



## Key Moments of the 2016 Budapest Water Summit Youth Forum

Session 6 – Youth Exchange Session in preparation for the 8th World Water Forum 2018

World Water Council, Youth Delegates Task Force  
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## Youth Session 6:

## Youth Exchange Session in preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum 2018

### Summary of Youth Session 6

The well attended evening session drew active participants who provided inputs that will feed the reflection of the youth delegates workplan. The program and transcription of roundtable activity outcomes is attached in the Annex.

Presentations introduced the World Water Forum, launched the Youth Delegates program, provided an overview of previous youth experiences and introduced ongoing efforts and activities to engage youth leading up to the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. For a list of presenters see Annex I.

### Youth Delegates Program

The Youth Delegates Program (YDP) and final participants were announced showing a transparent, gender and regionally balanced team. The four candidates were carefully selected out of over 550 applicants. Two members of the highly qualified YDP team from Europe and the Americas spoke at the Budapest Water Summit about their plans for youth cooperation. They invited peers to participate in facilitated discussions to identify youth goals leading up to the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Brasilia.

YDP Regional Representatives:

- Africa & Middle East: **Dean Muruven** (South Africa)
- Americas: **Tatiana dos Santos Silva** (Brazil)
- Asia: **Sajid Iqbal** (Bangladesh)
- Europe: **Jovana Dodos** (Serbia)

The YDP responsibilities and roles include:

- Observers of the WWC **Board of Governors**
- Engagement in WWC **Task Forces**
- Connecting Youth to the **8th World Water Forum** processes

### Session Highlights

- Patrick Lavarde, International Steering Committee 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, World Water Council Governor and President of the IWRA, invited youth to attend the XVIth World Water Congress “Bridging Science and Policy” to be held in Cancun, Mexico in May.
- 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Processes were presented – youth would like to be a part of all:
  - Thematic Process
  - Regional Process
  - Political Process
  - Citizens Forum
  - Sustainability Group

- Lessons learned from previous Forum experiences:
  1. The World Water Forum is a part of the process that includes other events e.g. COP
  2. Mainstreaming youth and civil society is a challenge. Desire for continuity of involvement and cooperation outside of Youth Forum activities.
  3. Networking and capacity development are important – this should start a day before the Forum with a youth program and will allow youth to be part of the main program rather than simply participating in parallel.

### **Summary of Key Messages from Workshop**

The following outlines the main points echoed by the breakout groups during discussion. These ideas were collected and will be used to inform the Youth Delegates Program Action Plan. For a complete list of suggestions regarding the goals of youth and their needs for improved participation in the next World Water Forum see Annex II.

#### **WHY YOUTH?**

- Innovative knowledge holders with skills and expertise across various fields

#### **WHAT WE PROPOSE!**

- Engage in and Collaborate actively within policy and decision making processes;
- Be integrated in all other Forum processes

#### **HOW?**

- Stimulate proactive attitude and engagement among youth
- Mobilize our networks and catalyze actions in order to build a strong, united voice of youth. By doing so, our messages will be more strategic and have a greater influence on decision makers.
- Get out of the water box (Reach out to other networks of youth)

### **Next Steps**

1<sup>st</sup> Draft of Youth Delegates Work Plan – January 2017

## Annex I

### Youth Session 6: Youth Exchange Session in preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum 2018

17:00 – 19:00

November 29<sup>th</sup> 2016

#### Program

This session will consist of reviewing the experiences of youth from the previous World Water Forums and discussing the opportunities of the 8th World Water Forum 2018.

Convener: World Water Council (WWC)

Moderators: On behalf of the WWC Youth Delegates Task Force

Ms Natalia Uribe Pando, Chargée Plaidoyer WASH /Advocacy Advisor, Action Contre la Faim

Ms Nicole Webley, Assistant Programme Specialist, Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO

17:00 - 17:10	<p><b>Setting the Stage for the next World Water Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overview of the World Water Forum</li> <li>● Launch of the World Water Council’s Youth Delegate Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Patrick Lavarde, International Steering Committee 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum</li> <li>● Natalia Uribe Pando, WWC Youth Delegates Task Force, Action Contre la Faim</li> <li>● WWC Youth Delegates</li> </ul>
17.10- 17.30	<p><b>Youth contributions leading up to the 8th World Water Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The 8th World Water Forum and Youth</li> <li>● Youth engagements at previous World Water Forums: Past experiences and lessons learned</li> <li>● Youth mobilization in Latin-America, The Road to Brasilia 2018 Project Experience in Youth Involvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Asma Bachikh, 8th World Water Forum’s Citizen Forum Commission member, Youth focal point;</li> <li>● Water Youth Network</li> <li>● Alejandra Burchard-Levine, Road to Brasilia 2018</li> </ul>
17:30 - 18:25	<p><b>Break-Out Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Linkages to the Budapest Water Summit, key governance frameworks and events</li> <li>● What does successful youth participation looks like?</li> <li>● What are Youth-Driven Outcomes?</li> <li>● What resources &amp; tools are available/needed?</li> </ul>	5-6 Facilitators per tables of 8
18:25 - 18:50	<p><b>Report back</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Facilitators from each table</li> </ul>
18:50 - 19:00	<p><b>Wrap Up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next Steps and Closing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Asma Bachikh, 8th World Water Forum’s Citizen Forum Commission member, Youth Focal Point</li> <li>● WWC Youth Delegates from Europe and from Brazil</li> </ul>

## Annex II - Roundtable Activity Outcomes

In groups of 4-5, participants were asked to discuss and note activities which best demonstrate successful and measurable youth participation i.e. Key Youth Outcomes. The following questions applied:

1. How can youth contribute to the 8th World Water Forum Theme of “Sharing Water”?
2. How can this be documented? How could Key Outcomes be recorded?
3. How would youth like to participate or are participating in the lead up to the 8<sup>th</sup> WWForum?

Below are key takeaways from the discussion as they relate to youth goals, activities, and the resources they need to make those possible.

### **Goals**

- Host youth focused activities in advance of the main event so that youth are free to participate in the other sessions. Avoid parallel processes.
- Participation and inclusion of youth in the main forum
- Provide a book of Best Practices initiated by Youth
- Improve youth participation in decision making
- Mentorship programs / connect youth to senior experts
- Increase visibility for youth actions and expertise
- Integration of mobile technology for solutions using a water hackathon competition
- Awareness raising activities in host cities
- Increased collaboration among different stakeholders on a cultural / regional basis e.g. rural youth, youth conducting fieldwork, refugees
- Improve remote participation and tie back to the region
- Support youth across sectors
- Tie into youth science for concrete solutions
- Include youth in the process of shaping the political outcomes and water agenda  
E.g. Youth Statement as Annex to the official statement

### **Youth-led Activities**

- Sessions for knowledge transfer / connecting and supporting youth
- Summer school
- Conflict conference
- Skills training for youth through professional organizations
- Inclusion of youth publications in scientific journals
- Build credibility of young professionals by showcasing work e.g. Water Youth Network’s YouKnow platform can be used to include and amplify youth groups and projects
- Open the calls for all youth, including those outside of the water sector with calls for young artists, photographers
- Market space: youth present their projects for other youth participants
- Debates between senior professionals / policy-makers and youth
- Participation in a water hackathon competition prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

### **Needs & Resources**

- Pre-engagement at the local level; who is being invited, engaged and mobilized?
- More time needed to obtain self-funding and register
- Build trust with youth associations and forum organizers
- Incentives for youth involvement / high-level competition
- Tap into youth with broad networks outside of water
- Leadership training / skills development in partnership with organizations that can award certificate
- Youth inclusion in all processes including regional and political
- Youth supporting the work of one another e.g. YouKnow platform
- Lacking: opportunities, mentorship, support to publish, venture capital

- Need: recognition from policy makers on the role youth play, process for communications success and needs to decision makers, best practice document
- Have: Innovative ideas, skills, passion, engaged youth organizations

**Other Questions**

- How to reach young people (outside water sector) who have not participated at these events?
- How to promote participation outside of the physical event?
- How to communicate the outcomes of these events to a broader audience?
- How to ensure outcomes relate back to the region?
- How to connect young experts?

**Events Participants Attended or Will Attend**

● Budapest Water Summit 2013, 2016	● GWP Summer School 2016
● COP21-22	● 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> World Water Forum
● Sendai 2015	● Singapore International Water Week
● Amsterdam World Water Week	● Stockholm World Water Week
● Kenya World Water Week	● Inter-American Development Bank event
● Water Talks 2016 (Gent)	● UN Habitat
● World Water Congress Cancun	● World Bank Water Conference??
● East Africa Regional Process	● World Water Week South Africa

**Annex III - Budapest Water Youth Statement 2016**

Budapest Water Youth Statement (BWYS) 2016 builds upon the BWYS 2013 and is aligned with global agendas, frameworks, and youth engagement processes and initiatives on water. In this statement we highlight the importance of cross-cutting dimensions of water-related SDGs; governance and advocacy, financing, capacity development, and critical issues. We stress the importance of integrated and inclusive implementation of the SDGs. For these reasons, we advocate for a permanent seat at all levels of decision-making processes.

### **Governance and advocacy**

- As young people with an open perspective and multidisciplinary skills, we are key partners in the implementation of the SDGs. We connect science, policy and practice across sectors. We are agents of change in the public and private sphere.
- Youth organisations all around the world dedicate themselves to the implementation of the SDGs. Exposing and valuing these initiatives of young people will achieve a multiplier effect through replication at local, national and global levels.
- We call on states to gather age-disaggregated data on SDGs and disseminate data publicly. Civil society organisations can use this data to effectively implement, monitor and evaluate (youth) actions and progress towards the SDGs.
- Youth organizations connected locally, nationally, regionally and globally serve as powerful examples of collaborations across borders and can serve as a catalyst for transboundary co-operation. We call on states to respect the implementation of the transboundary goals.

### **Financing**

Young people have innovation at their fingertips and need sustainable financial resources to continuously and effectively translate these ideas and networks into positive societal impacts. To achieve this, young people:

- Require an inclusive and enabling environment to access funding through more flexible conditions and support in application processes;
- Should be considered as partners in identifying and accessing existing and innovative financing instruments, such as grants, climate financing, green investment funds and challenge funds, to support the implementation of water-related SDGs;
- Can channel financing sources reserved specifically for them, such as social enterprise, youth and innovation funds. Such sources should be created, expanded and incentivised by international organizations, foundations and governments;
- Through cooperation agreements, can jointly identify and advocate for local, national, regional and global funding mechanisms by virtue of being the most connected generation.

### **Capacity Development**

- Our generation is equipped with vital, exclusive skills to uplift human welfare. To not draw on their insights and abilities is to hold back humanity.
- Capacities of young people should be strengthened through mentorships, apprenticeships, skills development, and compulsory inclusion in projects, practices, researches and decision-making processes.
- Expansion of alliances to promote entrepreneurship, knowledge-sharing and collaboration among the youth networks, organizations and businesses at local, national, regional and global scales must be prioritized.



- Opportunities must be encouraged and facilitated to mobilise and utilise youth capacities to the fullest.

**Critical issues**

- We commit to have an inclusive view towards major groups and other stakeholders in the implementation of SDGs by addressing inclusion in policy processes, project development and implementation.
- Youth commit to continuing to address climate change when implementing inclusive and equitable solutions on the ground to achieve the SDG targets.
- Youth can communicate and transfer sustainable and innovative research, policies and technologies for a stronger societal impact and avoid business as usual.
- Living sustainably is a responsibility governed by youth because they shape the future. Their worldview affects everyone.
- Youth lay the groundwork for adaptive system-wide solutions to manage issues such as population growth and migration.

Our generation empowers people across borders and cultures. They advance sustainable development using creative and inclusive approaches. We collaborate across disciplines to understand, innovate and adapt our actions to the ever-changing nature of water and climate. It is vital to explore avenues for improving the condition of Earth and its people by collaborating with our impactful changemakers. The attention the broader youth community receives, including quality education, resources, and genuine support can't be compromised for a less promising global society.