

Statement by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)¹

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Preparatory Process for the 2026 UN Water Conference
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Excellencies, colleagues and friends,

Water is not just a sector — **it is a driver of peace, resilience, and sustainable development.**

SIWI and ICWC congratulate the co-chairs and welcome the inclusive process behind the six proposed Interactive Dialogues. We are especially encouraged to see World Water Week recognized as a key platform and remain committed to strengthening it ahead of 2026. We urge that water's full systemic role be reflected across the Dialogues — particularly its connection to **climate adaptation, food systems, urban resilience, and macroeconomic stability.**

This includes the enabling role of water in Dialogue 3, “*Water for the Planet*”, where green water, atmospheric flows, and hydrated soils are part of a planetary system that transcends boundaries. Recognizing water as a common global good is essential to global stability and resilience. Water must be seen not only as a resource under pressure, but as a strategic asset for cooperation and progress.

We Must Step Out of the Water Box

The process must also break silos. The 2026 agenda should align with global frameworks on **climate, biodiversity, and finance.** Initiatives like the Water for Climate Pavilion and European Water Resilience Strategy **offer critical bridges between sectors and summits** from COP30 to the post-2030 SDG agenda.

Water Diplomacy is a Strategic Tool for Peace and Resilience

Informal dialogues, joint research and capacity development, can help foster trust and shared solutions. SIWI stands ready to support efforts that bridge divide and strengthen regional stability.

Inclusion Must Be Real, Not Symbolic

Youth, Indigenous Peoples, women, and local communities must help shape both process and outcomes.

Excellencies,

The road to 2026 **must empower transformative action.** SIWI is committed to advancing this with **knowledge, partnerships, and convening power.**

Thank you.

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¹ Statement on behalf of SIWI and ICWC (International Centre for Water Cooperation)