HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DESCRIPTION(PROGRAM) FORM

10ᵗʰ WORLD WATER FORUM

This High-Level Panel Description Form is for the specified program of the session. **Please complete this form no later than 28ᵗʰ of February 2024 and send it to *hlp@worldwaterforum.org***

HLP Session Code and Title:

- **HLP20** Water Information Systems

HLP Session Co-Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

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HLP Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes:

Introduction/rationale:

- The Global Water Information System to support water, climate and land management for socioeconomic resilience, ecological sustainability and social inclusion has been identified as one of the game changers identified during the UN 2023 Water conference highlighted by the PGA at his closing statement. The closing Statement of the PGA can be found here: https://www.un.org/pga/77/2023/03/24/pga-remarks-to-the-closing-of-the-2023-un-water-conference/

- This High-Level Panel session focus on implementing ethical organizational structures and sustainable financing for the various data production/management/exploitation processes including sex-disaggregated water data and promoting stakeholder engagement and data sharing opportunities at various levels for enhancing water information systems.

- Data production/density of available data – data management including data harmonization and shared approach to best practices, finally, digitalization in the water sector and use of advanced, digital tools.

Objectives:

- To upscale and insure sustainability of water information systems that are fundamental tools for the implementation and monitoring of water policies, in expanding and improving existing water information systems to cover larger geographic areas, accommodate more data sources, enhance data accuracy and accessibility, and provide more comprehensive and valuable information for water resource management and decision-making, involving monitoring networks and data production, data quality control, open data repositories, data analysis and modelling tools, stakeholders' involvement, visualization tools, management process, dissemination mechanism, maintenance and evaluation, as integrated, accessible and user-friendly interfaces for various users, in helping decision-makers and all water management actors better informed and managed for improved water management.

Expected outcomes:

- Identifying the strategy for sustainable collaboration and stakeholder engagement for water information systems and technological innovation for addressing water related challenges that can be adopted and adapted by various countries and/or organization at various levels.
- At organisational level, creating the management structures and the sustainable financing for reinforcing the data production and implementing the integrated and shared data management principles at national and transboundary level.
- At technical level, developing the data production processes using innovative technologies such as the use of remote sensing, reinforcing the automatic data sharing processes through interoperability processes, enhancing national data management platforms on water with data integration and links with management tools as well as the production/diffusion of useful information expected for decision making and public information.

Structure:

- The 90-minute session will be moderated and include a brief presentation by the panelists, an interactive dialogue, an audience Q&A and closing remarks.

Detailed HLP Session plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
0:00 [5 mins]	Opening Remarks	UNESCO DG/ADG	
0:05 [10 mins]	Introduction/Setting the Stage + MoU Signing between UNESCO and Water4All (if possible)	Office international for water and Water4All	Context: Provide insights on Water information systems; to pay particular attention to emphasizing the benefits (if possible, what is the economic scale of these benefits)
0:10 [30 mins]	High Level Panel Discussion #1

Two topics focusing on benefits:

Promoting the Global Water Information System

Benefits of Digitalization and Improved Water Information Systems in the Water Sector | Potential Participants

- Minister MPWH Indonesia
- Minister Peru
- Minister Uganda
- FAO
- European Commission/JRC

Each participant will have 2 minutes for an introductory remark and 5 minutes in total for answers/remarks (assuming 5 participants) | Potential Topics:

As the Global Water Information System to support water, climate and land has been identified as one of the game changers during the UN 2023 Water conference, this panel should propose and discuss concrete ideas for the implementation (management structures, sustainable financing, shared data management principles).

The ideas will be compiled and submitted to the next international events (One Water Summit in September 2024).

Digitalization in the water sector and use of advanced, digital tools – very important in a Political context, as the possible benefits will be driving the political interest.

Discuss the political and economic dimension of the benefits: more precise planning and management; faster response to flood disaster reduction; improve water resources for food production; strengthen resilience in climate change adaptation; pollution prevention and improved health. |

0:45 [35 mins]	High Level Panel Discussion #2 Two topics focusing on Data Production and Data Management: Strategic Decisions to secure a) cost-efficient Data Production and b) ensuring well-functioning Data Management including promoting FAIR data principles and best practices in data sharing	Potential Participants - Minister Chile - Minister Senegal - Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye - Minister French - *To be added* Each participant will have 2 minutes for an introductory remark and 5 minutes in total for answers/remarks (assuming 5 participants)	Potential Topics: Data production/density: obviously addressing low data density could be a priority topic, this is a challenge in many places; focus could be on fast-forward tracks and implementing cost-efficient monitoring technologies, eg satellite images, eventually, government investments will be key Data management and shared approach to best practices – this is often overlooked in political discussions; strategic decisions are left to IT-technicians, who, however, often have the "Why" question in mind, instead they focus on building the IT solutions, regrettably mostly un-coordinated with others thus leading to huge costs when it comes to ensure interoperability or cleaning of data sets – but, actually, ensuring that data from many different sources can be used for many different purposes probably is the most cost-efficient way to secure sufficient data for harvesting the benefits
1:20 [5 mins]	Summary including inputs to Ministerial Process	UNESCO/ OiEau	
1:25 [5 mins]	Closing Remarks	UNESCO/Water4All	