



unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research



UN
2030 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023



Side Event

PROMOTING A WATER CULTURE THROUGH LEARNING & ACTION



22 MARCH
2023



9:30 am
(NY time)



Room 7, UN HQ
New York, USA



Background

The UN 2023 Water Conference is a historic opportunity for the world community. It is the first UN conference on water in almost 50 years after the 1977 UN Water Conference and comes at a time when there are urgent needs for water action. The world is facing unprecedented challenges, including the devastating impacts of climate change, the looming food crisis and the on-going battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

A main outcome of the Conference will be the Water Action Agenda. The Water Action Agenda is the collection of all water-related voluntary commitments to accelerate progress in the second half of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 and second half of the 2030 Agenda.

The key building blocks of the Water Action Agenda are:

- 1. Commit to action:** Mobilizing voluntary commitments to action across countries, sectors and stakeholders, aimed at accelerated implementation and improved impact towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets.
- 2. Sustain and scale up implementation:** All stakeholders have a role to play to drive the implementation of the Water Action Agenda and to ensure follow up with partners on what works for replication and scaling up.
- 3. Follow-up and review processes:** Showcasing successes and learning from what works and what does not.

Through the virtuous cycle of committing, implementing and reviewing, and through peer-learning among actors, the Water Action Agenda will enable replication and scaling up of what works and bring successful solutions to global scale.

Overview: Side event "Promoting Water Culture through Learning & Action"

By bringing together business executives from the five largest beverage companies in the world, the **side event "Promoting Water Culture through Learning & Action"** seeks to provide a venue for a collaborative partnership focused on delivering innovative training and building human capacities on pressing water related issues at a large scale.

In line with the UN 2023 Water Conference call to contribute with concrete and measurable contributions that can be implemented immediately, with a view to greater efficacy and efficiency, a key outcome of UNITAR's side event is the creation of the **"Water Academy"**.



Created as a multi-stakeholder collaboration with York University (Canada) as Academic Lead, the "Water Academy" seeks to tackle diverse aspects of the water sustainability crisis by innovating with academic institutions and private sector partners to:

- 1) Promote knowledge transfer and capacity sharing
- 2) Offer a hybrid way of learning
- 3) Develop scientific based water solutions that inform water policies and programmes
- 4) Measure and monitor impact and promote replicability of water management practices
- 5) Facilitate conversations and partnerships to enhance understanding of water issues
- 6) Support capacity building of sustainable management of water especially in distressed areas and for Indigenous communities and marginalized/equity-deserving groups

Agenda

09:20

Guests arrivals

09:30 - 09:40

Roundtable discussion begins

09:30 - 09:35

Welcome by the Chair



Dr. Rhonda Lenton

President and Vice-Chancellor, York University,
Canada

09:35 - 09:40

Opening remarks



H.E. Mr. Nikhil Seth

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

09:40 - 10:40

Moderated roundtable discussion by President Lenton -
Intervention from speakers

[Responses should be less than 5 minutes each]



Mr. Andre Fourie

Global Vice President Sustainability, Anheuser-Busch InBev,
USA



Mr. Jayant Kairam

Vice President Sustainability and Society 2030, Diageo,
United Kingdom



Mr. Ambroise Veillon

Senior Vice President Sustainability and Transformation, Danone,
France



Mr. Wayne Emmerson

Chair and CEO, the Regional Municipality of York,
Canada



Dr. Pedro Oliveira

Dean, Nova School of Business and Economics,
Portugal



Dr. Jennifer Chirico

Associate Vice-President for Sustainability, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA



Ms. Sonia Thimmiah

Senior Director Global Sustainability, Heineken, Kingdom of the Netherlands



Ms. Noemi Bauer

Sustainable Business Director, Pernod Ricard, France

10:40 - 10:45

Wrap-up by the Chair

- o President Lenton announces the Water Academy
- o Statement for the Presidential Summary of the UN General Assembly

10:45

Roundtable discussion ends and group photo

Attendees

Regional Municipality of York, Canada

1. Mr. Wayne Emmerson, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, the Regional Municipality of York
2. Mrs. Lina Bigioni, Chief of Staff
3. Mr. Stephen Maio, Senior Executive Officer, People Equity and Culture
4. Mr. Michael Rabeau, Director Capital Planning, Delivery, Public Works
5. Mr. Joseph Ryan Silva, Director, Strategies and Partnerships, Community and Health Services
6. Ms. Lois Davies-Hull, Manager, Inclusion Diversity Equity and Accessibility
7. Ms. Sonia Taurasi, Manager, Strategic Engagement and Emergency Management, Community and Health Services

York Regional Police, Canada

8. Chief Jim MacSween, York Regional Police
9. Deputy Chief Cecile Hammond, York Regional Police
10. Superintendent Ryan Hogan, York Regional Police
11. Ms. Karen Richards, Senior Manager, Stakeholder and Government Relations

York University, Canada

12. Dr. Rhonda Leona Lenton, President and Vice-Chancellor
13. Ms. Randy Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Chief of Government and Community Relations & Protocol
14. Dr. Amir Asif, Vice-President Research and Innovation
15. Dr. Ali Asgary, Director, CIFAL York
16. Dr. Idil Boran, Associate Director, CIFAL York
17. Mr. Francesco Daniel del Carpio, Senior Programme Engineer, Environment and Climate Change Canada
18. Dr. Susana Gajic-Bruyea, Vice-president Advancement
19. Dr. Julie Lafford, Assistant Vice-president, Alumni Engagement
20. Mr. Skandha Sunderasen, Associate Director, Global Engagement and Strategic Initiatives
21. Ms. Krista Anne Davidson, Director, Communications
22. Dr. Sapna Sharma, Associate Professor, Faculty of Science
23. Ms. Hibaq Gelle, Graduate Student, School of Public Policy
24. Dr. Susan Pamela Rogers Van Katwyk, Investigator, Global Strategy Lab
25. Dr. Satinder Kaur Brar, Professor, Lassonde School of Engineering
26. Ms. Jessica Keeshig, Graduate Student, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
27. Dr. Marina Freire Gormaly, Assistant Professor, Lassonde School of Engineering
28. Dr. Mary Jennifer Bunch, Assistant Professor, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design
29. Dr. Dolleen Rosemare Manning, Assistant Professor, QNS, Anishinaabe Knowledge, Language and Culture
30. Dr. Patricia Elaine Perkins, Professor, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change
31. Dr. Dayna Nadine Scott, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environment and Urban Change

Nova School of Business and Economics (Nova SBE), Portugal

32. Dr. Pedro Oliveira, Dean
33. Dr. Luis Veiga Martins, Chief Sustainability Officer
34. Prof. Antonieta Cunha e Sá, Head, Environmental Economics Knowledge Center
35. Dr. Teresa Font Gonçalves, Sustainability Institute & CIFAL Cascais Coordinator

Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York

36. H.E Robert Rae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York