



## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DESCRIPTION (PROGRAM) FORM

### 10<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

#### HLP Session Code and Title:

- **HLP3 Global water governance: What's next?**

#### HLP Session Co-Coordinator:

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#### HLP Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes:

In recent years, unprecedented challenges have highlighted the importance of water for health, human rights, and sustainable and resilient economic development: from the COVID-19 pandemic, to the weaponisation of water in international conflicts, and the growing frequency and intensity of water-related disasters, magnified by a rapidly -changing climate. In addition, the world is not on track to meet the water-related SDGs by 2030.

Faced with these challenges, political leaders, business, finance providers, civil society and communities have to work together even closer to find solutions. This requires stronger water governance to manage water as “common good” that would enable progress at every level - from local to global.

As result of the historic UN 2023 Water Conference ore than 850 commitments were made under the Water Action Agenda at the UN 2023 Water Conference. Nevertheless, leadership is now needed to oversee, support and monitor the implementation of commitments at all levels as well as encouraging state and non-state actors to add new commitments to the WAA in the lead up to the UN 2026 Water Conference and beyond.

This session will engage with global leaders to discuss scalable and replicable governance solutions that are enabling action on SDG6 and other water related SDGs. The emphasis will be on leaders sharing knowledge and expertise across regions that will help drive the Water Action Agenda and other commitments forward. The expected outcomes will be collective and precise actions drive progress towards and shape the next UN Water Conference in 2026.

#### FORMAT:

90-minute dialogue session, moderated by Barbara Pompili, former Minister for Ecological Transition, France. The session will include:

- up to four high level political representatives (one from each region).
- a high-level UN representative
- a high-level representative from a development bank
- a private sector CEO
- international civil society NGO CEO large NGOs
- World Youth Parliament for Water President

#### Basic agenda:

- initial discussion among ministers facilitated by Barbara Pompili, Chair of the OECD WGI
- reactions from the panel to the ministers comments and panel suggest specific suggested outcomes
- comments back from ministers

- wrap up by Barbara

#### Speakers:

- Moderation: Barbara Pompili, Special Envoy Water France and former Minister of Ecological Transition
- Nizar Baraka, Minister of Equipment and Water, Morocco
- Hervé Berville, Secretary of State for the Sea and Biodiversity, France
- H.E. Bae Deok-hyo, Chairperson of the Presidential Water Commission (level of the Prime Minister in the Republic of Korea)
- H.E Dr. Amna Al Shamsi, UAE Minister of Climate Change & Environment
- H.E. Mr. Daler Juma Shofaquir, Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Yoshiki Takeuchi OECD Deputy Secretary-General
- Meike van Ginneken , Special Envoy International Water Affairs, Netherlands
- Dr. Yongdeok Cho, Secretary General of Asian Water Council
- Fred Van Heems, AquaFed President and President of Veolia North America

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

This event aims to achieve the following key outcomes:

**1) Sustaining Political Momentum:** Build upon the momentum generated by the UN 2023 Water Conference by integrating water issues into critical international events like UNFCCC COPs, COPs on biodiversity, Food and Agriculture meetings, the HLPF, etc.

**2) Accelerating Action:** Showcase successful water management practices, share solutions to overcome challenges, and foster innovation, ultimately accelerating the implementation of voluntary commitments within the Water Action Agenda.

**3) Expanding Commitment:** Recognizing the existing 850+ commitments, the event will urge stakeholders to register new, ambitious 'Bali Commitments' within the Water Action Agenda to further address global water challenges.

**4) Unifying Efforts:** Advocate for aligning all water-related events, including world water forums, with the impactful outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference, ensuring a cohesive and effective approach to global water management.

**5) Pave the way for the revision of the OECD Principles on Water Governance, reaching their 10 years.** The 12 OECD Principles on Water Governance provide very tangible guidelines to respond to the various issues of fragmentation, scale,



silos, capacity, data/information, financing, regulation, stakeholder engagement, corruption/transparency, evaluation, and to manage trade-offs between territories, users, and sectors. They are embodied at different scales and are a shared responsibility, including on a global scale.

Overall, the concrete result expected from the panel will be to provide specific indications on global water governance beyond transboundary management. It will discuss how to make water an international political priority with common objectives and targets, with consequences of actions beyond administrative boundaries.

Concrete actions towards the UN 2026:

- 1) Call to action: It is essential that speakers make a clear call to action to non-state actors and say specifically what they want us all to do. Identify concrete ways to deliver Water Action Agenda commitments. Speakers could champion/highlight some specific commitments.
- 2) Leadership: speakers are invited to show that all the major milestones (eg WWF, Dushanbe, COPs etc etc) are connected and explain to the audience how. They will be invited to highlight the threads that have or will emerge from all these events, the game changer solutions and how to measure progress.

**Detailed HLP Session plan:**

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)