

What to say to a climate negotiator about water

Climate change impacts water resources first and foremost by intensifying the frequency of natural disasters and water-related crises, increasingly affecting the most vulnerable. At the same time, addressing water issues is essential for achieving the NDCs and for avoiding project failure, maladaptation, and increased water, energy or food insecurity.

- National, sub-national and local governments and transboundary agencies need to enhance their integration and harmonization at every stage of the process to translate national policies and plans into local implementation, closest to where water is effectively managed. Enabling local communities, including women, youth and farmer groups to fund, implement and scale their solutions is crucial.
- Transformative and gender-sensitive water management strategies can enhance the synergies between NDCs, national development plans and the SDGs.

Water-wise climate financing is a good investment for all, providing significant economic and social returns by avoiding damages incurred in the long run, as well as generating employment and contributing to societal resilience.

- Ocooperation and communication can be strengthened between ministries responsible for water, climate change and finance through better regulations, improved governance, strengthened institutions and reinforced coordination efforts.
- There is a need to facilitate access to funding for water infrastructure and to raise awareness for innovative financing tools that will contribute to building climate resilience. This depends in part on developing capacities to build robust science-based "climate rationales."

#CIW story and progress

#ClimatelsWater: Hydrating the climate negotiations

#ClimatelsWater is an ongoing effort, forming a coalition of water partners from around the globe to speak with one voice for water. Our objective is to reach out to the climate community at every level for better consideration of water issues and incorporation of water within the action plans of the Paris Agreement, where it is not mentioned explicitly. In turn #ClimatelsWater strives to inform the water community on how to better contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation.

Since CoP21 in Paris, water is increasingly debated in popular and professional circles and is starting to feed into political and economic processes in the climate realm. The collaborative action of members of the global water community has enabled the organization of landmark events within the UN Climate Conference, making water much more visible within the climate debate and beyond. #ClimatelsWater played a key role in this progress. The next years will be crucial in keeping up the momentum to advocate the message that climate is indeed water!