Many thanks to all those who participated in the first round of 8th World Water Forum’s thematic discussions. The 6 discussions focused on Climate, People, Development, Urban, Ecosystems and Finance. These discussions ran for 10 weeks, from February 13 to April 23, 2017 and each focused on identifying ten key global water issues related to their theme, along with key issues related to the crosscutting themes of Sharing, Capacity and Governance. During this time, we had approximately 20,200 visitors to the site and nearly 1,000 people register for the discussion. In total 555 comments were left (not including those by our 24 moderators; 3-4 in every room). The number of comments in each room were:

1. People - 155
2. Urban - 109
3. Development - 106
4. Climate - 102
5. Ecosystems - 61
6. Finance - 22

Most of the site’s visits came from Brazil, US, France, Mexico and India (in decreasing order).

The first round of discussions resulted in the identification of 10 global water issues for each of the 9 topics (Climate, People, Development, Urban, Ecosystems, Finance, Sharing, Capacity and Governance). These 90 issues were open to public voting on worldwaterforum8.org. Over 1,180 people voted and made over 36,200 responses, which translated the voters main concerns regarding water under each theme. All 90 global water issues and the voting results are now important inputs for the organization of the 8th World Water Forum in the definition of the event’s Thematic Sessions.

The graphs below show the 10 topics per theme and the number of votes each has received.
Incorporating recent changes in hydrological parameters to drive actions and enhance preparedness
Prioritizing no-regrets measures: addressing water adaptation efficiently
Uncertainty and the decision-making process: guiding relevant-policy efforts through a solid scientific basis
Climate change communication: engaging stakeholders to better water action in different levels
Scaling up countries’ resilience through balanced investment: accessible strategies and collaborative solutions
Better tools and intelligent use of information: fostering disaster prevention and community adaptive capacities
Climate change mitigation and water management: interaction and co-benefits towards water security
Reducing impacts of extreme hydro-climatic events: the social vulnerability factor
Preparing to water scarcity and droughts: sharing experiences to minimize losses and prevent disasters
Cross-sectoral approach towards water and climate: relating energy, food production, sanitation and human development
Gender and sanitation – women and girls as water carriers; menstrual taboos; gender disaggregated data; schools and work…
Peace process, development and safe WASH services - industry, mining, dams, intensive agriculture.
Implementation of SDG 6: involving all stakeholders and providing financing.
Behavior change and awareness raising for equity and inclusion in WASH.
Efficient management and maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure.
Water and health – hygiene, awareness, prevention of disease, public health epidemics, toilets and safety.
Drinking water quality – pretreatment, regular and reliable monitoring, capacity building.
Equitable access to water and sanitation services – people with disabilities; ghettos and shantyhouses; rural areas; poorest social…
New Technologies for water and sanitation – reuse, integrated sanitation, conventional vs innovative solutions.
Access to safe water and sanitation in disasters, emergency and humanitarian situations.
Efficient management and maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure.
Climate change communication: engaging stakeholders to better water action in different levels
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New Technologies for water and sanitation – reuse, integrated sanitation, conventional vs innovative solutions.
Access to safe water and sanitation in disasters, emergency and humanitarian situations.
The sustainable use of water in building new development models

Education, capacity building and engagement for the sustainable use of water

Research and development of new technologies to access, use and protection of water

Efficiency and waste reduction in the use of surface and ground water

The link between Poverty and Corruption in the context of sustainable development and management of water resources

Water allocation for water users sectors: demand management and water availability

The water-energy-food nexus in the context of multiple uses and competing demands for water

Water use in productive sectors: sharing experiences

The rational and efficient use of water: the role of private investment

The multivariate evaluation for the sustainable use of surface and ground water

Patterns of urban concentration and decentralisation: impacts and solutions on water management models.

Water as a Human Right: Water as a common good and not a merchandise.

Adapting cities to extreme events of drought and floods: soft and hard measures.

Water Security in Cities and Metropolitan Regions: a holistic river basin vision of development.

Corruption and transparency in managing water: the importance of public and civil society organisations engagement.

Public participation in city planning and management.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3R) : government role and profile raising.

Capacity development of urban local water bodies to sustainable water services management

Slum upgrading: public sanitation, solutions for risk and socio-environmental improvement.

Financial sustainability of urban local water and sanitation bodies.

Development

Urban
Integrated assessment of the cumulative impacts of surface and groundwater use

Tools for quantifying and valuing hydrologic services of conservation

Economic incentives and legislation for water and ecosystems conservation

Monitoring and sharing information on water quality

Mitigating the environmental impacts of dams using the ecosystem approach

The role of information, communication and funding in ecosystems and water conservation

Ecohydrology for the reclamation of degraded watersheds

Environmental flows as an instrument for sustainable water management

Tools for quantifying and valuing hydrologic services of conservation

Integrated assessment of the cumulative impacts of surface and groundwater use

Legal framework to attract funds to invest in water and sanitation facilities

Financing innovative technologies for water access

Fair water tariffs and costs of universal access to water in developing countries

Financing innovation for water-friendly technology and businesses

Giving the right incentives for good Public-private partnerships – financing water infrastructure and water safety

Roles of public and private sector for raising funds to achieve a “water secure world”

Funding water resources management and climate change adaptation

The symbiosis of finance and water governance - Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) implementation

The 3 Ts (tariffs, taxes and transfers) for water access and sanitation

Financing SDGs implementation

The relationships between soil use and management and water quantity and quality

The role of ecosystems in the management of water quantity and quality

Monitoring and sharing information on water quality

Mitigating the environmental impacts of dams using the ecosystem approach

The role of information, communication and funding in ecosystems and water conservation

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Ecosystems

Financing

Fair water tariffs and costs of universal access to water in developing countries

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Financing SDGs implementation

Legal framework to attract funds to invest in water and sanitation facilities
Different models for transboundary water management.

Gender and water: access, sanitation, health, businesses.

Civil society action and traditional knowledge for the conservation of aquatic ecosystems.

Sharing experiences to improve access to water in conflict, scarcity and disasters regions.

Society engagement and its role in disasters preparedness and adaptation to climate change.

Sharing experiences on water management in arid and semi-arid regions.

Exchanging technology and knowledge to improve water management in urban environments.

Engagement and participation for inclusive and sustainable urbanization: water and land management.

Empowering local communities: involving local actors in water projects development and implementation.

Capacity building for intelligent and integrated monitoring systems: OSDs indicators and targets.

Training society, small businesses and local governments to access funds for water projects.

Civil society education and mobilization for the understanding of climate change and its impacts on water.

Education of public and private actors for decision-making on adaptation to climate change.

Capacity building for monitoring and exchange of information on water quantity and quality.

Capacity building of municipalities to integrate land use, water resources and environment policies.

Transboundary education and coordination, for public and private sectors, for water and ecosystems.

Cross-sector coordination for conservation of water quality and quantity, hydro ecosystems and biodiversity.

International Cooperation for the management of transboundary water for facing impacts of climate change.

Promoting transparency and combating corruption in the way of access to water.

Conflict management between water users, rural and urban areas, generations and cultures.

Intersectoral coordination between the policies of water, environment, health, energy, agriculture, industry, territorial...