

SCIENCE & RESEARCH FORUM

WATER DIALOGUES FOR RESULTS - TOWARDS BONN 2021

ACCELERATING CROSS-SECTORAL SDG 6 IMPLEMENTATION

18 MAY 2021

11:00 - 12:30 CEST

LOCATION: ONLINE EVENT

Please register [here](#)

Water is the key element for life and flows across borders and sectors. It is recognized as the 'climate connector' and thus plays a central role for the fulfillment of our global agendas from Paris to Sendai. Achieving SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation is fundamental for sustainable development: Water is essential to eradicate poverty and hunger, combat inequalities within and among countries, build resilient and peaceful societies. COVID-19 reinforces the need for access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. It highlights societies' dependence on healthy freshwater related ecosystems for global health. However, the world is alarmingly off track in reaching SDG 6 by 2030 and the consequences are disproportionately felt by the poorest and most vulnerable.

DESCRIPTION

Under the theme "Water Dialogues for Results Bonn 2021: Accelerating cross-sectoral SDG 6 implementation", the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), on behalf of the German Federal Government, and together with other UN Member States, participants from Major Groups and international organizations, formulate political messages to feed into the global discussion on SDG 6 and particularly the consideration towards the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Water Action Decade in 2023. The High-Level Meeting on 1 July is officially recognized as a preparatory conference for 2023, offering a unique opportunity to actively shape and contribute to the political discourse of the UN Conference.



The BMU, the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and UNESCO joined forces to ensure science and innovation contribute to accelerating SDG 6 implementation – with a special emphasis on providing data for decision-making at the local level. The Science & Research Forum is supported by inputs from the BMBF research programme „Water as a Global Ressource (GRoW)“. The transdisciplinary application of hydrological sciences is key for building up data and knowledge bases and contributes to technological developments. These are crucial for informed decision-making and developing sustainable solutions for a water secure world in a changing environment.

The Science & Research Forum will showcase latest scientific understanding and identify further needs. It will provide space to discuss the role of science in influencing decision-making and accelerating cross-sectoral SDG 6 implementation, also in view of the UN SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework's Capacity Development Initiative coordinated by the UNESCO Water Family and UN DESA. The outcomes of the forum will serve as an input for the political messages to be presented during the High-Level Conference.

Business as usual is not enough to reach SDG 6 and interrelated Goals and targets. Lack of decisive progress on water and sanitation will lead to social divide and poverty, food and energy shortages, biodiversity loss, degradation of ecosystems, economic slowdown or political disputes. Joint action is urgently needed to reverse this situation, as we need an immediate, integrated and holistic response. The Science & Research Forum strives to contribute to this common goal!



AGENDA I

Time	Activity	Speaker
11:00	Welcome, Tuning In	Moderator Annika Kramer, GRoWnet/ adelphi
11:05	Sustainability, Science and Water – new research to support the SDGs UNESCO prospective science and education, including the United Nations World Water Development Report	Dr Helmut Löwe BMBF Dr Abou Amani, Michela Miletto UNESCO
11:15	Water Dialogues – developing joint policy messages for accelerating cross-sectoral SDG 6 implementation	Thomas Stratenwerth BMU
11:25	Safeguarding water resources in a globalized world: The GRoW science-based call for action	Prof Wolfram Mauser LMU Munich
11:30	Introduction to two parallel public fora and splitting into breakout groups	Moderator



AGENDA II

	Improved Data, Innovations and Capacity Development to tackle water scarcity		Improved Data and Innovations on SDG-Interlinkages	
Time	Activity	Who	Activity	Who
11:35	Welcome	Moderator Annika Kramer, GRoWnet/ adelphi	Welcome	Moderator Dr Anil Mishra, UNESCO IHP
11:40	a. Innovations in global drought early warning systems	Prof Stefan Siebert University of Göttingen	a. Modelling dependencies between water resources and energy transition	Prof Martina Flörke Ruhr-Universität Bochum
	b. Drought early warning application (Case study of West Africa)	Dr Abdou Ali AGRHYMET	b. Current practice to consider water in decision processes	Tom Howes International Energy Agency
	c. Current practice and developments in global data bases/ information services	Dr Johannes Cullmann World Meteorological Organisation	c. Water and Gender and interlinkages with SDGs	Michela Miletto UNESCO WWAP
12:05	Discussion and collection of recommendations for accelerating SDG 6 implementation	All (including online team reflection tools)	Discussion and collection of recommendations for accelerating SDG 6 implementation	All (including online team reflection tools)
13:00	Closing	Moderator	Closing	Moderator

Recommendations emanating from the forum will be discussed in a closed session with selected representatives from science, policy and practice and consolidated in a concise outcome document, serving as an input to the Water Dialogues process.

Further information and registration: <https://bmbf-grow.de/en/events/bonn-water-dialogues>

Water is required to deliver almost all other SDGs from global health to food security and it is essential for resilience to climate change.

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General,
UN-Water Acceleraton Framework Launch, 9th July 2020