BARRIERS TO WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION AT THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

Nine months ahead of the UN 2023 Conference, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network identified the event as a strategic space, and pre-emptively built mechanisms to identify and erode barriers that would prevent women’s participation and inclusion. The following barriers were identified and acted upon.

- **Financial**
  Last minute allocation of financial support affected available time to support visa processes.

- **Political**
  Visa on arrival agreements with the US favored North American, European, and other nationals, leaving others to face visa barriers.

- **Conflict**
  Those in conflict zones could not leave countries.

- **Accreditation**
  Only individuals of accredited organizations could participate, and until December 2022, the accreditation process did not provide include River Basin Organizations.

- **Connectivty**
  Only a handful of sessions were live-streamed and lacked interactivity, while some others lacked translation services.

- **Space**
  Some sessions extended last-minute invitations to women and Indigenous peoples while other sessions elevated the usual speakers and failed to create space for diverse voices.

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