

## UNFCCC COP 25

### Concept Note SDG 6 Roundtable: Building a Resilient Future Through Water

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

9 December 2019  
16:30 - 18:00

Organised by:  
UNFCCC, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Alliance for Global  
Water Adaptation (AGWA)

With the support of:  
Business Alliance for Water and Climate, FAO, Global Alliances for Water and  
Climate, World Water Council, Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate

## MPGCA SDG Roundtable: SDG 6 and Climate Action Building a Resilient Future Through Water

### **Description:**

The UN Secretary General this year placed climate action front and centre as part of the Sustainable Development agenda, urging the global community to substantially increase and accelerate efforts to achieve the goal of a 1.5°C future. In parallel, UN Member States issued a Political Declaration on Sustainable Development that speaks unequivocally about the threat of climate change and environmental degradation and calls out as an immediate and urgent priority the task of mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as well as the promotion of resilience.

In this important global moment, it is crucial to understand that the climate crisis is also a water crisis because climate change is primarily felt through water. Increased climate variability will affect the availability of water, in both quantity and quality, and expose already vulnerable populations and ecosystems to even greater risk. Simply put, to deal with the consequences of climate change is to deal with the consequences of water change.

But water is not merely a passive indicator of a changing climate. It is a catalyst for action and a climate solution. When water's availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation are ensured, as set forth in the targets under SDG 6, water can function as a driver for our collective pursuit of an integrated and transformative global agenda. Its interconnectedness across the SDGs -- and thus across systems such as sustainable economies, food, energy, and urban development -- necessitates integrated solutions found in resilient water management and governance that can set countries on the pathway to a sustainable, low-carbon future.

This is especially evident in the case of climate action. Resilient water management not only contributes to climate adaptation, it also has the potential to mitigate climate change, and it is crucial to achieving the objectives of the UNFCCC's Paris Climate Agreement. This roundtable aims to make concrete the interlinkages between sustainable water and sanitation management and climate change in order to spotlight water solutions for ambitious and transformative climate action.

### **Objective of the event towards the following issues:**

#### ***Pre-2020 action:***

In this roundtable, we aim to identify and demonstrate how integrated, holistic, efficient, effective, equitable, resilient and sustainable water solutions can ensure the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and ensure that parties reach the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. It will feature examples of progress to date on a diverse range of issues relating to SDG6 and other water related targets, while simultaneously being part of climate action implementation to deliver a just, prosperous and low-carbon future.

Some key messages:

- 1) Strengthened water governance is key to successful adaptation and mitigation solutions. Water can serve as a catalyst for peace and cooperation at different levels and between sectors, ensure inclusiveness, and develop collaboration and partnerships;
- 2) Investments into water-related solutions for adaptation and mitigation actions can offer a strong return on investment;
- 3) Water is key to resilient landscapes and societies. Water should be at the center of sustainable agriculture and food production, sustainable forest and landscape management, and urban water resilience, through source-to-sea actions that improve management of land, water, coastal and marine linkages;
- 4) Poverty alleviation and climate justice require the protection of and solutions that address ecosystems such as wetlands, clean water and sanitation and reduction of water-related disaster risk;
- 5) Innovative water management solutions can contribute to the circular economy and to sustainable energy generation and consumption.

***Climate Action Pathway/Yearbook of Global Climate Action/Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA) / 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit***

We will use this event to make direct linkages to the Global Commission's Water Action Track and as well as other UNCAS initiatives that strongly link to water including: Nature-based solutions, resilience and adaptation, cities and infrastructure. The aim is to enhance the NDCs and NAPs and bring these initiatives more fully into the MPGCA and NAZCA processes.