



TOPIC SYNTHESIS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Please complete this form no later than **22nd of March 2024**.

Session Code and Title (e.g. Topic Synthesis Session 3A):

Topic Synthesis Session 6B: Accelerating transformative, innovative and integrative approaches: commitments from the UN Water Conference, 10th World Water Forum, and beyond.

Topic Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

6B Topic Coordinator: Dr Alex Money, CEO of Watermarq alex.money@wtrmrq.com

6B Session Coordinators:

- 6B1: Ulrike Kelm, WWSN ulrike.kelm@web.de
- 6B2: Astou Fall, Speak Up Africa astou.fall@speakupafrika.org / Alex Money, Watermarq alex.money@wtrmrq.com / Bethan Adams, Watermarq bethan.adams@wtrmrq.com
- 6B3: Carola Hein, TU Delft C.M.Hein@tudelft.nl / Matteo Agostino, TU Delft M.DAgostino@tudelft.nl

Session Description (300 words):

The three sessions convened under topic 6B ‘innovative organisational approaches’ include a diverse array of organisations, case studies, and framings of ‘innovation’ and what it means for SDG6 and beyond. The intention of the 6B Synthesis Session is to formalise these learnings and collective ambitions into a set of recommendations and commitments, that will enable participating organisations to advance progress towards innovative approaches beyond the Water Forum.

The purpose of this session is to build on commitments made at the UN Water Conference in 2023, announce new collective commitments/recommendations relating to organisational innovation, and assess where progress is still needed to bridge the gap between current progress/approaches and these commitments.

The session will include representatives from the Ministry of Senegal, Global Commission on the Economics of Water, and others across academia, NGOs, and the private sector. Following two keynote speeches, contributors will summarise the learnings from across the 6B sessions and reflect on the practicalities and barriers for implementation, and how to enhance collaboration to cement collective goals.

Summary of sessions under Topic 6B:

6B1: Framing legacy and innovative approaches to understanding and implementing organisational change.

- Through quick-fire presentations and roundtables, this session sets out a conceptual framing of organisational innovation, and illustrates the concept through case studies (covering legal cases, public authorities, private utilities, peer mentorship, irrigation, finance, and links between expert knowledge). A set of policy recommendations from the interdisciplinary journal Blue Papers is used to frame the roundtable discussions.

6B2: New interventions and integrative approaches for solving complex challenges.

- This two-part session builds on 6B1 by illustrating further examples of innovation in practice. Presentations included in the first part cover innovation in communications & advocacy, citizen science, and collaboration; whilst the second part of the session focuses on deploying innovation and technology across the utilities sector. This will include an official announcement of the Africa testbed network for utilities.

6B3: Transformative change for the future Water-Smart Society: Linking science, policy and action



- The third 6B session builds on the examples of organisational innovation in 6B1 & 6B2 to concretise good practices and methodologies that create new pathways for water-smart futures. This three-part session will include 1) practices from around the world on how science-policy-action interlinkages can drive progress towards SDG6 (including modelling, living labs, hackathons, mentoring, gamification); 2) roundtables diving into these methodological approaches and how they may be applied in different contexts; and 3) recommendations for policy and decision-makers.

Key messages (2 maximum)

1. Participating organisations from topic 6B and beyond are committed to advancing progress towards water security through innovative approaches.

2. Writing, sharing, and embedding collective commitments is a key avenue through which organisations can a) ensure meaningful outcomes from international conferences such as the World Water Forum (particularly where commitments build on prior work) and b) build momentum and ambition for implementing innovation.

Concrete outcomes (2 maximum)

1. Shared understanding of how to advance and implement the recommendations and commitments from across Topic 6B.
2. Reiteration and further promotion of the concrete outcomes & collaboration opportunities presented in the three main 6B sessions.

Detailed Session plan :

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
2 min	Session opening	Dr Alex Money/Bethan Adams, Watermarq (Topic 6B Coordinating organisation)	OK
10 min	Keynote address #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitments made at UN Water Conference 2023: then and now. • Why are commitments important, policy process • Gap between commitments, current approaches and necessary changes • Required transitions, revolutions • Upcoming report by the GCEW in September 	Henk Ovink, Executive Director of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water	OK
10 min	Keynote address #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senegal's engagement relating to the Water Action Agenda and priorities for 2026 • Chair of water and cooperation session • International perspective on the importance of commitments, how to build on progress from international conferences 	Dr Mohamed C.B.C. DIATTA, Coordinator of the Cellule de Suivi, de Promotion et de Capitalisation des Résultats du 9 ^{ème} Forum mondial de l'Eau, " Dakar 2022", Ministry of Water and Sanitation - Senegal. Senegal's Sherpa at the International High-Level Panel on Water Investment in Africa and Coordinator of Senegal's participation in the 2nd United Nations Water Conference in New York in March 2023.	Ok



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7 min	Summary of session 6B1	Ulrike Kelm, WWSN	OK
7 min	Summary of session 6B2	Astou Fall, Speak Up Africa OR Bethan Adams, Watermarq	OK
7 min	Summary of session 6B3	Matteo D'Agostino and Carola Hein, TU Delft	OK
30 min	Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections on the outcomes, recommendations and commitments from 6B • Opportunities and barriers to implementation from the perspective of their organisations • How to take learnings forward to upcoming conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Bethan Adams, Watermarq • Dr Mohamed C.B.C. DIATTA • Henk Ovink, GCEW • Eddy Moors, IHE Delft • Neil Dhot, AquaFed • Lylia Coelho Ferreira, Agro-Paris tech Suez • Anne Bousquet, GWOPA/UN Habitat 	OK
15 min	Audience Q&A	Dr Alex Money/Bethan Adams,	OK
2 min	Session close	Watermarq (Topic 6B Coordinating organisation)	