



**United
Nations**



United Nations Water Conference
United Arab Emirates, 2026



**GLOBAL YOUTH
MOVEMENT
FOR WATER**

SESSION 1



**Major Group for
Children and Youth**
A space for children and youth in the United Nations

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SERIES

**Introduction to the 2026 UN Water Conference and the
Global Youth Movement for Water**

Session co-lead : the International Secretariat for Water (ISW)



SIE-ISW-SIA

AGENDA

- **Opening & Introductions**
- **About the Capacity Development Online Series**
- **General presentation of the UN Water Conference**
- **The Global Youth Movement for Water and its partners**
- **Examples of opportunities for meaningful youth engagement towards and beyond the 26UNWC**
- **Next steps**
- **Q&A**

ABOUT THE WEBINAR SERIES

OVERVIEW

8 Webinars between July and November 2026, every 2-3 weeks.

- 1 Introductory Session
- 6 Thematic Sessions (aligned with the Conference's Interactive Dialogues)
- 1 Youth Positioning Session



WEBINAR SERIES TOWARDS THE 26UNWCC

PREVIOUS WEBINARS

November 2025

WEBINAR SERIES TOWARDS
2026 UN WATER CONFERENCE



WEBINAR 1
**SETTING THE SCENE:
UNDERSTANDING THE 2026 UN
WATER CONFERENCE PROCESS**

NOVEMBER 12, 2025 | 4:30PM (CET)

REGISTER AND JOIN US ONLINE!

ORGANIZED BY
SEE-SWA SEE-SWE

IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
Global Youth Movement
for Water

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
Schweizerische Eidgenössische
Konföderation suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
AGRICULTURE



December 2025

WEBINAR SERIES TOWARDS
2026 UN WATER
CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 10
4:30-6:30 PM
ONLINE



WEBINAR 2
**Co-developing the narrative: Youth and civil
society joint input to the interactive dialogues**

FACILITATORS

 Lesha Witmer Steering Committee member Butterfly Effect	 Bella Lima CSD coordinator Sanitation and Water for All	 Alexandra Chevalier EU representative Water Aid	 Marie Bouysse Advocacy officer Coalition Eau
 Johannes Rueck Network coordinator German WASH Network	 Edouard Boinet Head of project International Cooperation OIEau	 Erick Schnetzler Project Manager Geneva Water Hub	

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January 2026

WEBINAR SERIES TOWARDS
2026 UN WATER CONFERENCE



WEBINAR 3
**PREPARING FOR DAKAR AND
BEYOND**

JANUARY 14, 2026 | 4:30PM (CET)

REGISTER AND JOIN US ONLINE!

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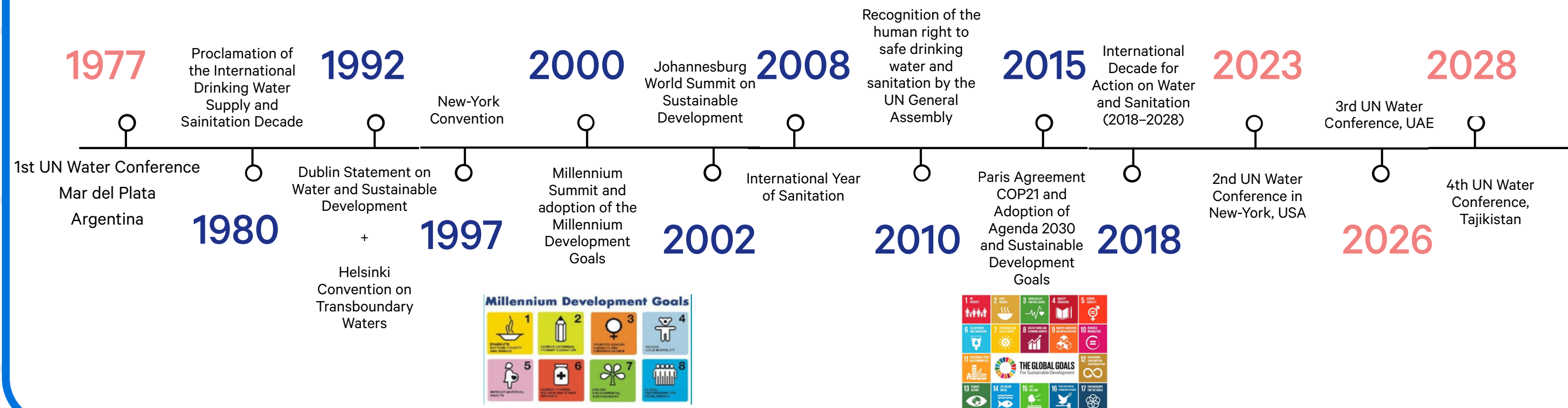


SCAN THE QR
CODES FOR
WEBINAR SLIDES
& RECORDINGS



GLOBAL WATER GOVERNANCE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



THE 2026 UN WATER CONFERENCE

OVERVIEW

- From 8 to 10 December 2026, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Co-hosted by the United Arab Emirates and Senegal
- Thematic: Accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6
- Continuity with the 2023 UN Water Conference - same format with intergovernmental sessions (and interactive dialogues) and parallel events (special sessions and side-events)
- No binding result
- Accreditation system



**United
Nations**



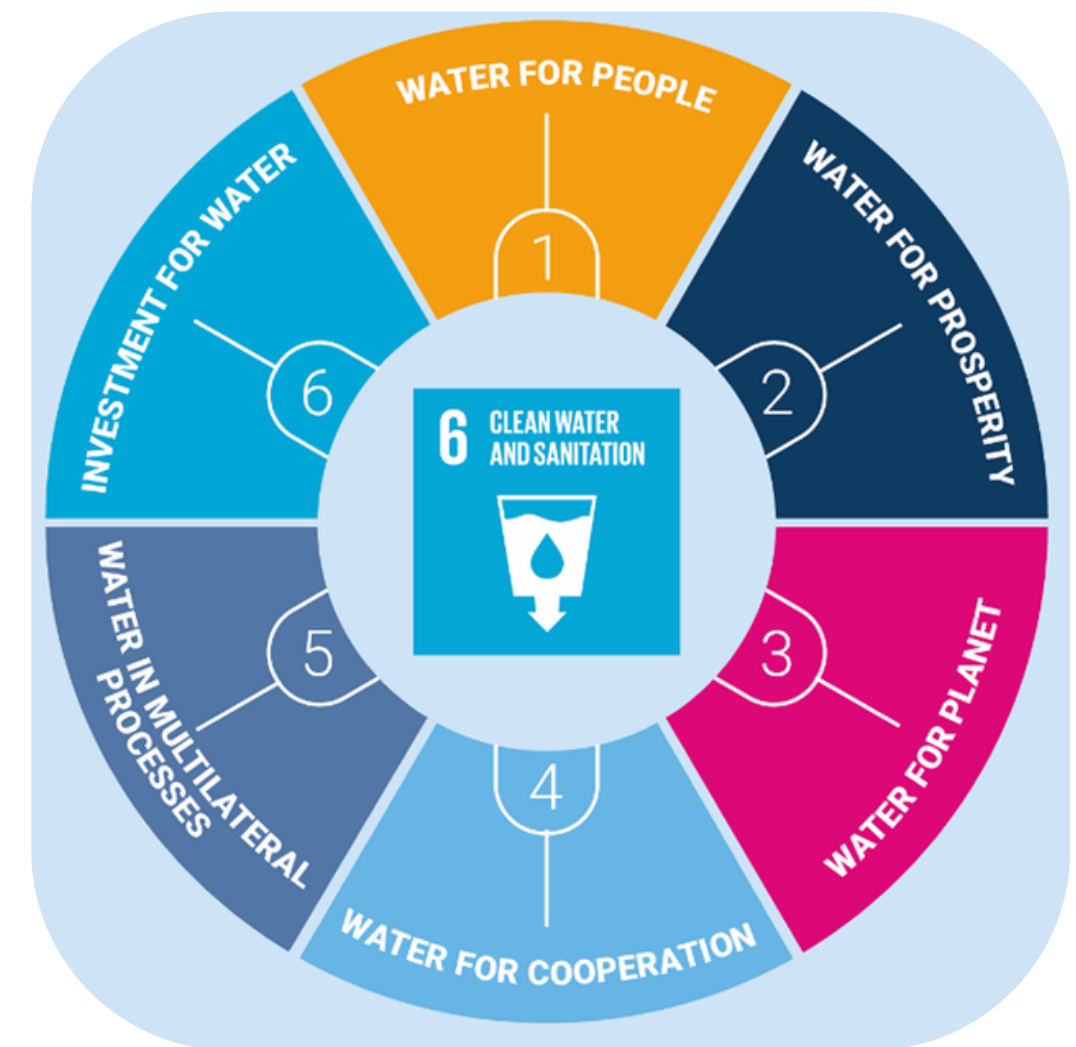
United Nations Water Conference
United Arab Emirates, 2026



**LET US KNOW IF
YOU'RE APPLYING
FOR A SIDE EVENT**

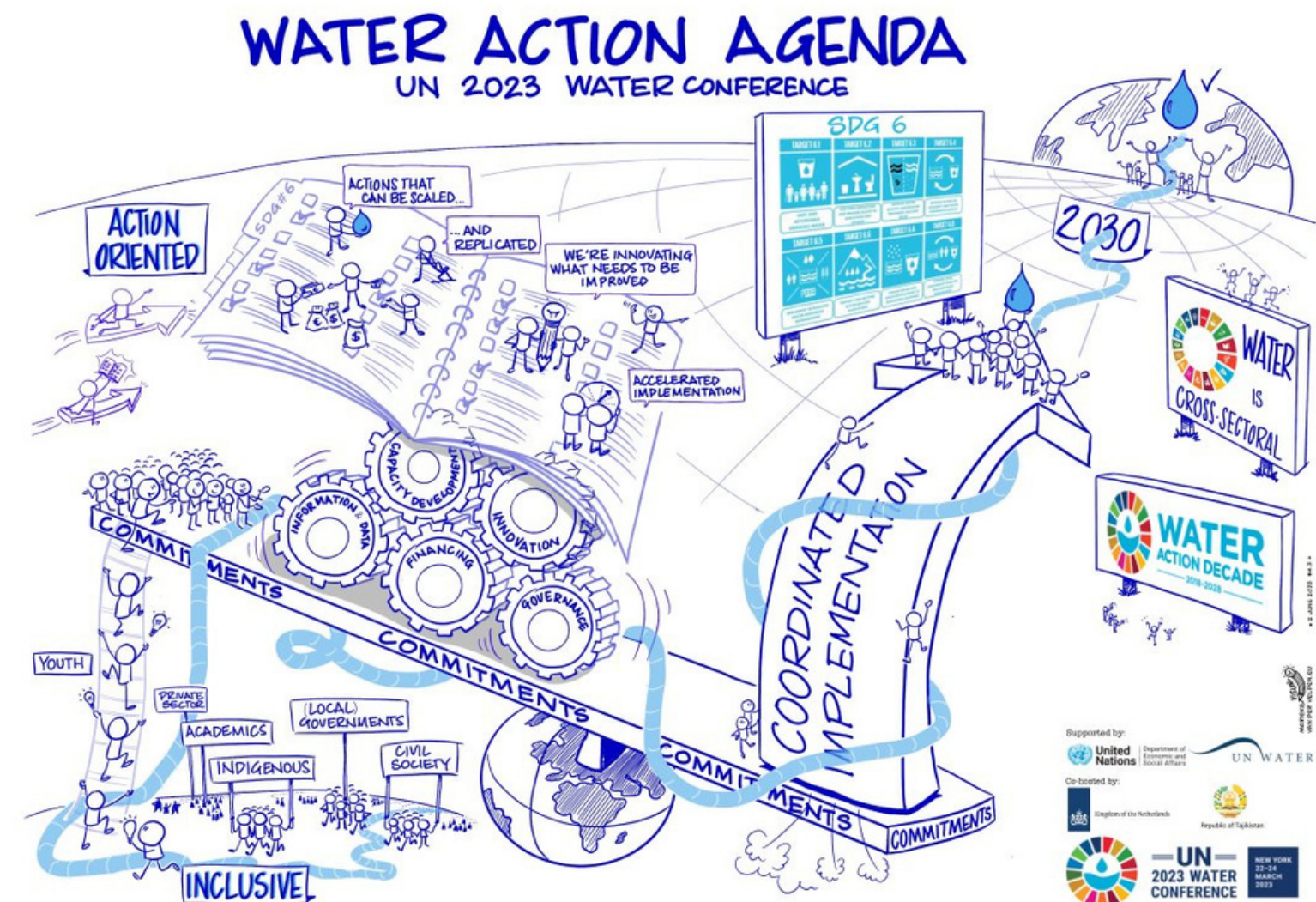
THE 6 INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES

1. **Water for People:** The human rights to water and sanitation, including for those in vulnerable situations, for healthy societies and economies
2. **Water for Prosperity:** Valuing water, Water-Energy-Food nexus, advancing integrated and sustainable water resource management, wastewater and water-use efficiency across sectors, and economic and social development
3. **Water for Planet:** Climate, Biodiversity, Desertification, Environment, Source to Sea, Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction
4. **Water for Cooperation:** Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and inclusive governance
5. **Water in Multilateral Processes:** SDG 6, the 2030 Agenda and beyond, and global water initiatives
6. **Investments for Water:** Financing, technology & innovation, and capacity building



YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN THE 26UNWVC PROCESS

- When?
 - Before, during , after
- Where?
 - At home (community, larger network...) + on site (Interactive Dialogues, corridors and coffee breaks...)
- How?
 - Different levels of engagement (local, national, global)
 - Individual versus collective



THE GLOBAL YOUTH MOVEMENT FOR WATER

OUR NEW LOGO



**GLOBAL YOUTH
MOVEMENT
FOR WATER**

OUR ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

**#FILLUP
THE GLASS**

Join the youth for water



The **Global Youth Movement for Water (GYMW)** is a global coalition of **400+ youth organizations, networks and partners** working together to strengthen **meaningful youth engagement in water governance**.

BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH, WITH YOUTH

What we do

- **Connect** youth water organizations worldwide
- **Build the capacity** of youth leaders and initiatives
- **Amplify youth voices** in global decision-making
- **Foster collaboration** across the water sector
- **Strengthen coordination** through a global community of practice
- **Promote action** for sustainable water management

Key milestones

2022 : Launch of the GYMW during the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar
2023 : #FillUpTheGlass Campaign at the 2023UNWC
2024 : Bali Youth Targets at the 10th World Water Forum
2025 : Water Youth Strategy at the UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue
2026 : Youth Interactive Days in Dakar and **Road to the 26UNWC**



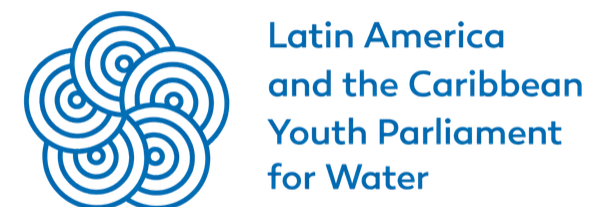
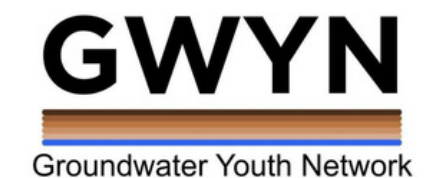
**FILL OUT THIS
FORM TO JOIN
THE MOVEMENT :**



FILLUPTHEGLASS.ORG

SOME OF OUR ACTIVE MEMBERS

GLOBAL YOUTH MOVEMENT FOR WATER





2026 UN Water Conference International Youth Coordination & Capacity Development



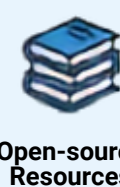
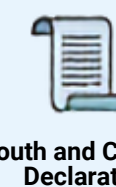
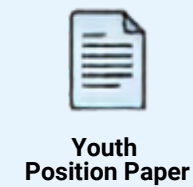
Coordinated by Youth for 26UNWC Task Force

- Bi-weekly meetings with 20+ youth-led and youth-serving organizations
- Identification of synergies and implementation support
- Joint planning towards and beyond the conference

Youth Organizing Committee (YOC)

- Official youth coordination mechanism
- 60 youth-led and youth-serving organizations
- Operating through 6 thematic working groups (aligned with the Interactive Dialogues) and 6 functional subcommittees

Conference Deliverables



Examples of joint initiatives



Capacity Development Series

GYMW partners

- Introduction webinar
- 6 Interactive Dialogue webinars
- Final Youth Position Paper session

Open Learning Resources

- recorded webinars
- toolkits
- reading lists
- practical resources

Global Youth Water Envoys Programme Arab Youth Center

A global capacity-building and leadership programme supporting 100 young water envoys through training, thematic engagement and participation in the 2026 UN Water Conference process.

Meaningful Youth Engagement in the Water Sector Report

UNESCO

A global baseline assessment based on multiple surveys, combining youth and institutional perspectives to inform evidence-based recommendations for strengthening youth engagement.

#FillUpTheGlass Campaign

ISW / GYMW partners

Advocacy campaign created BY, FOR, WITH youth

- Global Youth Movement for Water (GYMW) online platform filluptheglass.org
- Recognizable visual identity from the 23UNWC

UNESCO Youth4Water Flagship Initiative

Institutional Framework for Youth in Water, adopted by the 27th session of the IHP Council.

- Education and capacity-building
- Careers, innovation and entrepreneurship
- Meaningful youth participation in water governance and management.

←-----→
Training curriculum

OPPORTUNITIES FOR

MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Youth Organizing Committee (YOC)

- Official **youth coordination mechanism**
- Led by the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (SDG 6 - Water Youth Network) with support of GYMW partners
- Over 400+ applications
- **Structure:** 50+ youth - led and youth serving organizations
- **Operating :**
 - 6 thematic working groups (aligned with the Interactive Dialogues)
 - 6 functional subcommittees
- **Expected Deliverables**
 1. Global Consultation
 2. Youth Position Papers
 3. Capacity Building sessionsmany more



Calling all
**YOUTH-LED &
YOUTH-SERVING
ORGANIZATIONS**

for the
2026 UN WATER CONFERENCE

SDG 6-related youth-led and youth-serving organizations are invited to join the official youth engagement process for the 2026 UN Water Conference



**GLOBAL YOUTH
MOVEMENT
FOR WATER**

APPLICATIONS CLOSE:
10 MAY 2026

**#FILLUP
THE GLASS**
Join the youth for water



CONTACT US

 sdg6gfp@unmgcy.org



LEARN MORE

sdgs.un.org/2026waterconference

OPPORTUNITIES FOR

MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Global Youth Water Envoys Program

- Flagship **Arab Youth Center** initiative, delivered under a strategic mandate from the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The program selects and prepares **100 young leaders** from across the world



Application deadline: 13 August 2026 | 12:00 AM (Abu Dhabi Time)

What selected envoys get ?

- Foundational and specialized training in water governance (Sep–Nov 2026)
- Direct engagement with policymakers, national delegations, and international experts
- Fully funded participation in the 2026 UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi
- Become part of an international alumni network, with ongoing opportunities for collaboration and engagement



GLOBAL YOUTH
WATER ENVOYS
PROGRAM 2026

UNITED NATIONS
WATER CONFERENCE
ABU DHABI 2026

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

100 Young Leaders
One Global Water Agenda

Applications Are Open | Global Youth Water Envoys Program

ship to attend, mentorship, and a seat
UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi

APPLY NOW!

For application and inquiries visit @arabyouthcenter

Organized by
ARAB
YOUTH
CENTER

OPPORTUNITIES FOR

MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

UNESCO is developing the first report on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Water Governance

From youth presence to youth impact:

- What → Examines how young people (18–35) are involved in national water policy and decision-making, identifies enabling conditions for impactful participation, and showcases concrete examples of youth contributions driving change ;
- How → Combines global evidence, surveys, and real-world case studies ;
- Why → Aims to equip governments and partners with practical recommendations

Are you a water professional, policymaker, youth organisation or young leader?

Your insights can help shape the evidence base for meaningful youth participation in water governance worldwide.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!



Deadline : 31 August 2026

OPPORTUNITIES FOR

MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

UNESCO IHP Youth4Water Flagship Initiative

- **First-ever UN institutional framework** for youth engagement in water governance
- Builds on **30+ years** of work, mobilization, commitment, by dedicated partners and young leaders
 - 1998, ..., 2022 - **Global Youth Movement for Water**, 2023, 2024, 2025 - **Water Youth Strategy**, 2026 milestones
- 4 years for 42+ activities towards 9 results of **3 Priority areas**:
 - Education & Capacity Development
 - Career Opportunities & Innovation
 - Meaningful Youth Engagement in Water Governance & Management
- Host - **Khalifa University**, Operational Secretariat - **ISW**, Advisory board, Steering Committee, and implementing partners - **GYMW**

More soon!

unesco
Intergovernmental
Hydrological Programme

YOUTH4WATER

YOUTH4WATER
A NEW UNESCO-IHP
FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

Empowering youth.
Safeguarding water.
Shaping our future.

Hosted by the **UAE**

Capacity development
and water education

Career opportunities
and innovation

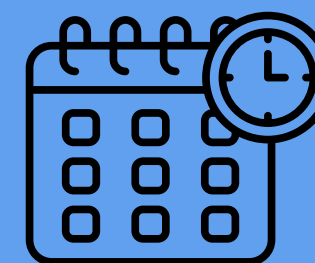
Meaningful
youth engagement

Official launch at the
UN Water Conference 2026, Abu Dhabi

THANK YOU !

CONTINUE YOUR LEARNING JOURNEY

NEXT WEBINAR



21 August 2026

3:30 GMT +1



IISD

International Institute for
Sustainable Development

SESSION 2 : WATER FOR PLANET

Co-lead: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

REGISTER NOW



WANT TO REACH OUT ?



GLOBALYOUTHMOVEMENT4WATER@SIE-ISW.ORG
YWP@IWAHQ.ORG

The image features a central graphic of a speech bubble with a thick blue outline. Inside the bubble, the text "Q&A" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The background consists of a light gray grid pattern. The top of the image has a solid blue header, and the bottom has a solid blue footer. A white, wavy horizontal band separates the header and footer, passing behind the speech bubble.

Q&A