



UN-WATER: THE ROAD TO RIO, WATER IN THE GREEN ECONOMY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

Special event: Discussion panel

Date: 16 November 2011

Time: 10:00 - 13:00

Convenor: UN-Water

Organizers: UNW-DPAC with the collaboration of UNW-DPC

Venue: World Conference Center Bonn, Hall F & G

BACKGROUND

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), 4-6 June 2012, is one of the most important events in the UN agenda. The first conference or 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 summoned representatives of almost all the nations of the world to create a shared vision for reconciling economic growth with environmental protection and building a more equal world.

Progress is uneven. Today one out of five people in the world - 1.4 billion - currently lives on \$1.25 or less a day and almost a billion go hungry every day. The world is facing major and overlapping global crises: the economic and financial crisis, accelerating environmental degradation, water scarcity and pollution, and emerging impacts of a changing climate. Water and especially sanitation services for the poor are lagging behind in key regions of the world. All of these challenges impede efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve an equitable society.

During the UN-Water session, some of the key expectations that specific Member States have for water and about the role the UN is expected to play towards Rio+20, will be discussed and presented. UN-Water members and partners will discuss the UN-Water messages and will showcase key initiatives that have been important in supporting the role of water in the development agenda and what we can expect for water in the Rio+20 conference.

Moderator



Mr. Johan Kuylenstierna,
Stockholm Environment
Institute (SEI)

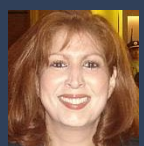
Panel 1



Mr. Zafar Adeel
Chair of UN-Water
United Nations University (UNU)



Mr. Olcay Unver
World Water Assessment
Programme (WWAP)



Ms. Kenza Robinson
United Nations Department of
Economic and Social Affairs
UNDESA



Mr. Anders Berntell
Stockholm International
Water Institute (SIWI)



Mr. Alexander Muller
Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)

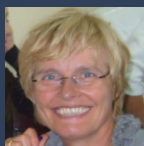


Mr. Joakim Harlin
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

Panel 2



Ms. Josefina Maestu
UN-Water Decade Programme
on Advocacy and Communica-
tion (UNW-DPAC)



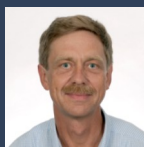
Ms. Alice Bouman
Women for Water Partnership
(WfWP)



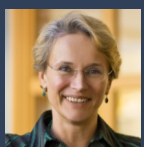
Mr. Bert Diphoom
UN-HABITAT



Mr. Robert Bos
World Health Organization
(WHO)



Mr. Peter Bjoernsen
United Nations Environment
Programme (UNEP-DHI)



Ms. Ania Grobicki
Global Water Partnership (GWP)

PROGRAMME

10:00 - 10:30 **Opening Session (30')**
Political Expectations for Rio
Key messages from Member States

10:30 - 11:30 **First panel discussion (60')**
Water in the development agenda
Momentum has been building to highlight water as a priority issue for Rio+20. UN-Water keynote speech will present the main messages of UN-Water for Rio+20 Summit which highlight the importance of sustainable water management and the sustainable provision of adequate drinking water and sanitation services for successfully achieving a green economy.

Keynote: Zafar Adeel, Chair UN-Water, United Nations University (UNU)

Panellists:

- Olcay Unver, World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)
- Kenza Robinson, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- Anders Berntell, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
- Alexander Muller, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Joakim Harlin, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 - 13:00 **Second panel discussion (60')**
How are we heading for Rio, the MDGs and beyond
UN-Water has already been contributing to the process of moving to action. UN-Water keynote speech will present the main messages from the UN-Water Toolbox on water in the green economy in practice.

Keynote: Josefina Maestu, UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)

Panellists:

- Alice Bouman: Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)
- Bert Diphoom, UN-HABITAT
- Robert Bos, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Peter Bjoernsen, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-DHI)
- Ania Grobicki, Global Water Partnership (GWP)