

Invitation to a side event during the High-Level Political Forum 2018

Sustainable Use of Waters – Precondition for a World without Hunger

The implementation of SDG 6.4 *Water use and scarcity* and its link to the
Human Right to Food

Monday, July 16th, 2018, 06:30 p.m. – 08:30 p.m.

Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, Auditorium,
871 United Nations Plaza (First Avenue between 48th and 49th Streets), New York

Water is a key resource both to provide drinking water and to generate food and energy for a growing world population. A fifth of the global population lives in regions affected by water stress - where more water is used than can naturally be recharged. Irrigation agriculture is a main factor – using 70% of the available freshwater resources worldwide. Already today, water stress exacerbates competition for water amongst user groups and threatens livelihoods and the right to food of subsistence farmers and small farmers worldwide. In light of this, the 2018 World Water Development Report calls for increased resource use efficiency and reduced external footprints of industrial agriculture to ensure long-term sustainability and the multitude of benefits that water provides: food and energy security, human health and sustainable socio-economic development.

Mr. Gilbert F. Hounbo, President of IFAD and Chair of UN-Water will introduce the first SDG 6 Monitoring Report - providing baseline data for the measurement of future progress.

The High-Level Panel will discuss political and intersectoral approaches necessary for establishing Integrated Water Resource Management and progress towards SDG 6.4. *Water use and scarcity* in line with ecosystem needs and human rights. The panelists will address the following questions: Which cooperation frameworks are necessary for implementing SDG 6.4 *Water use and scarcity*? How can UN member states confront water stress and achieve sustainable use of waters as a precondition for a world without hunger? Which are the most urgent priorities and recommendations for action? How can international water footprints in industrial agriculture be reduced? How can civil society contribute to establishing conducive cooperation frameworks for sustainable water governance in line with ecosystem needs and human rights?

The successful implementation of the global water targets will be central for fulfilling the 2030 Agenda as a whole. Water is a key component for other goals including those on eliminating extreme poverty (SDG 1), eradicating hunger and malnutrition (SDG 2) and mitigating climate change (SDG 13).

Agenda

- 06:30 p.m. **Welcome drinks and snacks**
- 06:45 p.m. **Welcome remarks**
- 06:55 p.m. **Introduction** by Dr. Ingolf Dietrich, Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development BMZ
- 07:05 p.m. **Presentation of SDG 6 Monitoring Report with special focus on SDG 6.4** by Mr. Gilbert F. Hougbo, President of IFAD; Chair of UN-Water
- Followed by a discussion:
- Mr. Gilbert F. Hougbo, President of IFAD; Chair of UN-Water
 - Mr. Dinesh Suna, Coordinator, Ecumenical Water Network
 - Dr. Inga Winkler, Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Human Rights Program, Columbia University
 - Ms. Stineke Oenema, Coordinator, UNSCN
- 08:15 p.m. **Closing remarks** by Dr. Luise Steinwachs, Policy Department, Bread for the World

The event will be facilitated by Dr. Uschi Eid, former Chair of UNSGAB (United Nations Secretary General Advisory Board for Water&Sanitation).

Refreshments and a light buffet will be served at the event.

This side event is targeted at high-level decision-makers and participants in the High-Level Political Forum (delegations and stakeholders). Please confirm your participation until **16th of July 12am** to wasserpolitik@giz.de, stating your name, position and affiliation. For security purposes, a photo-ID is mandatory to gain access to the premises of the German Mission.