

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Water pressure (WASH): Sector specific public allocation for women's empowerment – clean, affordable and gender equitable access to water and sanitation

Background and Rationale

Clean water and sanitation are important for women's lives. Using an interactive approach, this event will consider the impact of the integration and financing of women's rights and gender equality in the water sector. Aspects such as locally-led decision-making for equitable water provision, as well as transparency, accountability, participation and involvement of women's organizations in governments financing policy decision-making processes on water and sanitation will be included, with concrete examples from diverse UNECE sub-regions. The impacts of disruptions to water supplies for women caused by natural crises including earthquakes, glacier meltings, drought and flooding will take into account.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The **main objective** will be to assess the impacts of accessible, affordable and clean water and sanitation on the lives of women, their families as well as communities at large, including by considering:

- The inextricability of SDGs 5 and 6, and the complexities of women's status regarding water
- The criteria of Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRWS) and the cross-cutting Human Rights principles
- The importance of disaggregated data in examining disparities in terms of access but also in identifying the root causes of inequalities

The **expected outcomes**, to be considered through discussion of questions as indicated in the agenda, will be the identification of straightforward, workable and affordable solutions and barriers to be addressed, to improve access to water and sanitation for women and girls, in particular, and the communities in which they live, in general.

Organizers

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Lead organizers: Nurgul Dzhanavaeva, Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan; Raymond Saner, Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND); Imanol Aguilera, Human Right 2 Water; Marianne Haslegrave, Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat)

Agenda and Structure

- 9.00 – 9.10 Welcome, introduction and overview of event and rules for participation
Marianne Haslegrave and Nurgul Dzhanavaeva
- 9.10 – 9.40 Presentation and discussion of issues through the following questions among panelists, Raymond Saner, Nurgul Dzhanavaeva and Imanol Aguilera:
- (1) What are the trade-offs and synergies pertaining to Water (#6) and equality (#5 and 5.c.1)?
 - (2) What are the negative side events of unequal water treatment affecting women? (e.g. women/mothers cannot support their children's education, cannot do paid home work if available, cannot educate themselves, cannot participate in community activities)?
 - (3) What are the citizen science data that could be used to measure implementation of SDG 6 and 5 trade-offs and synergies between 6 and 5.c.1?
- 9.40 – 9.50 Responses to questions posed from the chat by panellists
Marianne Haslegrave
- 9.50 – 10.00 Summary of main take aways and performance of *The Water Song* by 8- 9-year-olds choir and 15-year-olds marimba band from school in South Africa
- 10.00 Closure of event

List of Panellists

Raymond Saner, Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND)
Nurgul Dzhanavaeva, Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan
Imanol Aguilera, Human Right 2 Water
Marianne Haslegrave, Moderator

Sign-up / Registration Link

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkdO2upzkoG9ZiGWtv3Vrmr-FNmH_X0T_w