify, for different stakeholders, opportunities associated with investment in Nexus solutions; the roles of public/private sectors, entrepreneurs and banks in their implementation, financing, and governance; and the types of interventions to be carried forward. Documentation will include: white paper summarizing discussions and conclusions; factsheets available to participants and published on line; video focused on Nexus dimensions and including farmers, global nexus chokepoints and interviews.

Building the Water Resources Management Agenda in South American countries

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Rooms 19, 20**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-PT-14]

This session aims to introduce and strengthen the international cooperation projects for water resources within the framework of South-South strategy. In addition to this main objective, it seeks to integrate water resources management institutions of South American countries, using the discussion area of the World Forum for recognition of common and shared challenges, as well as national initiatives that enable greater efficiency and accomplishing management in the countries.

In order to do so, the water directors of the countries will be presented the results of participatory workshops, held with the countries in the year 2017, in Montevideo and Brasilia. **After this presentation, there will be a debate about the main opportunities and constraints to the establishment of a Water Management Development Agenda.**

The main questions to be addressed in this session are: i) what are the main challenges of water resources management in Caribbean and Central American countries; II) how to develop the governance of water resources management in those countries; III) how countries can organize to meet internal and external objectives and goals (ODS, Paris); vi) **what is the role of international cooperation in advancing the management of water resources in the countries;** v) what is the role of international cooperation in transboundary water resources; vi) how to build a strategy for South-South cooperation in the area of water resources.

From Conflict to Sustainability: cases that transformed environmental problems, water related, in best examples on environmental management

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Rooms 16, 17

DESCRIPTION

[SS-CF-02] **How did conflictual contexts on water issues became an opportunity for sustainable development? And how can we prevent new environmental crises and water conflicts?**

The overall objective of this session is to rely on cases and sources of inspiration to identify concrete proposals on building social processes from conflict situations. **Minamata disease** (Japan) and Itaipu Hydroelectric Dam (Brazil) brings us some examples of good practices and projects that can be highlighted considering the potential cultural, natural and human resources on planning and implementing a large social engagement for sustainable development coming from impacted areas. Proactive cooperation can help resolve conflicts over water and help maintain public health, food security, and social, environmental, and economic stability and it can also help prevent violent conflict over water and help build sustainable peace. The session will expose positive 17 experiences and explore how can these be scaled up?

Achieving Sustainable Clean Water and Sanitation in Rainforest Regions

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 6

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-21]

The session will present the main challenges and successfully experiences in addressing the problem of providing water and sanitation to rural and disperse population living in rain forest regions, with emphasis on the transboundary basin of the Amazon river. Key aspects related to the effectiveness and continuity of strategies and actions will be discussed by government representatives, universities, experts and non-governmental organizations.

Strategies to exploit and protect groundwater: regional case studies and challenges

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 7

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-06]

Groundwater levels and quality are continuing to decline across the world due to droughts, chronic overuse, natural vulnerability to contamination and non-effective management. Examples of such aquifers can be found in the Americas, Asia, and Africa. In the Brazilian semi-arid region, 12% of Brazil's population suffers with devastating effects of droughts, impacting directly on the human and animal mortality, as well as local health and economy. Increasing water supply through recharge into aquifers, integrated management of superficial and underground water resources, as well as protection strategies at outcrop areas are actions to guarantee water supplies.

Public Policies for Water in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 8

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-17] This Session will present experiences facing public policies concerning the multiple purpose water supply in arid and semi-arid regions. Aspects related to water availability to rural people, promotion of high water efficiency for food security and innovative governance approaches are going to be discussed.

Circular Economy in Asian Cities

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 9

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-49] **The main objective of the session is to make planners, decision makers, urban designers, engineers, academicians, and communities in Asia more aware that there are innovative solutions that are available** and that can be applied now. It also wishes to address the development and **donor communities on the fact that the circular economy concept can have major social, economic and environmental impacts.** There are interesting experiences in Asia that could benefit cities in other regions of the world. The session will start with **a key note addressing what is understood by the concept of circular economy world wide**, and will be followed by a series of short presentations made by panelists showing innovative Asian experiences on the circular economy. This will be followed by a discussion with the participants in a plenary arguing on the key messages to address to the community.

Pantanal Wetlands - cooperation for conservation and sustainable use

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 10

DESCRIPTION

[OS-RP-12]

It's important to engage deeply in supporting the conservation of wetlands, as the pressures on these systems reflect directly on the sustainable development of local communities who interact with them and depend on their goods and services.

The Pantanal is the world's largest wetland area, promoting the discussion on how wetlands need a specific conservation plan to maintain the balance between nature and mankind.

During the 12nd Conference of Parties of Ramsar Convention, occurred in Uruguay in 2015, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay made the commitment to establish an agreement or initiative to take actions for the conservation of Pantanal (Resolution XII.8/Ramsar, 2015).

These countries worked together on a Declaration of Interest for the Pantanal, which will be signed by each country, starting a process of cooperation for the conservation of the Pantanal.

It is also planned a presentation of each country, about the actions already under development, for the Pantanal

Infrastructure for Water Security Assurance - Scenarios, Bottlenecks and Perspectives

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME ROOM Room 11

DESCRIPTION

This session will present and discuss the relationship between strategic water infrastructures and their determining role in guaranteeing water security, reducing the risks associated with critical events and promoting regional development.

The role of adequate policies, finance conditions and management tools are going to be discussed in a way to ensure physical and operational safety and enhance effectiveness and efficiency to the water infrastructure services.

Experiences, best practices, **perspectives and bottlenecks will be presented.**

Navigating the Water Challenges of the 21st Century with the help of Near Real time Comprehensive Assessments

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Capacity ROOM Room 12

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-12]

The speed of global change and the future uncertainties are examples of faced issues that demand a new and dynamic way to manage the water resources worldwide. The recent global agreements (2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, and so) establish a path that demands the political, institutional and technical integration so that the integrated management of water resources can efficiently and rapidly inform with safe evidence the process of public policies. In this way, Big Data technology will be indispensable for a wiser and dynamic water resource management. Data collection, integrated geospatial archive, wise metrics and

indexes will be more and more demanded to clearly inform policy makers with evidences. The session will debate the experiences and efforts of institutions in relation to adapt data bases and information to these new rules from the water resources management field.

Stories of success or failure considering minorities and indigenous considering their access and rights to water

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 18

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-1] **To what extend do Indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities suffer disproportionately from economic, social and political marginalization and human rights violations, including poor access to water and sanitation services?** This session will analyze some stories of failure and of success considering minorities and indigenous rights connected to water.

Session 3.e.3 - Universalization of Environmental Sanitation and Urban Drainage Master Plans

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-36] This session addresses the issues involved in the universalization of environmental sanitation and urban drainage master plans as guiding factors for quality of life in large and small communities. It seeks to highlight the importance of basic infrastructure for urban populations. While there are many categories of basic infrastructure (**water supply networks, sewage and rainwater networks, electricity networks, street lighting, earthworks, paving and garbage collection**), this session will only address aspects related to water resources and their interference in the quality of life in cities, such as water and sewage supply and treatment, urban drainage master plans, and other aspects.

Session 7.c.3 - From water heritage and to water consciousness

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 23

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-75]

Water heritage can connect us to traditional values and ethics, while also inspiring new technological and institutional innovations to address contemporary water challenges in ways that also enrich cultural and place-based identities. **This session will highlight recent and ongoing best practices, such as integrating indigenous peoples' understandings of rivers into environmental flow policies; designing water-centric cityscapes inspired by nature that go beyond river restoration; using public art to raise awareness about water; and developing participatory water governance institutions linked to the past while aimed at future needs: of sustainability, inter-generational equity, biodiversity, and human well-being.**

Session 8.d.2 - International Cooperation as key factor to address the Water and Climate Relationship

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 24

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-86] Climate Change will have an important role in the overall sustainable development agenda in the year to come, and in particular SDG13. **Water is a key element in order to address issues of adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts.** There are already important initiatives related to Water and Climate as a result of the COP process (Climate Adaptation Pacts, #ClimatelsWater initiative, etc.). This session will analyze the existing initiatives, and discuss modalities with which such initiatives should be conducted, in particular **how to make sure that there is a cohesive cross-sectoral approach to water and climate issues.**

Session 8.a.3 - Wanted – skilled labour: The urgency to develop water training

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Room 25

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-78] Achieving SDG n°6 will require an intense infrastructure development effort in many water related sectors, such as basin management, drinking water and sanitation, energy, agriculture, inland navigation and others. Such effort cannot be made without an equally important improvement of **vocational training for the staff entrusted with the design, operation and maintenance of these infrastructures. However, there is a lack of training facilities that need to be addressed with the creation, development and strengthening of specialized training centers and programmes.** This session will showcase best practices on how to create and develop dedicated water training centers and toolkits.

Global framework for water scarcity in agriculture (WASAG)

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME People **ROOM** Room 26

DESCRIPTION

[SS-TP-17] The indicator of success on reaching SDG target sanitation is the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services, which means "excreta are safely disposed in-situ or transported and treated off-site". This session will provide an opportunity to discuss sanitation chain through the stages of collection, storage, transport, treatment and recycling/reuse of faecal matter. Participants will consider innovative technological, social and economic models that can accelerate progress towards achieving safely managed sanitation services. Participants will also examine ways of sustaining these services in a global context of rapid urbanization and high population growth, especially in developing countries with limited financial resources.

Session 7.b.1 - Participatory Platforms during the Decision Making Process within the Water Sector

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 27

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-70]

Stakeholders come together in an efficient way when platforms allow ideas and concerns to be converged and properly used. **This session is meant to present lessons learnt in which decision making processes within the water sector have worked to involve all.** Approaches and results will differ in time and space according to different opportunities and constraints provided by socio-ecological settings. Therefore, the idea is to learn from different regions how to bring greater involvement through increasing different people and organizations knowledge, attitude and skills and how this can end in successful outcomes for decision makers.

Session 9.c.3 - What's Your Water Governance Story? Identifying and scaling-up best practice across cities, basins and countries

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-95]

Implementing the water-related SDGs will require countries to translate global goals into concrete actions on a number of water topics. It will imply that countries address governance challenges related to water policy design, regulation and implementation in the management of water resources, services and water-related disasters. Sharing and learning from best practices and pitfalls to avoid can help overcome these "gaps", by fostering peer-to-peer dialogue and bench-learning across cities, basins and countries facing similar types of governance challenges. The session will discuss "stories" of how good water governance can be put into practice to inspire decision makers and stakeholders to strive for more effective governance.

Session 5.d.3 - Implementing Technical Solutions to Improve Water Quality at Medium, Small and Micro-scales

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

[OS-TP-57]

Water managers have a variety of technical solutions they can adopt to ensure the quality of water necessary for its competing uses and reuses, including ecosystems. **However, the challenges at the medium, small and micro-scale are often harder to overcome due to the lack of appropriate technology, availability of finance/investment and problems of scaling down from larger industrial water management/treatment processes, which are not always appropriate or affordable.** This session will address the transfer and scaling of solutions **not from small to large, but from large to medium, small and micro-scale**, such as small island states and urban decentralised infrastructure.

International Mechanisms and Procedures to realize the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME People , Partners , Partners **ROOM** Room 30

DESCRIPTION

[SS-PT-08] The availability and quality of freshwater are of vital importance for our health and well-being and have been recognized as crucial for achieving sustainable development. **However, inequalities with regard to access to water and sanitation services persist and are a common challenge worldwide, from developing to developed countries.** The multiple dimensions of this challenge range from urban-rural disparities to affordability issues and to access by vulnerable groups to compromised services. **Inequalities do not only infringe the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation but also impede health, well-being and education and have serious social and economic implications undermining sustainable development.**

The Special Session will reflect on the role of international mechanisms, such as the compliance procedure under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)-World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health, **and the human rights special procedures in ensuring effective realization of the human rights to water and sanitation with the involvement of the public and civil society.**

The audience will engage in interactive discussions on their perspectives, experiences and challenges with translating the human rights to water and sanitation into practice.

Mariana Disaster - sustainable solutions to restore land and riverine ecosystems

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sustentabilidade , Thematic Process **ROOM**

Room 34

DESCRIPTION

[SS-J-SFG+TP 04] The Fundão tailing dam rupture (also known as Mariana Disaster) – the largest environmental disaster in Brazil's history — unleashed 50 million tons of waste from one of the world's largest iron mine, killing nineteen people in a flood of toxic mud and contaminating more than 500 km of the Doce River.

This session will address the Mariana case focusing on the impacts on water resources. It will also be discussed what solutions can be proposed to restore the quality and quantity of water thinking on restoring also the quality of life of affected communities.

These solutions will range from nature-based approach to financial and legal framework proposed to offer a sustainable to support the long-term actions demanded to restore the environment. The huge social and economic impact of the disaster will also be discussed as part of the sustainable solution for this case.

Business Day- Main Message and Results

Thursday - 11:00 - 12:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 36

DESCRIPTION

[SS-SFG-02]

This session will present and discuss the main messages and results of the Business Day, an event that will be held on March 18th and will gather representatives of the sector to discuss a Brazilian business agenda about water, bringing specialists and national and international cases.

A document produced during the Business Day and discussed in a High-Level Panel conducted as part of the official agenda of the Forum will be presented in this session with the most relevant points related to these areas:

- Water and Climate – Adaptation and collective actions
- Technology Transfer – Business as providers of solutions
 - **Circular Economy, reuse and recycling**
 - Water Risk – Metrics, monitoring and reporting
- Water and Sanitation – What are the basic conditions to overcome the water and sanitation deficit (SDGs 6.1 and 6.2)
 - **Shared value creation.**

Building the Water Resources Management Agenda in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries

Thursday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Capacity **ROOM** Rooms 19, 20

DESCRIPTION

[SS-PT-15]

This session aims to introduce and strengthen the international cooperation projects for water resources within the framework of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP). In addition to this main objective, it seeks to integrate institutions of the CPLP countries that manage water resources, using the discussion area of the World Forum for recognition of common and shared challenges, as well as national initiatives that allow greater efficiency and range management in the countries.

In order to do so, the water directors of the countries will be presented the results of **participatory workshops**, held with the countries in the year 2017. After this presentation, there will be a debate about the **main opportunities and constraints to the establishment of a Water Management Development Agenda**. The main questions to be addressed in this session are: i) what are the main challenges of water resources management in the CPLP countries; II) how to develop the governance of water resources management in those countries; III) how countries can organize to meet internal and external objectives and goals (ODS, Paris); vi) what is the role of international cooperation in advancing the management of water resources in the countries; v) how to build a strategy for South-South cooperation in the area of water resources.

Public or private provision: barriers and challenges to realizing the human rights to water and sanitation.

Thursday - 14:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Rooms 16, 17

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-13] The session will explore how can we ensure that the economic incentives of private or public entities are aligned with the social goals and interests. **How can contracts be designed that effectively lay out the responsibilities of all parties and that can be object of accountability and social participation?**

Relations between nature and local people for water security

Thursday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 18

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-4] Nature-based solutions can improve natural life on earth. The panel will discuss how the needs of people and nature are inextricably linked, considering that all life on earth depends on functional and healthy natural systems. **We will present some of the local nature-based solutions, accessible to all citizens, focusing on vulnerable, that has institutional recognition.** The session will also explore existence of networks and policies that strengthen nature-based solutions, considering that the transformation of the relationship between people and nature can bring prosperity to both.

Closing Session on DEVELOPMENT

Thursday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 22

DESCRIPTION

The Theme Development will be holding 15 ordinary sessions during the 8th Forum week. The Theme is also going to be discussed in six Ministerial Thematic Roundtables, and in a number of Special Sessions, High Level Panels and sessions from other Forum processes. **Those sessions focus especially on the critical role of water for sustainable development and on linkages to 2030 Agenda/SDGs. The Thematic Closing Session will bring the highlights of the debates together and come up with a list of recommendations for action to be implemented in the short and long term, as well as potential actors to be involved, and this way contribute to the Thematic outcomes, with the following content:**

- a. Key political messages
- b. Specific linkages to international frameworks and how these messages should be taken into account
- c. Current state of affairs of the theme
- d. **Short-term Goals (where do we need to be in 2021 and 2024?)**
- e. **Long-term Goals (where do we need to be in 2030?)**
- f. **How do we get there? (plan for scaling up, including some focus on good practices)**

There will be 9 Thematic Closing Sessions, but no Concluding Thematic Plenary. A brief summary of the overall Thematic outcome, building on the 9 Thematic Closing Sessions, will be presented at the Closing Plenary, leading to the subsequent, more detailed Final Forum Report.

The final purpose of the Development Closing Session is to contribute to the outcomes of the 8th Forum in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda /SDG's, and to ensure continuity towards the Forums to come.

Get the Grade Game: Interactive Session for Better Basin Management

Thursday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Sharing , Partners , Partners **ROOM** Room 25

DESCRIPTION

[SS-PT-03] As we tap our freshwater resources, the impacts of our actions, the current status of basin health and the role of climate change are rarely measured or available in a format that is accessible to communities, policymakers, corporations and media. **Without a common understanding of the state of the system, it is difficult to make decisions that secure water for all who depend on it.** Basin report cards create a shared vision for sustainable basin management and spur action towards improvement. Some places, like the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Barrier Reef, have ongoing report cards that are go-to resources for media, advocates, businesses and public officials seeking to understand and safeguard water resources. **Get the Grade, a serious game, uses "play" to explain the complicated but critical process of stakeholder engagement in natural resource management, and introduce report cards as a tool for bringing diverse water users together for better basin governance.** In the game, the room the group is in represents a river basin, and each table represents a sub-basin within that basin. Each player represents a stakeholder who lives in a given sub-basin. Presented with a variety of decisions, players must choose the course of action that is best for the stakeholder they represent. The game creates an opportunity for a range of people — policymakers, conservationists, companies, community representatives, and other stakeholders — to experience and embrace the complexities of basin management, and the benefits of working together to share freshwater resources. For more information on the game, visit <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/get-the-grade-a-game-about-natural-resource-and-water-management>

Closing Session on URBAN

Thursday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Urban **ROOM** Room 28

DESCRIPTION

The Theme Urban will be holding 9 ordinary sessions during the 8th Forum week. The Theme is also going to be discussed in six Ministerial Thematic Roundtables, and in a number of Special Sessions, High Level Panels and sessions from other Forum processes. Those sessions focus specially on how to best manage water in growing cities in the context of limited resources and climate change. **It will make linkages to 2030 Agenda/SDGs 6 and 11, amongst others. The Thematic Closing Session will bring the highlights of the debates together and come up with a list of recommendations for action to be implemented in the short and long term, as well as potential actors to be involved, and this way contribute to the Thematic outcomes, with the following content:**

- a. Key political messages
- b. Specific linkages to international frameworks and how these messages should be taken into account
- c. Current state of affairs of the theme
- d. Short-term Goals (where do we need to be in 2021 and 2024?)
- e. Long-term Goals (where do we need to be in 2030?)
- f. How do we get there? (plan for scaling up, including some focus on good practices)

There will be 9 Thematic Closing Sessions, but no Concluding Thematic Plenary. A brief summary of the overall Thematic outcome, building on the 9 Thematic Closing Sessions, will be presented at the Closing Plenary, leading to the subsequent, more detailed Final Forum Report. **The final purpose of the Urban Closing Session is to contribute to the outcomes of the 8th Forum in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda /SDG's, and to ensure continuity towards the Forums to come.**

Closing Session on ECOSYSTEMS

Thursday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Ecosystems **ROOM** Room 29

DESCRIPTION

The Ecosystems Theme will be holding 12 ordinary sessions during the 8th Forum week. This includes 3 sessions on managing and restoring ecosystems for water services and biodiversity, directly aligned with SDGs 6.6 and 15.1 (and relevant to 6.4). There are 3 sessions on addressing water quality and pollution of downstream ecosystems (directly aligned with SDGs 6.3 and 14.1). The remaining two cross-cutting topics (6 sessions) focus on strategies to reduce water pollution and protect and restore freshwater ecosystems. **These cover the integrated use of natural and engineered solutions ("green and grey") to cost-effectively reduce the threats to freshwater ecosystems and water security.** They also focus on landuse planning and management to improve resilience and better manage urban and agricultural catchments. The Theme will also be discussed in one of six Ministerial Thematic Roundtables, and several other sessions from other Forum processes.

The Thematic Closing Session will bring the highlights of the debates together and provide a list of recommendations for action to be implemented in the short and long term, as well as potential actors to be involved, and this way contribute to the Thematic outcomes, with the following content:

- a. Key political messages
- b. Specific linkages to international frameworks and how these messages should be taken into account
- c. Current state of affairs of the theme
- d. Short-term Goals (where do we need to be in 2021 and 2024?)
- e. Long-term Goals (where do we need to be in 2030?)
- f. How do we get there? (plan for scaling up, including some focus on good practices)

A brief summary of the overall Thematic outcome, building on the 9 Thematic Closing Sessions, will be presented at the Closing Plenary, leading to the subsequent, more detailed Final Forum Report.

The final purpose of the Ecosystems Closing Session is to contribute to the outcomes of the 8th Forum in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda /SDG's, and to ensure continuity towards the Forums to come.

Closing Session on CLIMATE

Thursday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Climate **ROOM** Room 30**DESCRIPTION**

The Theme Climate will be holding 12 ordinary sessions during the 8th Forum week. The Theme is also going to be discussed in Ministerial Thematic Roundtables, a number of Special Sessions, High Level Panels and other Forum process sessions. **The sessions focus on water security and climate change and on linkages to the 2030 Agenda/SDGs 6, 13, and 11, The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.** The Thematic Closing Session will bring the highlights of the debates together and come up with a list of recommendations for action to be implemented in the short and long term, as well as potential actors to be involved, and this way contribute to the Thematic outcomes document, with the following content:

- a. Key political messages
- b. Linkages to international frameworks and how these messages can be taken into account
- c. Current state of affairs of the theme
- d. Short-term Goals (where do we need to be in 2021 and 2024?)
- e. Long-term Goals (where do we need to be in 2030?)
- f. How do we get there? (plan for scaling up, including good practices)

The final purpose of the Climate Closing Session is to contribute to the outcomes of the 8th Forum in support of the implementation of multiple international frameworks, and to ensure continuity towards the Forums to come.

Thursday - 14:30 - 18:00

THEME Sharing , Partners , Partners **ROOM** Room 33**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-PT-05] Inspired by the Brazilian Water Law, the theme of the 8th World Water Forum is "Sharing Water". Polysemic word, share admits several readings, suitable for the relationship between humanity and water. Indeed, in a world troubled by diverse conflicts and divergences, the degradation of natural ecosystems, and their consequences for the availability and distribution of resources, and threatened by the uncertainties of climate variability, which put the various stages of the hydrological cycle under pressure, Forum invites society to share responsibilities in the use and management of water, to share benefits brought by water, to cooperate to **build societies in which everyone has the right to access to water and basic sanitation**, as well as to enjoy the benefits that flow of its multiple uses. This Special Session aims to explore **subjective aspects of humanity's relationship with water**, particularly those that mobilize the deepest feelings of the human being and evokes the spirituality and sacredness of water. In effect, **sharing presupposes a willingness to dialogue, to accept and offer; to receive and give.**

To do so, one must seek within each of us, in our most intimate feelings, the desire to share, in every way. Knowing the importance of self-knowledge to reach this goal, **we propose the constitution of the thematic session "Water, spirituality, sharing, diversity", in order to foster the meeting of spirituality knowledge**, adding to the other topics a debate based on knowledge scientific and traditional, in favor of life, for the defense of water.

Above all religious denominations will be invited to lead spiritual leaders, with the primary objective of establishing a dialogue capable of bringing people together in the construction of a culture of peace, in which sharing of water, in addition to the gesture of unity and harmony, is a form of spiritual development, and manifestation of love and compassion.

Challenges to protect specific biomes reinforcing the sustainable use of water (Amazon / Pantanal / Caatinga / Atlantic Forest)

Thursday - 14:30 - 16:00

THEME Sustentabilidade , Thematic Process **ROOM** Room 35**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-J-SFG+TP 01] Brazil is a country of continental dimensions and composed of several biomes where the availability of water resources and their relation to social and economic issues are proportionately distinct and complex.

While the Amazon has one of the largest water availability per inhabitant in the world, the Caatinga Region coexists with a permanent water shortage that shapes its biodiversity and defines the complex social issues faced by its millions of inhabitants.

The Atlantic Forest, on the other hand, coexists with reduced water availability due to a high population density associated with the destruction of almost 90% of its original coverage.

The Pantanal, one of the largest wetlands in the world, has suffered the consequences of deforestation and the construction of dams at its headwaters, causing siltation and significant changes in its original shape.

All these issues ultimately affect the human being who depends on the natural resources provided by these areas. Local communities, riverside and with access to less financial resources are the most affected.

This session will discuss the opportunities and possibilities to contribute to the sustainable use of water resources, respecting the characteristics of each biome, both in the environmental aspect, as well as in its social, cultural and economic specificities.

Sustainability at the 8th World Water Forum

Thursday - 14:30 - 18:00

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Room 36**DESCRIPTION**

[SS-SFG-03]

This is the closing session of the Sustainability Focus Group (SFG) and will present a summary of its actions that will include:

- **Actions to have a greener Forum;**
- Outcomes of Special Sessions conducted by SFG;
- Outcomes of Joint Sessions conducted by SFG;
- Outcomes related to Sustainability coming from the sessions of other processes;
- General discussion on how the Forum can contribute more to the sustainable use of water.
 - Lessons learned

Closing Session of the Regional Process

Thursday - 16:00 - 18:30

THEME Sharing **ROOM** Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8

DESCRIPTION

[SS-RP-03]

The Session will present the six Regions view of the whole Process, depicting the work they realized. The key messages they have built and the recommendations to the 9th World Water Forum will be exploited.

Low cost, environmentally based water purification technologies.

Thursday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Governance **ROOM** Room 18

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-16] This session will look at experiments with low cost water purification technologies such as activated carbon filters, sand filters, reed bed filters, anaerobic digestion that use and existing, natural processes and have harnessed them for application in rural areas and informal settlements. Water treatment is often both a costly, energy consuming process and one that is centrally managed. What positive experiences exist with low cost technologies and how can these be scaled up?

Challenges facing family agriculture (small farmers) in water use

Thursday - 16:30 - 18:00

THEME Development **ROOM** Room 34

DESCRIPTION

[OS-CF-2]

DESCRIPTION

Diversity is a key issue considering family agriculture: technologies, knowledge, culture, products are essential for sustainable development. This session will explore the challenges facing smallholding farming, due to a number of uncertainties, contradictions and opportunities regarding policies, participation and impacts on water coming from big users. Do networks and policies form a powerful tool to achieve equity and development in rural areas, to meet the sustainable development agenda and be part of the achievement zero hunger?

Day Six - Closing Session

March 23, 2018