



## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DESCRIPTION (PROGRAM) FORM

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

#### HLP Session Code and Title:

- **HLP17 High-Level Panel of the OECD Roundtable on Financing Water: Water and environmental justice**

#### HLP Session Co-Coordinators:

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- Sophie Trémolet, Water Team Lead, OECD, [sophie.tremolet@oecd.org](mailto:sophie.tremolet@oecd.org)

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

##### **Context**

The Roundtable on Financing Water is a global public-private forum established in 2017 by the OECD, jointly with the government of the Netherlands, the World Water Council and the World Bank. It draws upon political leadership and technical expertise, with the ambition of facilitating increased financing of investments that contribute to water security and sustainable economic growth. It brings together the finance and water communities to share information on recent and future developments of common interest. Specifically, the Roundtable aims to:

- Raise the profile of financing water on the international political agenda and within the investment community;
- Identify and overcome the barriers to further investment in water security and growth;
- Push the boundaries of traditional thinking about financing water-related investment; and
- Promote impactful ways of financing water-related investment.

The Roundtable engages a diversity of actor in the Global North and the Global South - including governments, regulators, private financiers (e.g. institutional investors, commercial banks, asset managers, impact investors), development finance institutions, bi-lateral donors, international organisations, academia and civil society organisations - focused on finding novel ideas and solutions.

##### **Objectives and expected outcomes**

In line with the Roundtable's high-level panels at previous WWFs, this high-level panel will aim at discussing key topics building on the discussions and concrete proposals formulated in previous Roundtable meetings. We will focus in particular on findings from the [Tenth Roundtable on Financing Water: regional meeting in Africa](#), around the topic of “Water and environmental justice”, and their relevance in other contexts, in particular Asia and countries of the Global South.

Discussions are likely to cover the following themes:

*Water within the global finance architecture:* Discussions in recent international fora (G20, COP, Paris Finance Summit) highlighted some of the limitations of the global finance architecture to deliver on our common agendas, including on global commons. These ongoing discussions are relevant for water finance, and the water community would benefit from engaging in these issues. This HLP of the Roundtable on Financing Water ambitions to explore what is in it for water and how financing water can inform global discussions on the reform of the international financing system. This can include topics such as the definition of the hydrological cycle as a global common good, accelerating the rechanneling of Special Drawing Rights to countries of the Global South, fostering South-South cooperation and the role of public development banks (PDBs).

*The global value of water in countries of the Global South:* High-income economies are profoundly dependent on water use beyond their borders to produce the food, clothes and goods they consume. According to recent research, between 40% and 80%, but as much as 94% of their water footprints are external, and this dependency is steadily increasing. External water footprints can be traced via crops, commodities and products to economies and river basins of production in the Global South which face extreme water insecurity and climate vulnerability. Recognising the global value of water to economies is a condition to scale up finance for water, and to drive fair and sustainable water resource management globally. Concrete propositions made at the 10<sup>th</sup> Roundtable meeting included accelerating the reform of tax systems, strengthening economic policy instruments for water management and developing multilateral trade agreements.

Expected outcomes will include concrete recommendations on these themes in order to make swift and concrete progresses at global level. We will also hear from Saudi Arabia with respect to how they intend to take on financing issues in the preparation for the 11<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Saudi Arabia.

### Detailed HLP Session plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS
Introduction - 10'	Moderator	OECD Environment Director, Jo Tyndall	TBC
Keynote 10'	From Dakar to Bali Key messages from the 10 <sup>th</sup> Roundtable on Africa	Minister of Water and Sanitation of Senegal, Serigne Mbaye Thiam	TBC
Presentation 7'	Water within the global financial architecture: key messages from the GCEW	GCEW co-chair or commissioner	TBC
Presentation 7'	The global value of water in countries of the Global South	Vice-Chair of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), Executive Secretary of the African Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation (ANEW), Sareen Malik	TBC
Presentation 7'	The role of PDBs to leverage private finance and to foster public - public cooperation	AFD / Water finance coalition Or Asian Development Bank	TBC
Presentation 7'	Towards the 11 <sup>th</sup> WWF in Saudi Arabia	Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	TBC
Panel discussion 20'		All the panelists	TBC
Question & answers 20'		All the panelists & the audience	TBC
Conclusion - 5'	Moderator	OECD Environment Director, Jo Tyndall	TBC