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## 8<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM YOUTH DELEGATES REPORT

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June 2018

## INTRODUCTION

This report covers the activities led by the World Water Council Youth Delegates Program at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (March 18 to 23, 2018, Brasília/Brazil) and the Youth Forum hosted by the Citizens Village (March 17 to 18, 2018).



Tatiana Silva (Brazil), the Youth Delegate representing the Americas, led the activities alongside the young professionals Marceline Attegoua (Togo/Africa), Karishma Asoodani (India/Asia-Pacific), Niel de Jong (Netherlands/Europe) and Kevin Discua (Honduras/Americas), from left to right in the photo. The document is structured around the key elements of the agenda related to the Youth Delegates Program (YDP) and the activities that the present Youth Delegate participated in.

## YOUTH FORUM | MARCH 17 TO 18 @CITIZENS VILLAGE



The Citizens Village promoted alongside the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum as an open and free of charge water space within the Citizens Process for the general audience, welcomed the Youth Forum. The YDP participated in the Youth Task Force for the Youth Forum and led the Session 5 - *Role of youth in achieving SDG 6* (March 18, 13:30 - 16:30), which presented the outputs of consultation processes linking youth with the SDG 6.

Session 5 served as a platform to showcase the **Youth Satellite Events for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**, global strategy facilitated and co-designed by the YDP in partnership with global and regional youth groups and organisations that resulted in over 20 events all over the world, connecting more than 1000 young people in 12 countries. The young people engaged in the Youth Satellite Events that had the chance to be present at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum were invited as speakers and shared with the audience the Youth Statements and audiovisual outputs generated in the regional and local Satellite Events under their leadership. There were contributions from young people who led Satellite Events in countries such as Taiwan, Peru, USA, México, Cameroon, Ghana, Bolívia, Nicaragua, Italy and Brazil, where the Youth Delegate Tatiana Silva coordinated a "Youth Warm-up to the Forum" on March 3<sup>rd</sup> with the engagement of youth groups from 8 cities in the country.

The Session also welcomed to the stage representatives from the youth-led organisations Water Youth Network (WYN) and the World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW) to speak on their experiences and concrete examples in working on youth positioning in governance processes, in order to encourage youth attending the Youth Forum to engage in the drafting of the Youth Statement and understand its role and relevance.

### **Youth Statement**

Tatiana Silva represented the YDP at the Drafting Committee set for the Youth Statement elaborated during the Youth Forum (see Annex 1). She collected inputs from the Satellite Events and facilitated the contributions of the representatives of the youth-led organisations connected in the strategy, with the support of UNESCO-IHP representative at the YDP, Nicole Webley. Some strategic content advocated by the young people related to capacity building and seed investment for youth led innovations holding the potential to help achieve the SDG 6.

### **SATELLITE EVENTS COORDINATION MEETING | MARCH 19 @FOOD COURT**

Making strategic use of the opportunity to have young people from the Youth Satellite Events reunited in Brasília, Tatiana Silva, the Young Professionals and Nicole Webley (UNESCO-IHP) conducted a 2 hours meeting to allow the focal points for the Youth Satellite Events to connect, align their participation in Forum events to follow and discuss the next steps towards our youth-to-youth **e-book on youth and SDG 6 planned to compile and share the Satellite Events experience** and the powerful role of youth in building a better water future for all. The timeline agreed in regards to the publication is:

**May - June:** Process and consolidate outcomes of Satellite Events; Translate Youth Statements that are not in English; Consolidated communications channel and mailing list with all the focal points for the youth-led organisations and groups connected in the Youth Satellite Events for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.



**July:** Grant all focal points access to the outputs and content generated with the Satellite Events for collective awareness on the experiences and challenges; Participatory discussion of the best outline and tasks division for the e-book, taking into account how to approach regional differences and issues that must be highlighted for youth leadership on water and sanitation.

**August - September:** Graphic and editing support to format the contributions to the publication; Focal points and their groups/networks engage in writing & editing the content for the e-book; Submission and reviews of the content.

**October - November:** Design and final editing of the e-book.

**December:** present the publication at the WWC General Assembly that takes place on the 30th of November and 1st of December.

## EMPOWERING YOUTH TO BE WATER ENTREPRENEURS | MARCH 20 @UNESCO



### BOOTH

The YDP had an agenda at the UNESCO Booth in the Expo area of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum to present the Youth Satellite Events and prepare young people to report and design communications strategies for the outputs of the Satellite Events. The focal points from Satellite Events in Brazil, Cameroon and Bolivia shared their lessons learned as young leaders to local water activities. The Young Professionals Karishma and Marceline introduced some tools and practices for the successful design, modelling and implementation of water-related projects and initiatives.

## WORLD WATER DAY | MARCH 22

### Connecting the 8th and 9th forums through youth @French Water Partnership booth

Young people were invited to share the experiences, challenges and lessons learned from leading youth engagement at the local level with Satellite Events. The overarching goal was to pave the way towards the 9th World Water Forum, connecting with Senegalese young water leaders. Representatives from Satellite Events in Netherlands and Costa Rica presented their cases.



The Youth Delegate Tatiana Silva, the Young Professionals and members of the WWC Youth Task Force attended a direct meeting with the Senegalese as well, in order to exchange support in the transition to the next Forum, regarding meaningful youth involvement in the process.



### **Youth @WWC**

Young people occupied the WWC booth on World Water Day to present the outputs of the Youth Satellite Events and discuss how to keep activated in hydro politics the young people connected through the Satellite Events at the regional and local levels.

## SIDE EVENTS



**Opening Ceremony of the Citizens Village (March 17)**  
**Closing Ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (March 23)**





The Youth Delegate Tatiana Silva was invited to speak on behalf of youth at both ceremonies. She consulted with youth groups attending the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum to elaborate her speech and therefore highlighted the need to empower and include vulnerable youth; the momentum to turn the Youth Satellite Events into a permanent preparatory strategy for the Forums; and the progress made towards youth inclusion in the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum processes, as described below:

**Sustainability:** YDP as part of the Drafting Committee for the Sustainability Declaration, which welcomed inputs from the Youth Declaration. Young professionals from Senegal and India presented the final document at the Closing Ceremony.



**Citizens:** Youth Forum hosted at the Citizens Village, plus session on *Innovation of young water entrepreneurs* (March 21). Tatiana Silva was invited as speaker to present her initiatives as social entrepreneur in the Brazilian nonprofit FA.VELA, which she co-founded and currently holds the position of Projects Director; the Advisory Board of the Water Youth Network and the YDP.

**Thematic:** The process adopted the principle to have a speaker under 35 years old at every Forum session so to secure the participation of youth-led organisations in all sessions. The YDP had the role Session Coordinator for Thematic Process Session: 7b3 - Involving All Through a Stakeholder Driven Process. Supporting role as Session Coordinators (March 21). The young professional Marceline represented the YDP at the event.

**Political:** YDP coordinated youth contribution to the ministerial draft.

## MEDIA

Live interview for Globo News TV Channel @Hidro Cafe

Tatiana Silva represented Civil Society and Youth at the special edition of the TV Show *Cidades e Soluções* (Cities and Solutions) that focused on water challenges of today and how the World Water Forum advances with water and sanitation agendas and policies. She was interviewed alongside FAO representative Marlos Souza and the Brazilian actress producing a documentary on water, Christiane Torloni.



## News

The media team of the World Water Forum fully supported the activities led by the YDP and shared several reports. There is no clipping available, however, some highlights are:

*WWC youth delegates actively shape the Forum through satellite events* (December 17, 2017)  
<http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/en/news/wwc-youth-delegates-actively-shape-forum-through-satellite-events>

*Youth promotes “warm-up meeting” for the 8th World Water Forum in seven cities in Brazil* (March 1, 2018)  
<http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/en/news/youth-promotes-%E2%80%9Cwarm-meeting%E2%80%9D-8th-world-water-forum-seven-cities-brazil>

*Redes sociais mobilizam jovens para Esquenta do Fórum Mundial da Água* (March 3, 2018)  
<http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/geral/noticia/2018-03/redes-sociais-mobilizam-jovens-para-esquenta-do-forum-mundial-da-agua>

*Inauguration of the Citizen Village kick-start the activities of the 8th World Water Forum* (March 17, 2018)  
<http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/en/news/inauguration-citizen-village-kick-start-activities-8th-world-water-forum>

*Closing shows the results of debates and the passage of the flag to Senegal (March 23, 2018)*  
<http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/en/news/closing-shows-results-debates-and-passage-flag-senegal>

## CONCLUDING REMARKS: THE YOUTH ROAD TO DAKAR!



The YDP made history at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. The coordinated youth presence enabled **diversity** and **representativeness** that must not be missed in the road to Dakar. Therefore, the following recommendations are listed, based on the lessons learned with leading preparations and the participation of youth at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum:

### **Youth Satellite Events for the World**

**Water Forum:** institutionalise as a permanent preparatory strategy to the World Water Forums. In less than 4 months of outreach (once the Guidelines for the strategy were formally approved), the youth groups connected with the YDP managed to lead over 20 events with 1000 people in 12 countries. The initiative demonstrated its potential to raise awareness on water and sanitation challenges and to engage young people in hydropolitics at the local, regional and global levels. It is important to address a strong national engagement strategy in order to raise awareness and support from local young people in the hosting country. Regarding the Satellite Events, it is recommended as well for members of the WWC to support:

- The strengthening of the networks and regional databases of young water professionals & organisations activated at the local and regional levels through the Youth Satellite Events;
- The communications & outreach of the information about the experience to be compiled into the e-book on the powerful role of youth in building a better water future for all;
- The joining to the WWC of the orgs and networks linked to, at least, the WWC Youth Delegates, as members with voting rights to elect representatives at the Council, aiming to scale up the intergenerational dialogue and development of new leaderships in water.

**Financing Vulnerable Young People:** include in the Forum budget the financial support for vulnerable young people engaged in the preparatory activities, especially the Youth Satellite Events, to attend the Forum and present their outputs.

**The Youth Delegates Program as Focal Point for Youth at the Forum:** the Citizens Process was in charge of several activities centered on youth, however, the management was not in the hands of the YDP. The coordination process was challenging and youth parties were confused to our role in the process. Therefore, it would be wiser to have the YDP leading youth activities for the Forums with paid/dedicated support.

**Youth Booth:** youth groups face challenges to afford representation at the Forum and considering the prices for booth commercialisation and equipping, it is strongly recommended to secure a larger financial support from the WWC to a booth centered on youth or to have a dedicated spot in the WWC booth to welcome the youth and its dedicated agenda. For instance: there was no appropriate place to accommodate the much needed Coordination Meeting with Youth Satellite Events leaders during the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, leaving the Food Court as facility of choice, in despite of its lack of infrastructure for receiving a meeting. A booth was offered by Brazilian organisers at the Expo, however, the YDP budget could not cover the expenses to equip. The Citizens Village offered a space free of charge for the YDP in the Citizens Fair with a screen and cable, however, we were lacking the human resources to properly occupy the area granted, as only one Youth Delegate was present at the Forum and members of the Youth Task Force were committed to other activities. We were also short on people speaking Portuguese, the local language, and the Citizens Village was open to the general public. The young professionals Karishma, Niel, Marceline and Kevin sponsored by the WWC prepared a presentation on the Satellite Events that was displayed at a couple of occasions at the Citizens Fair. The booth was offered to other youth orgs to conduct activities, however, when confirmation came across of this alternative space granted, most interested parties had already advanced with their own representation strategies, even if limited. The experience demonstrated the need to have dedicated people in loco to support the Youth Delegates in coordinating the youth activities during the Forum, as they involve a large number of participants.

**Accessibility:** local and regional needs to enable the participation must be addressed. Being in Brazil, there were many young people from Latin America and the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum did not provide translation to Spanish. There was also limited conditions for people with disabilities to engage. The young people from Satellite Events, specially from South America, highlighted the need to facilitate the inclusion of all.

