

CITIZEN'S FORUM PROCESS

THEMES, TOPICS AND SESSIONS TITLES

THEME 1. CLIMATE

There will be no Citizen Process session for this theme.

THEME 2. PEOPLE

Session 1 – Stories of success or failure considering minorities and indigenous considering their access and rights to water

Description session 1 – To what extent do Indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities suffer disproportionately from economic, social and political marginalization and human rights violations, including poor access to water and sanitation services? This session will analyze some stories of failure and of success considering minorities and indigenous rights connected to water.

THEME 3. DEVELOPMENT

Session 2 – Challenges facing family agriculture (small farmers) in water use

Description session 2 - Diversity is a key issue considering family agriculture: technologies, knowledge, culture, products are essential for sustainable development. This session will explore the challenges facing smallholding farming, due to a number of uncertainties, contradictions and opportunities regarding policies, participation and impacts on water coming from big users. It can prospects of global family agriculture policies and network. Do policies form a powerful tool to achieve equity and development in rural areas, to meet the sustainable development agenda and be part of the achievement zero hunger?

THEME 4. URBAN

Session 3 – Urban Rivers: Citizen as transformers of this environment

Description session 3 - Citizens of the cities should advocate for maintaining good water quality in their rivers but more than this, there are citizens working to restore urban rivers worldwide obtaining important results. Portugal, Holland, Japan, South Africa and Brazil are examples of relevant projects in course. This session will explore case studies on urban rivers restoration, considering the leadership of citizens, and will discuss actions and how policies can scale up this experiences.

THEME 5. ECOSYSTEMS

Session 4 – Relations between nature and local people for water security

Description session 4 - Nature-based solutions can improve life on earth. The panel will discuss how the needs of people and nature are inextricably linked, considering that all life on earth depends on functional and healthy natural systems. In this perspective will present some of the local and regional nature-based solutions accessible to the poor/vulnerable and with institutional recognition worldwide considering that the transformation of the relationship between people and nature can bring prosperity to both. In this direction the session will also explore existence networks and public policies that strengthen nature-based solutions. The aspirations of a better world require collective action, scientific and communities, government and citizens have a role to play.

THEME 6. FINANCE

There will be no Citizen Process session for this theme.

THEME 7. SHARING

Session 5 – Liability, Justice, and Compensation for Environmental Crimes and Rights Violations

Description session 5 – This session aims to bring together people impacted by various environmental crimes to forge a clear path on the role that civil society can play in protecting communities, advocating their rights, bringing justice to those affected and identifying best practices in compensation.

Session 6 – Women: Perspectives and challenges

Description session 6 – Transforming our World, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development proclaims an ‘all-of-society engagement and partnership’ to end poverty and hunger and to achieve sustainable and equitable development in harmony with nature. In the water domain, the participatory and multi-stakeholder approach at different levels is already anchored in the Rio/Dublin Principles for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), translation of these principles into practice however, is often still in its initial stages. This session zooms in on Rio/Dublin Principle 3 concerning the role of Women as one of nine identified segments of society (Major Groups of Agenda 21) that play different and complementary roles in achieving sustainable and equitable use and management of water resources.

Session 7 – Innovation of young Water Entrepreneurs

Description session 7 – The session will select young water entrepreneurs and innovators from a wide pool of youth to present their innovations to the public and empower other youth to take action. The innovation can be social, technical and the session will focus on the process these change makers had to go through to bring about change.

Session 8 - Community-based action on water management and watershed governance

Description session 8 – Community-based action plan has urgency to promote reliable feasibility of water management in the context of watershed governance. There is a huge discrepancy of effectiveness, efficiency and trust between planning and implementing participatory processes in water governance. This session will discuss success and failure case studies of community-based experiences in order to analyse legislation, budgeting and performance evaluation on the ground.

THEME 8. CAPACITY

Session 9 – Community based management for water and sanitation: how to ensure participatory approaches?

Description session 9 - The session will discuss perspectives on how the right to participation is expressed in practice. The dimension of governments and providers will be explored, as well as the perspective of society representatives and entitlement of the service's users will be highlighted by the speakers.

Session 10 – Citizenship Education for Water: worldwide experiences

Description session 10 - In view of the water management challenges in the world and the perspective to achieve the sustainable development goals, focusing on SDG-6, the mobilization and participation of the world societies become essential. This session will explore different educational approaches that go beyond capacity building. An education that enables the active citizenship to be strengthened with social and political engagement of the basis of society in environmental and water management for the construction of societies based on democratic, social justice and environmental values, ensuring quality of life for all.

THEME 9. GOVERNANCE

Session 11 – Scale Up and Impact for a Global Water Agreement

Description session 11 – The global fresh water shortage is one of the world's most pressing challenges, yet the issue is not scheduled to be a Global Agreement about water as Climate Change with Paris Agreement. This panel has the objective to promote a discussion in high level about challenges and opportunities in addressing a civil society movement for a Global Water Agreement and potential steps for establish a binding commitment in global level.

Session 12 – Diversity and inclusion in decision-making in water management

Description session 12 – Challenges and benefits of public engagement in decision-making in water management. A new vision for public participatory approach will be effective only if we reduce the emphasis on the economic component and focus on sustainability and social justice considerations.

Session 13 – Political Governance vs Sustainable Governance: financial resources, interests and power
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Description session 13 – The session will explore how can the local communities address the political challenges limiting the implementation of sustainable and equitable WASH interventions and how does demotivating factors influence the ability of the poor people to participate in decision-making about WASH.

Session 14 – Public or private: values, rights and obligations in water services for the citizen

Description session 14 – The session will explore how can we ensure that the economic incentives of private or public entities are aligned with the social goals and interests. How can contracts be designed that effectively lay out the responsibilities of all parties and that can be object of accountability and social participation?

Session 15 – Monitoring and evaluating the social participation in water management

Description session 15 – This session will explore institutional analyses, studies and models on social participation processes in local, regional and national scale, considering the basin territory and its revitalization, focusing in water uses and management. As social participation is an essential goal on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there will be invited UN studies, Ministries, Academia and NGO's to evaluate, in high level, achievements and challenges concerning this issue.

Session 16 – Civil Society and Social Capital

Description session 16 – Social capital is considered an important instrument to induce collective action in natural resource management. It can be defined as: the internal social and cultural coherence of society, the norms and values that govern interactions between people, and the institutions in which they are embedded. The social networks of civil society, notably of Women, Youth and Indigenous People, unite and represent large groups of citizens. They present a mechanism of horizontal integration: across professional backgrounds, political or religious affiliation, ethnicity or interest. They also integrate vertically: from local and national to international level, within their own peer group and across. As such, they provide an existing institutional framework that can be a valid partner of governments to reach down into the capillaries of society and mobilize its social capital.

This session discusses the drivers, benefits and challenges of coordinated actions and engagement between water sector entities and social networks of civil society.

Session 17 – Low cost, environmentally based water purification technologies.

Description session 17 – This session will look at experiments with low cost water purification technologies such as activated carbon filters, sand filters, reed bed filters, anaerobic digestion that use and existing, natural processes and have harnessed them for application in rural areas and informal settlements. Water treatment is often both a costly, energy consuming process and one that is centrally managed. What positive experiences exist with low cost technologies and how can these be scaled up?

Session 18 – Youth participation in decision making processes

Description session 18 – The role of youth, as the main stakeholders that can influence changes in the process of water management. Youth vision to stimulate the breeding of a future generation of water stewards and innovators.