

Water as the Economic Driver:

A transformative pathway towards jobs, decent work, and an inclusive economy

Tuesday 7 July, 12.00 – 13.30 EDT, Zoom

Registration link for virtual audience: https://siwi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wsAC9e7aRd-1RShRlqINiw

Water accelerates action across the whole SDG agenda. Because of its interconnections with health, energy, climate, biodiversity, infrastructure, urban planning, digitalisation, food, landscape management, tourism, industries, transport, and trade, a resilient approach to water management has the potential to transform the global economy. By investing in water management, we can build back better after Covid-19 and accelerate progress towards a sustainable and inclusive economy that leaves no one behind. This event will highlight water's catalytic role for jobs and the economy at large, and how resilient water management and governance go hand in hand with transforming our economies to be more resilient, sustainable and inclusive.

Globally, more than 3 out of 4 jobs depend on the supply of water of sufficient quantity and quality (WWDR, 2016). Of these, more than 1.4 billion jobs in agriculture, forestry, water supply and sanitation, power generation, and fishing are heavily water-dependent and would disappear without water. These are jobs, together with an additional 1.2 billion potential jobs along the value chain in water-related sectors, that are crucial to protecting livelihoods and the global economy as we recover from Covid-19 in the near term and achieving the global sustainable development agenda in this next decisive decade.

For water to fulfill its potential as a transformative pathway to a more resilient global economy and sustainable development, it is imperative that water management is more inclusive, especially with regards to women, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples, by broadening the set of stakeholders and professionals involved in water governance. Only when reaching out to all water-dependent sectors and stakeholders can we ensure that the full societal and economic value of water is taken into account across various industries and sectors as we make decisions on allocation, use, and protection of water resources around the globe.

Agenda

Opening remarks and keynotes (12.00 – 12.15)

- H.E. Mahmadaminov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UN
- Alette van Leur, Director of Sector Policies Department, ILO

High-level panel (12.15 – 12.45)

- Representative from Norway
- Representative from South Africa
- Representative from The Netherlands
- Olcay Ünver, Vice-Chair, UN-Water
- *Moderator: Lesha Witmer, Women for Water Partnership*

Strategic interventions (12.45 – 13.15)

- Margarita Astralaga, Director, IFAD
- Adrian Sym, CEO Alliance for Water Stewardship
- Soma Ghosh Moulik, World Bank
- Aaron Salzberg, Director of the Water Institute UNC
- Representative from indigenous community (TBC)
- Water Youth Network representative (TBC)
- Joshua Newton, Josh's Water Jobs
- Oriana Romano, OECD
- Gonzalo Munoz, COP25 High Level Champion, Chile (TBC)
- Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, Women for Water Partnership
- *Moderator: Maggie White, SIWI*

Closing remarks

- Torgny Holmgren, SIWI