



SUB-THEME SYNTHESIS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Please complete this form no later than **5th of April 2024**.

Session Code and Title (e.g. Sub-Theme 4 Synthesis Session):

Sub-Theme 4 Synthesis Session: Governance as an Imperative for Future Generations

Session Description (300 words):

In a world where water scarcity is becoming an increasingly pressing issue, effective water governance becomes imperative to tackle the challenges posed by water management. Without cohesive governance frameworks, equitable distribution and sustainable use of water resources remain elusive goals. Collaborative efforts are essential, as seen in transboundary river basins where neighboring countries must negotiate agreements to ensure fair access and mitigate conflicts. Moreover, the importance of water governance extends beyond geopolitical boundaries; it encompasses local communities and indigenous groups whose livelihoods depend on water sources. Through inclusive decision-making processes and innovative policies, water governance can pave the way for a more resilient and water-secure future for all. By championing water justice, capacity development, and groundwater governance, water governance not only addresses current water crises but also lays the foundation for a sustainable and resilient future in the face of changing times

To synthesize the many discussions at the 10th World Water Forum on this subject, we pose the question: What makes cooperation and governance the most vital component for providing an enabling environment for the achievement of the SDGs and how can we ensure it in practice?

This session offers two intergenerational panel debates: one on cooperation (vertical and horizontal) and one on governance. We will hear about what good governance and cooperation look like at varying levels, now and for future generations. Key learnings will be presented from each topic, then questions and reactions from a youth jury will be fielded.

The session will feature participative and discursive elements to engage the audience, not only to get a better understanding of the role of governance and cooperation, but also how participants outside of the sub-theme value them.

Key messages (3 maximum)

(Remains to be validated with Topic Coordinators)

1. By working together through a systems approach across borders, sectors, and communities, water management practices can better promote equitable access to clean water, improve climate resilience, and foster sustainable development, peace and shared prosperity for all.
2. Attention to dovetailing legal, institutional and policy frameworks at different levels of governance, from global to local, will improve the enabling environments needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda, improving accountability and transparency, and encouraging financial flows.
3. Local actors, including youth and women, are powerful agents of change, and their voices in participatory and decision-making processes can lead to policies that are better adapted to communities' realities so that no one is left behind.

Concrete outcomes (5 maximum)

1. Foster intergenerational relationships through dialogue that increases understanding of new forms of cooperation and concrete governance action, aiming beyond business as usual.
2. Encourage transboundary cooperation and contribute to preventing the emergence of conflicts by sharing examples of win-win upstream-downstream or regional transboundary compromise and cooperation.
3. Demonstrate the potential of decentralized and local cooperation, illustrated by platforms for south-south cooperation, local authorities and municipalities, and basins.
3. Inspire cross-sectoral and multi-level collective action and the emergence of polycentric governance systems that encourage greater participation and knowledge-sharing for the formulation of better solutions.
5. Raise the voices of youth and other unheard or under-represented stakeholders and contribute to enriching the draft policy brief “Leave No One Behind in the realization of the rights to water and sanitation”

Detailed Session plan :

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
10 min	Introduction (incl. Mentimeter)	OECD/SIWI	tbc
30 min	<p>Panel 1: Cooperation</p> <p>Shark tank: A jury of 3 youth reps hear out the speakers from each sub-theme and their plea of what makes cooperation the vital component to be able to achieve the SDGs.</p> <p>After the 3 pitches, the youth speakers provide feedback about what element of cooperation they felt was most important and ask important questions about horizontal and vertical cooperation.</p>	<p>Sub-Theme representatives from Topic I - II - III</p> <p>Moderation: SIWI/OECD</p>	Tbc
5 min	Panel 1 synthesis	Rapporteur	tbc
30 min	<p>Panel 2: Governance Principles</p> <p>Shark tank: a jury of 3 youth reps hear out the speakers from each sub-theme and their plea of what makes polycentric governance and systems thinking the vital component to provide an enabling environment for</p>	<p>Sub-Theme representatives from Topic IV - V</p> <p>Moderation: SIWI/OECD</p>	tbc



	<p>the achievement of the SDGs.</p> <p>After each pitch, the youth speakers provide feedback about what element of governance they felt was most important and ask important questions about polycentric governance.</p>		
5 min	<p>Panel 2 synthesis</p> <p>e.g Self-examination: Was acceptable inclusion and transparency achieved within the Governance theme and more broadly within the Forum?</p>	Rapporteur	tbc
10 min	Closing (including Mentimeter)	OECD/SIWI	tbc