



SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 28th of February 2024.

**The session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Session Code and Title:

T6B2 New interventions and integrative approaches for solving complex challenges.

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

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

The purpose of this session is to illustrate how organisational innovation is being put into practice at multiple scales, from the community level to the regional and international scale. We will consider how new interventions and integrative approaches are better equipped to solve water security challenges, and practical means of embedding and scaling these new approaches into common practice. The session will feature a diverse range of case studies from the International Water Management Institute, Stockholm Environment Institute, Speak Up Africa, Water Research Commission (South Africa), the African Water and Sanitation Association, and Lydec (Morocco).

OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES

- Official launch of the Africa Testbed Network by WRC and AfWASA. The objectives are to raise awareness of this exciting new network, share how others can be involved, and gather expressions of interest from those who wish to receive further information.
- Sharing learnings from putting innovative approaches into practice (i.e., in terms of community-led approaches, communications campaigns, youth inclusion, collaborative platforms, accelerating the uptake of technology and innovation within utilities)
- Distilling learnings into a set of principles for collective action

CONTEXT

What are the 'complex challenges'?

We are not on track to meet SDG6 by 2030. New approaches are needed but there are barriers to realising them at scale. Key challenges include:

- Mistrust amongst local-level actors (e.g., regarding water consumption, data access, appropriate policy and finance).
- Mobilising collective action at scale: water is highly localised; scalable approaches are needed that are able to attract sustainable funding and achieve long-term benefits whilst also being sensitive to contextual factors.
- Legitimising local knowledges, expertise and experiences and meaningfully integrating it within decision- and policy-making. Scaling up localised expertise on water management to ecosystem/ watershed levels.
- Bridging gaps across science / policy / practice; across local / national / international levels; across disciplines, sectors, and geographies; and within organisations.

- Finding appropriate institutional channels for organisational innovation to be shared, driven, and/or supported (financially, technically, institutionally). Balancing collaboration and existing approaches with innovation and positive disruption.

What is 'organisational innovation'?

The concept of 'Innovative Organisational Approaches' (Topic 6B) encapsulates multiple ideas and processes. Broadly, it is about new forms and approaches to knowledge, governance, communications, technology, project-work, and organisational structures, that seek to overcome blockages in current ways of working, and deliver further and faster for water security.

The need for innovation recognises the fact that the 'status quo' will not deliver water security at the speed and scale necessary. Organisational innovation may often be framed in contrast to 'formal' or 'conventional' institutional structures, processes, and approaches; though of course innovation can also occur from within these institutions.

Common characteristics and concepts relating to organisational innovation include:

- Focus on networks, collaboration, and systems; breaking siloes
- Embedding initiatives into long-term decision-making / policies / other outcomes.
- Sensitivity to the local scale, whilst seeking impact beyond the bounds of singular projects.
- A proactive rather than a reactive approach, considering how to build long-term and sustainable systems, instead of quick fixes.
- Innovative finance
- A people-centred approach, instead of one that takes technology as the starting point; utilisation of technology and digital methods in a meaningful, effective, and equitable manner.
- Diversity and inclusion (of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, affected communities, marginalised groups).
- Decolonising development approaches and water policy.
- Participatory policy- and decision-making; collective action.
- New approaches / lenses e.g. a 'Commons' approach, justice, human rights-based approaches

Detailed Session plan :

ESTIMATE D TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
5 min	Opening remarks	Dr Alex Money / Bethan Adams (Watermarq)	OK
10 min	Case study on the Transformative Futures for Water Security Initiative and the establishment of collaboration projects in Asia (Asia-Pacific representation): International Water Management Institute	Mark Dubois & Raunak Shrestha (youth representative)	OK
10 min	Case study on citizen science for identifying WASH needs in Mexico city (Americas representation): Stockholm Environment Institute	Nhilce N. Esquivel Gómez & Carla Liera Martinez	OK
10 min	Case study on the Golden Sludge Campaign & CAPOOP Alliance: Speak Up Africa	Astou Fall & Roxane Fian	OK
10 min	Presentation: Water Research Commission & AfWASA - launch of the Africa Testbed Network	Dr Jennifer Molwantwa & AfWASA representative	TBC
25 min	Panel on how utilities can accelerate the uptake of technology and innovation to deliver water & sanitation services: Lydec, Water Research Commission & AfWASA	Ingrid Pechell-Abdarazzak (Lydec-part of the Moroccan official delegation), Dr Valerie Naidoo (WRC) & AfWASA representative	TBC
20 min	Moderated Q&A	Dr Alex Money	OK