

UNITAR GLOBAL WATER ACADEMY



**SDG** SUMMIT  
2023 



SIDE EVENT @ THE 2023 SDG SUMMIT

# *Addressing Global Water Insecurity:*

**HARNESSING THE POWER OF BIG DATA,  
NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES,  
AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

 **18** SEPTEMBER  
2023

 **15h30-17h00**  
(EST)

 **UN Headquarters,  
Secretariat Building UNCA (S-301)  
New York, USA**

This hybrid panel will create a dialogue on how new technologies, large open-access databases, and inclusive international collaborations hold the potential to identify the extent and causes of global water insecurity, particularly in regions where data and resources can be limited.

## Introduction to the Panel

Over two billion people do not have safe access to clean water. Yet, quantifying the extent of global water insecurity, particularly when incorporating indicators such as freshwater quality, quantity, value, and governance, can be challenging. Paucity of open-access data resources can often be a limitation in assessing progress. Here, we highlight the power of harnessing open data, novel technologies, and inclusive international collaborations to quantify water insecurity around the globe. Continual advances in remote sensing technologies, inclusive global networks, and increased accessibility of open-access data, offer exciting opportunities to further understand freshwaters around the world, including in regions that previously were relatively unexplored or suffer from insufficient access to resources. Remote sensing and open-access data platforms are revolutionizing the field of water sciences by capturing data from lakes and rivers worldwide, and openly sharing data and ideas through collaborations. The movement towards open-access data is essential to democratizing data. By developing inclusive, diverse, interdisciplinary collaborative teams, we will fuel the integration of research disciplines, incorporate new technologies, and spark creative solutions to safeguard our global freshwater resources and work towards a future of equitable access to clean freshwater worldwide.

## Proposed Program and Speakers

15:30

### Welcoming Remarks



**Mr. Nikhil Seth**

UN Assistant Secretary-General,  
Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)



**Dr. Amir Asif**

Vice-President Research and Innovation  
York University

### Moderator



**Dr. Sapna Sharma**

York Research Chair in Global Change Biology  
York University



15:40

**Proposed Speakers**

15:45



**Prof. Kaveh Madani**

Director  
United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health

15:55



**Dr. Lina Taing**

Senior Researcher, Water and Health  
United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health

16:05



**Dr. Michael Jasinski**

Physical Scientist  
Hydrological Science Laboratory  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

16:15



**Dr. Annie Feighery**

CEO  
mWater

16:25



**Prof. Claire Walsh**

Professor of Water Security  
Newcastle University Centre for Water

16:35



**Dr. Kathleen Weathers**

Ecosystem Scientist  
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

16:45

**Questions and Answers**

16:55 - 17:00

**Closing Remarks**



**Mr. Alex Mejia**

Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion  
UNITAR

