

Human Rights sessions at World Water Week 2022

The theme of World Water Week 2022 is *Seeing the Unseen: The Value of Water*, where the true value of water will be explored from varying perspectives. The week offers over 300 sessions, covering a diverse range of water-related topics. In this event programme, SIWI's champions of the Human Rights-Based Approach have hand-picked the sessions which incorporate human rights, ranging from proven ROIs for sustainable WASH delivery to the need for clear communication about science, and much more.



TUESDAY 23 AUGUST

13:00-14:20 | ONLINE

Governing groundwater: Achieving the SDGs through accelerating inclusion and participation

Governing groundwater is complex. Achieving equitable and sustainable development, in the context of climate change and the multitude of competing needs, requires participatory, inclusive governance approaches. This session is part of a series linking to the Groundwater Summit and will provide critical input for the UN 2023 Water Conference. It will raise awareness on how involvement of groundwater and aquifer users as well as wider stakeholder engagement can bring to reach SDG 6 and interlinked goals.

[International Water Resources Association](#) | [IW:LEARN](#) | [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia](#) | [UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility](#) | [UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme](#) | [United Nations Development Programme](#)

13:00-14:20 | ONLINE

Mobilizing actions for accelerating universal access to safely managed sanitation

The progress towards universal access to safely managed sanitation is alarmingly off track and it is estimated that efforts need to be quadrupled to achieve the set target by 2030. This session will showcase the actions required to promote and achieve universal access to safely managed sanitation, and will demonstrate the need for bold and urgent actions necessary for achieving the full ambition of SDG. It will be a highly interactive session with inputs from key sector partners, panel discussions and open dialogue.

[LIXIL](#) | [United Nations Children's Fund](#) | [United Nations Human Settlements Programme](#) | [University of Technology Sydney](#) | [World Bank Group](#) | [World Health Organization](#)

13:00-14:20 | ONLINE

Water: key to a resilient and sustainable Asia-Pacific

In the diverse and rapidly growing Asia and the Pacific, water connects people and nature in complex ways, from Asia's megacities to its low-lying Pacific atolls. To ensure a sustainable future for the region's growing populations, which can adapt to the impacts of climate change, sustainable economic growth must be balanced with the protection and restoration of water and ecosystem resources. The session explores the connecting role of water, which underpins sustainable human development, climate resilience, and ecosystem health in Asia and the Pacific through diverse case studies.

[Asia-Pacific Water Forum](#) | [International Water Centre](#) | [International Water Management Institute](#) | [Korea Water Forum](#) | [UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific](#)

WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST

11:30-12:50 | ONLINE

Hearing the unheard: mutual accountability to realise WASH/ Water rights

This session intends to amplify the voices of disadvantaged groups for whom the realisation of their human right to water and sanitation is complicated, as they are forced to live in places where they have no legal status: refugees, those living in informal settlements or under closed civic space etc. This session will listen to key messages and recommendations from six of these groups. Discussions in break-out groups will explore how different stakeholders can commit and be mutually accountable to act upon them. The key results will be shared as input for roadmap for realization of HRWS.

[Abangan Iran](#) | [End Water Poverty](#) | [Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network](#) | [Pastoral Women Alliance](#) | [Rural Water Supply Network](#) | [Simavi](#) | [United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

13:00-14:20 | ONLINE

Market-based programming in humanitarian water supply interventions

This session will present evidence of how humanitarian WASH responses, using local water market systems, can help build sustainable access to an equitable and affordable safe water supply. The findings of a study, commissioned by GWC Cash and Markets Technical Working Group (TwiG), will be presented and discussed throughout the session, which include a systematic review of practices and evidence of Market-Based Programming in the water sector, with the aim of addressing barriers of using market-based modalities at scale.

[Global WASH Cluster](#) | [Save the Children](#) | [The German WASH Network](#) | [United Nations Children's Fund](#)

13:00-14:20 | ONLINE

Water and Human Rights, Unlocked: a guide for water-intensive industries

We believe solutions to water insecurity must center the consideration of water as a human right. Yet, in water-intensive industries, stakeholders are struggling to integrate and respect the human right to water. The right's multidimensionality is difficult to articulate. The session will begin with a framing exercise where audience members outline current challenges, moderated by a leading legal scholar and major industry actor. During a breakout exercise, participants will use the framework to assess potential impacts to the right in a fictitious scenario drawn from real cases of interactions between water-intensive industries and local communities.

[BHP](#) | [University of Notre Dame](#)

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST

15:30-16:50 | ONLINE

Citizen voices: is participatory decision making a dream?

Citizen participation in the decision-making process is a key lever to ensure progress in the water and sanitation sector, as well as the achievement of SDG 6. Local realities must be linked to national and international dialogues where policies are made and resources allocated. Through the voices of stakeholders from civil society, institutions and academia, this session will bring together positive experiences and inspiring tools to achieve inclusive WASH services and effective accountability mechanisms. It will highlight the challenges and conditions for meaningful participation in decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels.

[Action Against Hunger](#) | [Coalition Eau](#)

17:00-18:20 | ONLINE

Groundwater: bridging science and policy

The complexity of groundwater science calls for innovative approaches in the way scientists and practitioners communicate their findings to policy-makers, as well as changes in the realm of policy that facilitate interaction with science. Groundwater literacy and dialogue will support well-informed science-based policy, thus enabling sustainable and resilient development. This session aims to identify ways to facilitate communication, bridge the differing values, and ensure that the entire process involving research and well-informed and science-based decision-making is inclusive, human rights-based and gender sensitive, benefiting sustainable and equitable development.

[Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#) | [International Association of Hydrogeologists](#) | [International Water Management Institute](#) | [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia](#) | [UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme](#) | [Water Cycle Innovation](#) | [Water Science Policy](#)

MONDAY 29 AUGUST

09:00-10:30 | ONLINE & ON-SITE, MUSIC HALL

Private sector human rights due diligence approach to WASH

In December 2021, Nestlé launched its new Human Rights Framework and Roadmap, building on more than 10-years of experience in assessing, addressing and reporting on human rights risks across the company's value chain. One of the salient issues identified was the Right to Water and Sanitation. This session will highlight the importance of applying a due diligence approach to WASH and how this can best be applied in practice, while looking at the role of companies within the UNGPs. Nestlé will publish the 'white label' outcomes of the session as a guidance tool for companies and other stakeholders.

Nestlé

11:00-12:30 | ONLINE & ON-SITE, ROOM 357

A compelling case for business investment in wash

At a global level the economic case for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is well established, however at the company level, until now, evidence has been largely anecdotal and unquantified. This session summarises three years of research and presents a clear ROI business model with benefits that include: compliance, increased worker health, morale, and productivity, as well as supplier loyalty and lower levels of worker attrition. WaterAid will provide a credible, compelling and conclusive argument for investment by companies in WASH for their workers reveal the challenges and insights around defining a ROI for WASH, while company partners will share their projects.

Diageo | GAP Inc | HSBC Ltd | Twinings | Unilever | WASH4Work | WaterAid

TUESDAY 30 AUGUST

14:00-15:30 | ONLINE & ON-SITE, MUSIC HALL

Rights to water and food in freshwater resource allocation

This session brings WASH, irrigation and other water sectors together to explore integrity in water law, in particular statutory protection of indigenous communities and universal core minimum resource rights to water and food. This will unravel intersections between water law, constitutions, land and resource law, customary law, and human rights. Conceptualizing a bottom-up legal empowerment of the most vulnerable, the common prioritization of water resource rights for domestic uses is expanded to water resource rights for farmers', pastoralists and fishers' basic livelihoods. Two overlapping legal pathways are debated and the session will conclude by setting out a way forward to forge consensus on how to address truly sustainable water tenure.

Environmental Law Institute | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | International Water Management Institute | Rural Water Supply Network | The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology | Water Integrity Network | Water Research Commission

14:00-15:30 | ONLINE & ON-SITE, ROOM 353

Creating New Champions: enhancing links to achieve SDG 6

This session considers recent research into how the water and sanitation sector could interact more effectively with other developmental areas. Just as human rights are indivisible and interdependent, so too are the Sustainable Development Goals. The session reveals effective messaging that resonates with other sectors, and how to persuade Heads of State/Government about the 'value' of water. The findings from SWA-commissioned research will be presented, into how experts in six other areas perceive water and sanitation, including tested, targeted messaging and positioning, which resonates more effectively with them. The session will conclude with an in-depth panel discussion and questions from the audience.

IRC | Sanitation and Water for All | Stockholm International Water Institute | UN-Water | USAID Center for Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene

THURSDAY 01 SEPTEMBER

14:00-15:30 | ONLINE & ON-SITE, PILLAR HALL

Value of water in times of armed conflicts

Water and sanitation should never be used as a means of warfare. However, water resources and water infrastructure are often used as strategic targets, and their control as a power tactic in armed conflict. Vulnerable groups such as children and youth are usually the ones most affected. Via topical examples, this session stresses the imperative to protect the human rights to water and sanitation, water resources, and water infrastructure in armed conflict and other forms of violent conflicts. Alongside leading international experts, the session gives the floor to junior professionals, to engage in debate and deliver messages for the convenors and audience to take forward.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe | CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation | Finnish Environment Institute | Geneva Water Hub | Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland | United Nations Children's Fund

ABOUT WORLD WATER WEEK

World Water Week is a conference for people who understand that **tackling the greatest challenges of our time often starts with water**. The annual programme covers a **broad range of topics**, from food security and health to agriculture, technology, biodiversity, and the climate crisis. **Each year has its own theme** which is explored from different perspectives within the comprehensive programme.

World Water Week attracts a diverse and inspiring mix of **decision-makers, business leaders, city planners, activists, and researchers from all over the world**. Many are trailblazers who have found new and smarter ways to manage water. People join the conference to **share new ideas, learn from each other and collaborate on innovative solutions**. World Water Week is also an **important meeting place** for policymakers and institutions to **accelerate progress in international processes related to water, development, and climate**.