**REPORTING FORMAT FOR RAPPORTEURS**

(*Please complete the report in English and limit your inputs to a maximum of 300 words per item*)

*Rapporteur’s name:* Jacob Amengor, Krithika Iyer Shivakumar

*Rapporteur’s nationality:*  Ghana, India

**Title of session**:  Interactive Dialogue 5- Water Action Decade

**Number of attendees** (*if possible*):  6-7 panellists, ~40 representatives, ~50 participants

**Date and Location:**  24.03.2023, CR4

**Objective(s) of session**: Accelerating the implementation of the objective of Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan

**2- Key point(s)**:

*Current problem.*

*Potential consequences and impacts.*

*Importance of the topic.*

*Synergies and trade-offs with other topics.*

**3- Key Challenges:**

*What are the knowledge gaps identified during the discussion?*

* Water is both a victim of climate change and a cause of climate change.
* Tax incentives for NGOs and private entities are inadequate
* Pricing water closer to its true value
* Development of multilateral action oriented partnerships
* Correlation between finance and governance, as water doesn’t follow the typical supply and demand.
* Women and girls are disproportionately affected by water and the lack of it.

**4- Key recommendations/solutions presented (key actions to address the problem)**:

1. Science and Evidence from indigenous communities is needed in the WASH discussion.
2. Subsidies in WASH delivery service need to be repurposed and redirected.
3. Appointment of a UN Water Envoy and a taskforce of states, multinational organizations, CSOs to guide the WASH Agenda.
4. Get finance ministers to understand the critical importance of WASH to the economy.
5. Governments should consider subsidizing and removing taxes on drilling costs for boreholes.
6. Need for clear targets and indicators for stronger accountability
7. Systematic frequent gatherings on WASH, with a proposal for another UN Water Conference in 2026.

**5- Quotes from speakers**:

*Eg. “Water is increasingly related to the future of energy” - Paul O’Callaghan (CEO BlueTech Research)*

 Take the energy that water has and live it

The time for soft language is over, we need action, and we need it now.

Treat water as an integral part of larger good

Democratize water data, robust data to be a part of decision-making process

**6- Notes from the speakers’ talk**:

The general feedback from the speakers can be summarised below:

* Commitments to be evaluated, implemented and evaluated by all parties involved
* 3 tracks- SDG 6 Global acceleration framework, water is a fixed topic at all high-level agenda, provide a home for water @ UN, an UN-Water and mechanism for members states.
* Suggestion towards Inter-government meetings at a high-political level
* Focus on the larger water cycle.
* Geo-political will from the member states
* To address the interlinkage between the fresh and marine water
* To address the disproportionate supply of water.

**7- Relevant stakeholders and organizations present or mentioned**:

Tharman Shanmugarathaman, Minister of Singapore

Monika Madina- US’s special envoy for biodiversity

Tajna Fajon

Basuki Hadimuljono – Minister for Public Works and Public Housing

Zulfiya Sulemenova – Minister of Kazakisthan

Usha Rao-Monari- UNDP

Mina Guli

Torgny Holmgren

In addition to the panellists and special speakers mentioned above, there were representations from the following as well:

Tajikistan, Kenya, Ukraine, Germany, Egypt, Thailand, France, Columbia, Namibia, Australia, Botswana, Finland, Switzerland, Slovakia, European Union, WMO World Meteorological Organization, Netherlands, Romania, French Water Partnership, Solomon Islands, Spain, Canada, India.

In addition, the Office of Human Rights (OHCHR) was the special rapporteur on human rights.

**8- Innovative ideas and/or approaches from the session** *(What was new and novel from your perspective?)*

In my perspective, the coming together of organizations, NGOs and political representation in the interactive dialogue 5 paved the way to a more visible and action-oriented solution towards addressing water challenges. The geopolitical uncertainties and I’s interlinking to the water are pushing the growth of the countries by many years behind. The interactive dialogue 5 also proposed the creation of an envoy to the UN Water, who will follow up on the actions of the UN-Water conference. The Envoy could act as a link/bridge between NGOs, institutions and countries to establish a well-defined framework for pricing water, by clearly distinguishing the price, cost and value of water.

**9- How do the session outcomes impact the Water Action Agenda? How to translate the discussion into commitments and actions?**

 The proposal for an UN-Water envoy presents the opportunity to put water in a continuous highlight and also ensure its consideration in other several meetings of the UN.

A conference in 2026 will serve as a report back from the outcome of this midterm review and assess the impact of the actions that are being taken.

**11- How does this session relate water to other SDGs?**

 Conversations from this session suggested that water was at the centre of all the SDGs and needed to be highlighted as such.

The session also addressed water to indigenous communities, barring the inequalities, addressing SDG 10.

**12- Short personal analysis of the session.**

This session brought lots of hope. Presentations from member states showed commitment and readiness to solve the water and sanitation challenge. Also, it was clear, that accountability for the commitment being made could not be ignored.