



T5CC2 : EQUITABLE FINANCE: ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORKS FOR JUST WATER PARTNERSHIPS

Session Code and Title: T5CC2 : Equitable finance: Accountability frameworks for Just Water Partnerships

Location: BICC, 1st floor, NUSANTARA 3

Date & Time: 10:20 am to 11:50 am on Friday, May 24th, 2024

Session Coordinators:

1. Srishti Singh, Student, Yale School of the Environment, singhh.srishti@gmail.com/srishti.singh@yale.edu
2. Mona Wolf, Project Manager, Fairtrade International, mona-w@gmx.de

Session Description:

'Just' Water Partnerships (JWP) will play a crucial role in achieving a water and climate secure future by unlocking the 200-400 billion annual financing gap in low and middle-income countries. Not only is it important to catalyze additional investment into the sector, it is critical that the process of unlocking is equitable. Financial flows and their governance will shape the outcomes of the water security agenda. Accountability is key at every step of design of JWPs as part of the larger decision-making process, instead of an activity undertaken post-completion of the intervention.

To this end, the session unveils accountability frameworks and mechanisms to ensure resources are allocated fairly, transparently, and focused on social and environmental justice. A cross-cutting theme is to establish inclusive, auditable processes involving local, marginalized groups in decision making, towards a bottom-up approach in financial decision-making.

Key Objectives:

Through a series of presentations and an interactive panel discussion with experts from the ADB, Global Commission on Economics of Water, OECD, UNCDF, and the World Youth Parliament for Water, the session will explore:

1. How to operationalise 'Just' in Just Water Partnerships for financing as perceived by different stakeholders
2. Accountability frameworks and mechanisms to hold financial institutions and implementing agencies accountable to the people they serve
3. Best practices ensuring equitable and transparent allocation of finance, adopted by international finance institutions and development agencies



Expected outcomes:

The goal of water for shared prosperity cannot be achieved if financing is not equitable. The goal of the session is to recommend principles and actions for just water finance and establish accountability within financing processes for operationalising 'Just' Water Partnerships. Accountability frameworks to ensure equitable finance are part of the process, and not an afterthought.

Detailed Session plan:

Speakers:

1. Xavier Leflaive, Senior Advisor, OECD and Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW)
2. Elizabeth Wathuti, Commissioner, GCEW and founder, Green Generation Initiative
3. Thierno Diallo, Lead Investment Officer, Blue Peace Financing Initiative, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).
4. Anastasia Carolina, Senior Project Officer, Asian Development Bank
5. Fatmata Hannah Conteh, Youth Delegate for Sierra Leone, World Youth Parliament for Water

Estimated Timing	Speaker	Items description	Prompts/Questions from Moderator
3 mins	Srishti Singh	Introduction	Introduction to session and setting the scene
5 minutes	Mona Wolf	Outline of session and introductions	Outline of the session and objectives
5 mins	Xavier Leflaive	Overview of Just Water Partnerships	Introduction to JWP, their background and role in ensuring equitable financial flows and facilitating appropriate priced capital for water security.
5 mins	Elizabeth Wathuti	Just Water Partnerships with a focus on justice	Reflection on how financial partnerships can be "just", taking into account experience of leading the Green Generation Initiative. Input on locally-led initiatives, empowering and bottom-up approaches in relation to JWP.
5 mins	Thierno Diallo	Input on equitable financing mechanisms and instruments	Input on how UNCDF and the Blue Peace Finance initiative approach the challenge of reducing cost of capital. Highlighting transparency

			mechanisms for investments and importance of transboundary financing instruments from a Just Water Partnerships perspective
5 mins	Anastasia Carolina	Best practices in international finance institutions and development agencies	Best practice examples adopted by ADB to ensure accountability for their projects and their impacts on communities. How is the finance provided accessible by vulnerable communities?
5 mins	Fatmata H. Conteh	Just Water Partnerships with focus on youth input	Input on how the international decision making process can be made more inclusive and accountable for the youth and marginalized communities. Demands from the World Youth Parliament for Water and priorities for financial decision making.
3 mins	Ananya Goyal	Video input of accountability mechanism	Example of Accountability mechanism such as social audits
45 mins	All speakers, moderated by Mona Wolf	Panel focussing on accountability frameworks	Panel combining the inputs with the general question for accountability frameworks for JWP towards equitable finance. Discussion between speakers and time for questions from the audience.
3 mins	Conclusion	Srishti Singh	Summarizing JWPs and the role of accountability as a lever of success of JWPs
