

May, 2022



Youth Vision for Water:

On the road to UN Water Conference 2023

Position of the World Youth Parliament for Water

Grounded in the Sustainable Development Goals,
OUR VISION is as follows

Youth, especially those who are among the most affected by the water crisis, are equitably represented in water governance and management.

We aim to:

- 🔴 Ensure meaningful participation of youths in solving the rising water risks in a changing climate and in strengthening community action through trans-sectoral, transboundary, and intergenerational cooperation approaches. (e.g. Blue Peace)
- 🔴 Create a society where barriers to youth engagement and contributions in the water sector have been overcome or broken down.

BACKGROUND

Youth, people under the age of 35, represent more than half of the global population and yet, they are not meaningfully included in the majority of the decision-making processes around water.

- 🔥 They are among the most affected populations by global crises, such as water conflicts and ineffective water governance, climate change, and pandemic-related economic crises. This results in a lack of access to safe water, including clean drinking water and sanitation, as well as the other water-related sectors.
- 🔥 The youth especially, from the global south, women, children, indigenous and traditional communities, LGBTQI+ community, as well as those who suffer from environmental racism, experience a differentiated level of impact.

However, the most affected youth are the agents of change and innovation leaders. They connect local communities and are ready to take the necessary risks in a rapidly changing world.

Taking these facts into account, the World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW), presents our vision for youth participation in water as means to protect water and support water and sanitation for all, originally drafted during the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar.



3 OBJECTIVES

22 ACTIONS

Local youth action is recognized and implemented in all water spheres

Local knowledge and actions of young people are valued by employers, authorities and funders and integrated into planning and programming. Youth are recognized and respected as leaders, especially those from the most marginalised communities, markedly in terms of gender, race and income.

- Expand flexible funding for youth groups, entrepreneurs and initiatives, on trust and integrity based relationships, through facilitated application and evaluation processes.
- Provide proper means and tools to empower young leaders with appropriate and relevant capacity building spaces, including youth volunteer programs, and soft and hard skills training programs.
- Create an accessible and inclusive education and training program in environmental, climate, indigenous knowledge and water education at earlier academic stages, so that young people understand the context of the situation in order to participate in an informed manner.
- Promote platforms and dialogues for intergenerational and intercultural knowledge transfer and data sharing between youth and established professionals, including access to global scientific databases.
- Understand good practices in a local context and provide sufficient funding and resources for them to be implemented.
- Develop global, regional and national funding for youth-led programs and for youth development in water and water-related sectors. The funding for these programs must be a legally binding commitment to states.
- Acknowledge the importance of representation of indigenous youth voices across all water sectors and an equal gender balance.

Job opportunities are improved and diversified

Job* and career opportunities for young people are increased, improved, and diversified in the water sector and its connections to health, climate, food security and economic growth among others.

- Implement stable, paid, and fair work conditions in water and water-related institutions, allowing for professional development and work-life balance.
- Create more entry level jobs as well as graduate internship opportunities especially for those with 0-2 years of experience in the field.
- Foster a culture that considers water a central element in society and ecosystems.
- Create inclusive job opportunities that take into account the plurality of water aspects, such as human rights, health, food sovereignty, environment, accessibility, and other socioeconomic aspects.
- Apply transparency and accountability with the water job market among all different sectors.
- Provide incubators/sandboxes for programs development and leadership training for youth entrepreneurs.
- Understand the rights and responsibilities as an employer and towards youth and their career pathways.
- Promote research and development of young people related to the water and sanitation sectors, especially in marginalized communities. (e.g. through capacity building and training)
- Support academic projects of young researchers to publish in scientific journals on the subject of water (for example special scientific journals for young water researchers).

*Including internships, mentorships, apprenticeships.



Youth inclusion in decision-making is the norm, not the exception

Meaningful* and plural youth participation in institutions and decision-making structures regarding water is formalized, considered and measurable.

- Establish youth steering committees that complements and interacts with river basin organisations and other established water and water-related entities on the local, national, and international levels.
- Support the implementation of existing policy strategies for mainstreaming youth and gender equality in the water sector.
- Expand the presence and create opportunities for local indigenous youth in the management of both marine and freshwater-based ecosystems.
- Empower legal capacity building for youth in both national and international legislation, including youth participation in the writing of legislation and agreements. (e.g. compelling stakeholders to cooperate between sectors and regions using the same water source.)
- Encourage the creation of a national policy that incorporates young people into government authorities in charge of water management.
- Ensuring inclusion and participation of indigenous and other marginalized communities in every decision making process.



*Our vision of meaningful participation is listening, considering, and incorporating youth needs and priorities in national and international decision-making processes as mutually agreed upon.

CALL FOR ACTION

We urge all stakeholders to integrate our vision into their strategy!

The youth demographic represents a significant source of skills, innovations and agency for solving water and sanitation problems in the context of climate change.

The integration of the vision and the actions listed above for youth will significantly contribute to the improvement of water resource management, governance, and water-based ecosystem restoration.

This will also provide a diverse set of solutions needed to fight for water availability, access to sanitation and climate justice through community-based approaches.

#WaterGeneration
#Thirstyforchange
#BluePeace
#Youth4Water



Contact

World Youth Parliament for Water:
advocacy@youthforwater.org

International Secretariat for Water:
sgonthier@sie-isw.org

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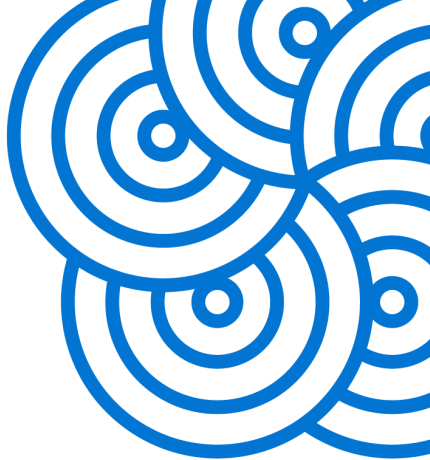
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Blue Peace