



HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DESCRIPTION(PROGRAM) FORM

10th WORLD WATER FORUM

HLP Session Code and Title:

- **HLP7: The role of the private sector in meeting goals of SDG6**

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

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HLP Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

The private sector plays a huge role in meeting SDG6 targets – as a provider of water and sanitation services, a user of water and producer of wastewater, while it fulfils many of society’s essential needs. But businesses can put SDG6 targets at risk if they don’t manage water and wastewater appropriately and without appropriate oversight and public accountability.

There is absolute necessity for businesses to embed sustainable water use into their strategies and long-term plans, and a growing number of companies are adopting ambitious and robust public water stewardship commitments. Simultaneously, Governments and public authorities have the challenge of regulating the trade-offs of water allocation and use; between economic progress and societal and environmental protection.

This High-Level Panel examines the opportunities for collaboration between government and the private sector to solve shared water stewardship challenges and achieve shared goals. Ministers and business leaders will discuss where the right balance lies and their shared goals to ensure simultaneous economic growth and environmental and societal protection. The discussions will focus on how to collectively achieve:

- Freedom for business to innovate.
- Conditions business need to establish operations in countries and establish long-term public-private-partnerships.
- Protection for all communities and fair allocations of water resources.
- Legal and regulatory frameworks that helps to maintain public trust and confidence in both public authorities and the private sector.

The High-Level Panel will include a reflection on existing private sector commitments, for example through the Water Action Agenda, to understand how the private sector contributes to national and SDG6 targets responsibly. The discussions will be carried out through the lens of water’s multiple values - and how the private sector and governments collectively understand and contribute to the principles of valuing water. The principles include:

- (i) recognize and embrace water’s multiple values to different groups
- (ii) reconcile values and build trust
- (iii) protect the water sources
- (iv) educate to empower
- (v) invest and innovate.

The questions that the speakers will cover and will be asked to the panel, include:

- Do governments and businesses truly account for water used in the value chain? Where can regulation help improve accountability and how can the public sector better take advantage of growing private sector action on water stewardship?
- Are water resources and services truly being planned, deployed and managed effectively with full knowledge of the costs of water production – the value of water ‘hidden’ inside products and services consumed every day?
- How can authorities and regulators enable the untapped sources of value hidden inside the water and wastewater value chains to be unlocked, to catalyse even more innovation, job creation and mitigation and adaption to climate change impacts?

Objectives

- Ministers to set their expectations on private users of water to help step up progress to national water and sanitation and SDG6 goals.
- Business leaders to explain their commitments to water stewardship and discuss the role of regulatory frameworks, tools and accountability measures.
- For private sector and governments to agree further cooperation on specific aspects of policy frameworks, regulation and legislation for water stewardship.

Outcomes

- Agreement: To develop regional regulator-business partnerships to share knowledge, build capacity and expertise, that promotes working with private sector. This includes a proposal for AMCOW, AQUAFED, and other partners to launch a pilot programme in Africa.
- Declaration: Governments and the private sector should step up their efforts to support delivery of private sector stewardship commitments, with appropriate regulatory frameworks, better accountability from businesses and stronger enabling environments to attract more private capital and investment in their water and sanitation sectors.

Detailed HLP Session plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
5	Welcome	Dr Rashid Mbaziira, Executive Secretary, AMCOW	Confirmed
10 Ministers' Keynote – outlook from Africa	Introduction/framing speech - Outlook from Africa on what the continent needs from the private sector.	AMCOW President, Prof Dr Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt.	Confirmed

	- Report some progress on commitments involving the private sector in Africa.		
10 Ministers' Keynote – outlook from Asia	<p>Introduction/framing speech.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outlook from Asia on what the continent needs from the private sector - Report some progress on commitments involving the private sector in South East Asia 	Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs	TBC
10 The response from business	The voice of business – how do companies contribute to SDG6 goals through effective stewardship and what do they need from States and public authorities/regulators to deliver growth while managing natural resources	Mr. Laurent Boissier, the CEO of Danone Indonesia	TBC
<p>40 Ministers and Business Leaders Dialogue</p> <p>Panel will focus on the questions in the session description.</p> <p>Moderator: Neil Dhot, AquaFed</p>	Government Perspective	Hon Mike E. Mposha, MP Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, Zambia	Confirmed
	Government Perspective	Dr. Arafat Aljabri, Chief Contracts Management, Reliability & Local Content Officer – Saudi Water Partnership Company	Confirmed
	Private Sector: Water users' perspective	Adrian Sym, Alliance for Water Stewardship	Confirmed

	Private Sector/UN partnership perspective	Josephine Satyono, Executive Director of Indonesia Global Compact Network and Regional Network Council Chair for UN Global Compact Asia & Oceania Networks	Confirmed
	World Youth Parliament for Water Perspective	Fatou M'Bow	Confirmed
	UN Perspective	Cecilia Sharp, Director of WASH-Climate-Energy-Environment	Confirmed
5 Conclusion	Concluding remarks	Joanna Fatch, AMCOW	Confirmed