



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

[Resilient and inclusive sanitation in combatting climate change events and extremities]

[March 21, 2023, 07:00 – 08:15 EST, Virtual]

Organized by: [IWA, GIZ, Grundfos, SuSanA]

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Climate change has emerged as one of the challenges facing urban sanitation. Extreme weather conditions like floods and droughts impact water, but in the growing cities and towns, it is more of a sanitation crisis which leads to public and environmental health issues. This could either be an increase in the risk of diseases and infections from exposure to pathogens, undesired chemicals, and other emerging substances of concern from environmental contamination or an increase in the risk of diseases and infection due to lack of access to sanitation when a section or the whole service chain has been destroyed. It is important to note that the most vulnerable groups who face severe consequences of climate impacts are those with formal water and sanitation services, as well as poor and marginalised groups. This side event provided an overview of the growing consequences of climate change specifically on sanitation and its implications with real experiences from public, private, and social sectors outlining innovative and adaptation options for strengthening climate resilience relating to sanitation governance, policies, systems, and services.

Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the [Water Action Agenda database](#))

No commitments

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- ✓ Sanitation is a key driver in adapting to and mitigating the climate crisis.
- ✓ Investing in sustainable and resilient sanitation not only minimises climate-related risks but also significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, sequesters carbon and provides clean energy, low-emission fertilisers and alternatives to freshwater for irrigation

Synergies and collaborations in sanitation services delivery at different levels of society (Local, National, Regional, Global).

- ✓ Innovative sanitation technologies in cities which consider inclusive and equitable sanitation and security to withstand the consequences of climate impacts.
- ✓ Poor sanitation and its impact on public health
- ✓ The role of international law and policy play in action/acceleration for water security and sanitation.
- ✓ GHG emission reduction opportunities within water utilities towards net zero targets
- ✓ Use of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) in the treatment of sewage to improve quality of life and public health.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- ✓ Stakeholder collaboration is needed to make the climate change and sanitation agenda more visible beyond the water sector.
- ✓ A shift in mindset is key to city-wide inclusive sanitation.
- ✓ There is a need to look beyond technology and the usual focus on building infrastructure to a holistic approach through a mix of technologies and service models tailored to the local context.
- ✓ Social inclusion and a multisectoral approach should be considered in any sanitation project.
- ✓ Intuitions at the early stages of implementing climate action should take inspiration from case studies with leading practices which offer directions to the best way to begin.