

## UN 2023 Water Conference 22 -24 March, New York

### Key events of the OECD Water Governance Initiative

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#### Thursday 23 March

##### **10-year anniversary of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI)** *18:30 / [Austrian Cultural Forum, New York](#)*

This anniversary event will take members on a journey of the WGI's history, from the Initiative's first steps to recent achievements, while also looking at how the WGI can navigate the waters of the coming decade.

##### **OECD speakers:**

- Barbara Pompili, Chair of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, French Member of Parliament and former Minister for the Ecological Transition of France (speaker)
- Oriana Romano, Head of Unit, Water Governance and Circular Economy (speaker)
- Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division (moderator)

#### Friday 24 March

##### **Side Event: Localising the Blue Economy: A City-Basin Approach** *08:00-09:30 / Conference room 8, UNHQ / [Agenda](#)*

Organised by the OECD Water Governance Programme, this event will gather Ministers and executive leaders of international organisations to take stock of initiatives, accelerators and concrete actions and commitments to foster resilient, inclusive, sustainable and circular blue economies while enhancing water security in cities and basins.

##### **OECD speakers:**

- Barbara Pompili, Chair of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, French Member of Parliament and former Minister for the Ecological Transition of France (speaker)
- Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division (moderator)

##### **Side Event: A city-basin approach to water security in Africa: Solutions and commitments**

*14:00-15:15 / Conference room 4, UNHQ / [Agenda](#)*

Organised by UCLG-Africa and the OECD, this event is about leveraging city-basin governance to boost water security in African municipalities and unlocking their potential to achieve SDG 6 through the [Action Plan of Mayors, Local and Regional Governments for Water Security](#).

##### **OECD speakers:**

- Barbara Pompili, Chair of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, French Member of Parliament and former Minister for the Ecological Transition of France (speaker)
- Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division (moderator)

## Events with OECD speakers

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### Monday 20 March

- **Side Event: Water and Heritage: Connecting Past, Present and Future**

09:30 / Harlem Stage, 150 Convent Avenue, New York City

The event aims to enhance public and professional awareness and reinforce the integration between water and heritage, by offering guidelines, mechanisms and examples on how to integrate the insights coming from the past for sustainable future water management.

**OECD speaker:** Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division

### Tuesday 21 March

- **Cities Solve, Cities Deliver: Accelerating water action for cities**

21 March, 15:00-19:30 / Netherlands Water House, 666 3rd Avenue, New York City

Co-organised by the Dutch Government, Deltares and Resilient Cities Network, this event will bring together city officials, national government representatives, community representatives, private sector partners, academics, research organisations, artists and donors to discuss challenges cities face to address water-related risks.

**OECD speaker:** Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division

- **Striving for a circular economy in a climate-resilient world: The critical role of wastewater**

21 March, 16:30-18:30 / Alliance française, 22 E 60<sup>th</sup> St #1077, New York City

This event will take a fresh look at SDG 6.3.1 and align ideas and approaches to support better, more inclusive wastewater policies and practices in the global efforts towards reaching the 2030 Agenda.

**OECD speaker:** Barbara Pompili, Chair of the OECD Water Governance Initiative

### Wednesday 22 March

- **Water Safe Cities: A blueprint for climate action**

10:00-12:00 / Danish Consulate, 666 Third Avenue, New York City

This event led by C40 Cities will see experts delve into the various ways that floods, droughts, and storms can adversely affect communities' and cities' economic growth. Additionally, they will explore how cities can strengthen their climate resilience, enhancing their water safety and security by adopting an integrated and holistic approach to water management.

**OECD speaker:** Juliette Lassman, Policy Analyst, Water Governance and Circular Economy

- **Side Event: Incorporating non-conventional water resources into Integrated Water Resources Management**

13:00-14:30 / Instituto Cervantes, 211 East 49th Street, New York City

The objective of this high-level event organised by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition of Spain, is to discuss and provide key messages for stepping up the role of non-

conventional resources as key assets for achieving water security and to impulse research, capacity building, and implementation initiatives.

**OECD speaker:** Barbara Pompili, Chair of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, French Member of Parliament and former Minister for the Ecological Transition of France

- **Side Event: Accelerating Women's Inclusion in Water**

14:00-15:15 / Conference room B, UNHQ

This event led by the Asian Development Bank will focus on addressing gender inequalities in water, including access to safely managed water supply and sanitation; decision-making on water resources; and representation in roles of leadership as policymakers and professionals.

**OECD speaker:** Oriana Romano, Head of Unit, Water Governance and Circular Economy

- **Local and Regional Governments Day - Panel discussion on 'Renewing water governance and management'**

15:00-16:00 / Diplomat Ballroom, Millennium Hilton One UN Plaza

Led by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), this thematic day will bring together local and regional governments to discuss the contribution to the UN Water Conference and the UN Water Agenda, with the aim of advocating for a renewed water governance that involves all stakeholders, guided by the local sphere and that involves all levels of government in the protection of water ecosystems.

**OECD speaker:** Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division

- **A new generation of urban climate solutions**

15:00-16:30 / Swedish Permanent Representation

Led by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), this event will give space to representatives from cities and stakeholders that have successfully harnessed the pivotal role of freshwater to increase climate security and urban resilience, with co-benefits such as enhanced biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, and resilient livelihoods.

**OECD speaker:** Juliette Lassman, Policy Analyst, Water Governance and Circular Economy

- **Side Event: The water-climate nexus: Governance as a key driver for climate resilient water and sanitation services**

18:30-19:45 / Conference room 5, UNHQ

This side event led by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition of Portugal aims to showcase good practices and share lessons learnt by States, international organisations, donors, regulators and other key players in water and sanitation services, promoting the adoption of effective governance solutions to ensure climate resilient services and attract the necessary funding of financial institutions.

**OECD speaker:** Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division

Thursday 23 March

- **Special Event 2: Reducing Inequalities, Implementing Human Rights**

10:00-13:00 / Conference room 2, UNHQ

Special Event led by African Youth Parliament for Water, Aquafed, FILAC, International Indian Treaty Council, UN OHCHR, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Water and Sanitation and Women for Water Partnership. The overall aim of this Special Event is to influence Member States and other decision-makers to prioritise the reduction of inequalities through inclusivity, human rights-based approaches and integrated water resources and community-based governance and management to advance SDG 6 and other SDGs.

**OECD speaker:** Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division

- **Side Event: Stronger Together: Building resilience and prosperity through integrated and evidence-based management of the Ocean-Water continuum**

13:15-14:30 / Conference room 2, UNHQ

This Side Event will explore the interconnected nature and critical importance of the land - freshwater - coastal - ocean continuum, and the necessary steps and actions to systematically address the drivers of ecosystem degradation in an integrated manner.

**OECD speaker:** Oriana Romano, Head of Unit Water Governance and Circular Economy, OECD CFE (keynote speaker)

- **Side Event: Focus on National Leadership for Inclusive Water Governance: Call for Renewed Water Action and Commitments**

14:00-15:15 / ECOSOC, UNHQ

The side event led by the Department of Water and Sanitation of South Africa will have countries call for enhanced water action and renewed commitments and explain their visions, including investment plans and frameworks for transformative water action.

**OECD speaker:** Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division

- **Special Event 3: The Economics of Water: transforming governance to secure a sustainable, just and prosperous future**

15:00-18:00 / Conference room 2, UNHQ

This jointly chaired open dialogue of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW) will initiate a global consultative process that will contribute to the final GCEW report in 2024. On this occasion, the key findings and provocations of the GCEW will be presented and discussed with the Major Groups and other stakeholders, as well as other collaborating organisations.

**OECD speaker:** Barbara Pompili, Chair of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, French Member of Parliament and former Minister for the Ecological Transition of France