

# Navigating the Source-to-Sea Journey: Advancing Prosperity Across the Entire Water Cycle

## High Level Panel

### 10th World Water Forum

Co-coordinators: Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform),  
Mediterranean Water Institute (IME)

Wednesday 22 May 2024 | 8:30 – 10:00 am (local time)

#### Event Description

It is increasingly recognized that uncoordinated governance approaches have limited effectiveness in addressing the interlinked triple-planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. Human activities significantly impact and undermine the functioning of freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and consequently threaten the wellbeing of human societies. Focusing on integration, source-to-sea management is a game changing holistic approach that bridges sectoral and administrative boundaries, seeking to account for and balance social, environmental, and economic priorities to reap multiple benefits. It does so through highlighting the linkages between land, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems, and bringing together upstream and downstream stakeholders through coordinated governance mechanisms and responses. While its importance continues to be recognized in the 2023 UN Water Conference, 2022 UN Ocean Conference and 2022 Asia Pacific Water Summit among others, there is a need to accelerate the uptake and implementation of source-to-sea management.

This High-Level Panel represents a unique opportunity to learn how addressing interlinkages across the full land-freshwater-ocean continuum is key to shared prosperity. It explores how source-to-sea action can be accelerated by exchanging experiences from the implementation of holistic approaches at global, national, and sub-national levels in different contexts. Panellists will discuss progress in upstream and downstream collaborative action and explore opportunities to improve coordination in management practices to support sustainability, increase resilience, enhance livelihoods, and realize green and blue economic priorities in source-to-sea systems. As countries are challenged to meet multiple commitments such as climate mitigation and adaptation, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the plastics treaty currently under negotiation, source-to-sea management offers a pathway to actions that creates co-benefits across these ambitions. Lessons learned in the Baltic, Asia Pacific and other regions will be showcased and replicable and scalable best practices will be discussed. The High-Level Panel will highlight commitments related to source-to-sea management registered in the Water Action Agenda and during the 2022 UN Ocean Conference and discuss ways to accelerate and expand upon them. The outcomes of this event are anticipated to lead to revisions or the formulation of new and ongoing commitments to source-to-sea management

that will be carried forward to the Stockholm World Water Week 2024, 2025 UN Ocean Conference and the next UN Water Conference in 2026.

**Objectives:**

1. To highlight the important interlinkages between SDGs 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15 among others, and discuss actions across the whole water cycle with co-benefits for these goals.
2. To emphasize the critical importance of holistic multi-level governance in addressing global sustainable development challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.
3. To review possible collaborative action and game changing measures that can accelerate the adoption of source-to-sea management at all levels.
4. To inspire voluntary commitments to be carried from the World Water Forum onward to the 3rd UN Ocean Conference and beyond.

**Expected outcomes:**

1. Greater understanding of the need for and benefits of source-to-sea management and the necessary steps to accelerate its adoption.
2. Increased recognition of the importance of the holistic source-to-sea management approach in addressing interlinked global challenges.
3. Greater commitment to strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and upstream-downstream cooperation.
4. Expanded involvement in the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management and joint activities at the global, national, and local levels.

**Draft detailed programme**

<b>ESTIMATED TIMING</b>	<b>ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE</b>	<b>SPEAKERS</b>	<b>SPEAKERS STATUS</b>
3 min	Welcome, Chair	Mr. Tom Panella, Chair, Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management	Confirmed
7 min	Opening statement	Mr. Mohammad Zainal Fatah, Secretary General, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Indonesia	TBC
5 min	Linkage to UN Ocean Conference	Mr Olivier Poivre d'Arvor Special Envoy of the President of France to the UN Ocean Conference	Confirmed, video
10 min	Keynote	Ms Susan Gardner, Director, Ecosystem Division, United	TBC

		Nations Environment Programme	
55 min	Panel discussion Moderator: Ruth Mathews, Coordinator, Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management, Senior Manager, Stockholm International Water Institute	Mr. Nazmul Ahsan, Secretary Water Resources, Bangladesh Dr Cheikh Tidiane Dieye, Minister, Hydraulics and Sanitation, Senegal Barbara Pompili, Chair, Water Governance Initiative, OECD, Special Envoy of President Macron for the One Water Summit Ville Tavio, Minister, Foreign Trade and Development, Finland Julia Manning, Senior Environmental Adviser, Sustainable Finance, EBRD Dr. Winai Wangpimool, Director of Foreign Affairs, Office of the National Water Resources, Thailand Dr Musonda Mumba, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	Confirmed TBC Confirmed Confirmed TBC Confirmed Confirmed
7 min	Closing remarks	Ms. Meike van Ginneken, Water Envoy, Kingdom of the Netherlands	TBC
3 min	Final closing, Chair		

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