





Side Event

# PROMOTING A WATER CULTURE THROUGH LEARNING & ACTION







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:

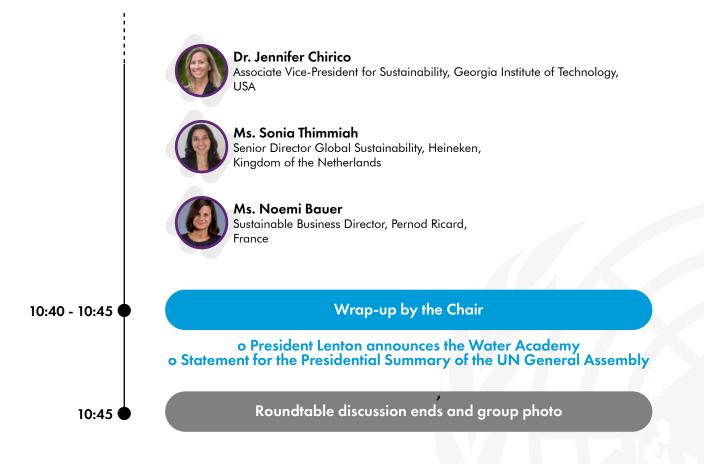
- 1) Promote knowledge transfer and capacity sharing
- 2) Offer a hybrid way of learning
- 3) Develop scientific based water solutions that inform water policies and programmes
- 4) Measure and monitor impact and promote replicability of water management practices
- 5) Facilitate conversations and partnerships 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

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### 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
- 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

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