

# World Water Council Youth Delegates Program



## XVI World Water Congress

World Water Council Youth Delegates Report

Cancun, Mexico | May 29 – Jun 3, 2017

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## Introduction

This reports covers the participation of the Youth Delegate representing the Americas, Tatiana Silva, in the XVI World Water Congress promoted by the IWRA, and held from May 29 to Jun 3, 2017, in Cancun, Mexico. The document is structured around the key elements of the agenda related to the Youth Delegates Program and the activities that the Youth Delegate present participated in. For more information on the World Water Congress, please visit <http://www.worldwatercongress.com/>

## Side Event



Following the II Stakeholders Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Brasília, April 26 -27), the Youth Delegates proposed a side event to the XVI World Water Congress. The event introduced the Youth Delegates Program of the World Water Council and mobilized youth to attend the Special Session *Bridging stakeholders' knowledge and the 8th World Water Forum Thematic Framework*, convened by the World Water Council, however, it had as its main goal:

- Invite youth and youth organisations present in the IWRA World Water Congress to collaborate in the **drafting of a collective guide** to empower youth worldwide in hosting a satellite event and generate outcomes that, at the local or regional level, and at the World Water Forum, would represent a **coordinated youth input and unified youth call for action** on water issues perceived as priority. It consists of a "**From Youth To Youth**" document to

support the engagement of youth groups worldwide in the water world, and also the ones who would not be able/afford to attend the Forum (see Action Plan of the Youth Delegates).

The Side Event took place on Tuesday, May 30, from 17:20 - 18:50 at Contoy Room. Even though it was not included and communicated in the official programme nor in the website of the Congress, it gathered 15 young professionals and researchers from multiple countries. The schedule was:

17:20	Introductions & Context
17:35	How to promote a World Water Forum satellite event? > Share first ideas to the drafting of a collective guide to empower youth worldwide in hosting a satellite event and secure their contributions to the World Water Forum
17:45	Discussion on Content, Editing Process, Layout and Outreach strategy of the guide
18:15	Roadmap to the 8th World Water Forum > How to showcase the outcomes > The Agenda leading to the Forum (who does what and when?)
18:30	Summary of Inputs and Final Reading > Assigning focal points to the Drafting Team
18:50	Close

The expected outcomes designed for the satellite events are:

- **Call for Action:** youth invited to review and indicate priority issues for their region, in very direct and objective manner, and contribute to structured documents to be showcased at the World Water Forum;
- **Mapping** out youth and their entrepreneurial initiatives to tackle water challenges and achieve the SDG 6 , in order to consolidate regional and global database, and enable as well the proposal of panelists and cases for the Forum sessions;
- **Communications for awareness strategy:** collect testimonials and social media content for sharing the experience and outcomes.

The youth leading satellite events would also be asked to keep track of the **metrics** - monitor gender, countries, background and other quantitative and qualitative data about the youth engaged in the satellite events, making sure to involve vulnerable youth (black, poor, women, indigenous), and to **report on the experience:** What were the main challenges? How did you overcome those?

Collective effort to get outstanding youth to the Forum (sponsorships) would also be encouraged.

## Congress Ambassador

In exchange to the Congress fee, the Youth Delegate had to act as one of the Congress Ambassadors, initiative that welcomed young researchers in the role of rapporteurs of the Special Sessions and High Level Panels. This required the attendance to an average of 2 sessions/day and the submission of reports to compose the daily Congress' newsletter. Tatiana Silva reported on 5 Special Sessions and on the HLP on Water and Business.

## Session: *Empowering Young Water Professionals through Engagement in Global Water Community*

The World Youth Parliament for Water – WYPW convened the session above and invited Tatiana Silva as a panelist. She introduced the World Water Council and the Youth Delegates Program, her professional and scientific background that worked for her selection, and goals of the Youth Delegates' action plan related to the objectives "Connect Youth to the 8th World Water Forum processes", "Mobilize, reach out, establish or support regional youth networks" and "Connect with other Youth Delegates and with the World Water Council".

## Cancun Declaration

There was an open session for interested stakeholders to contribute on the Cancun Declaration. The participants had to work on groups and present their agreed feedback. Tatiana Silva cooperated with other young researchers and professionals, and representatives of civil society organizations and the private sector, in advocating for accessibility (avoiding language and use of words and expressions that are not familiar to readers outside the water box) and inclusivity in the text, thus for direct mentioning of the importance of involving all stakeholders in water management.

Here is the link to the final Cancun Declaration: [http://iwra.org/doc/XVIWWC\\_CancunDeclaration.pdf](http://iwra.org/doc/XVIWWC_CancunDeclaration.pdf)

## World Water Forum Updates

The **Regional Process** convened a side event and Tatiana Silva had the opportunity to meet with the Brazilian co-chair Irani Ramos, who requested support in outreaching youth in the first round of Open Calls planned by the Regional Process to welcome topics to be part of their agenda in the World Water Forum, linked to the Forum themes and regional issues. This Open Call shall be launched on June 20<sup>th</sup> and followed by a second round, later in the year, to select leads/coordinators/cases to the topics to integrate the agenda.

The World Water Council **Thematic Process** convened the Special Session: *Bridging stakeholders' knowledge and the 8th World Water Forum Thematic Framework*, and which gave the opportunity to all interested stakeholders to contribute to the development of the 8th World Water Forum Thematic program, proposing sessions and cases. The first metrics of the open consultation platform *Your Voice* were presented and the speaker asked for higher participation of youth in the online process, since the main users were adults.

## Concluding remarks

From the proposed participation of the Youth Delegates (see Annex 1 for the full proposal submitted), only items 3 and 4 were welcomed. There was no return to the proposal for inclusion of youth panellist in the High Level Panels, however, for the other items, Asma Bachikin, president of the World Youth Parliament for Water – WYPW explained that the organization had presented proposals to IWRA in January and received a grant to collaborate on youth-related activities, thus leading this process. Asma was also invited to attend the drafting committee of the Cancun Declaration as youth representative<sup>1</sup>. The WYPW hosted a shared booth with the Water Youth Network in the Expo area.

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<sup>1</sup>Due to personal issues, Asma could not attend the event and assigned another member of the Parliament as her representative.

## Annex I

### Proposal - WWC Youth Delegates Participation in Cancun

*The following proposals will be pursued in close collaboration with other youth groups (e.g. World Youth Parliament for Water, Water Youth Network), researchers, and participants of the IWRA Cancun Congress.*

#### Proposal 1: High Level Panel – SDG

Future generations are the owners of the SDG outcomes. Acknowledging this, we would like to include a youth delegate to represent the next generation working towards implementing the water-related SDGs. Having invested in shaping the SDG Agenda, young people have a critical role to play in monitoring the progress, maintaining momentum, and implementing the SDGs. They also have a role to play in ensuring inclusion of a diverse group of stakeholders, including securing the representativeness of vulnerable groups.

#### Proposal 2: High Level Panel – Water and Business

We will present cases and experiences of youth starting<sup>2</sup> and leading creative water solutions – from securing funding to solving challenging water problems. Youth are creating their own opportunities for engaging in the water sector, while creating jobs for themselves and others.

#### Proposal 3: Side Event - Youth Statement & Contribution to Cancun Declaration<sup>3</sup>

The side event will serve two objectives: to produce a stand-alone youth statement and to propose a youth contribution to the Cancun Declaration. Building off of the Youth Statement from the 2016 Budapest Water Summit, young researchers and professionals will be invited to elaborate on the declaration. As key stakeholders carrying forward the SDG Agenda, youth will invited (to review and) indicate priority issues for inclusion in the Cancun Declaration.<sup>4</sup>

If a drafting committee were to meet, we would propose to nominate youth representatives (elected during the side event) to present youth inputs to the official declaration.

#### Proposal 4: Youth Speaker in Special Sessions

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<sup>2</sup> Link between youth and business has been mapped as a challenge during the SIE youth side event in Paris 04/2017

<sup>3</sup> Preferred Date: Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

<sup>4</sup> *Requirements:* List of participating youth delegates to draft invite. If possible, we request four fully funded sponsorships.

Present on Youth contributions to the Thematic Process (as topic/theme coordinators) within:  
*“Bridging Stakeholders’ Knowledge and the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Thematic Framework”* Convened by World Water Council

Present the World Water Council Youth Delegates Action Plan for Youth Inclusion within:  
*“Empowering Young Water Professionals through Engagement in Global Water Community”* Convened by World Youth Parliament for Water

**Proposal 5: Closing Event**

Youth speak to their experience and outcomes during the Congress with a focus on their vision outlined in the Youth Statement.