



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



Water and Climate Coalition Leaders

Briefing

“Committing to an Integrated Global Water and Climate Agenda”

Meeting Room 4

Area F, Ground Floor

COP 26, Glasgow, UK

2 November 2021, 11:00-12:00

Background

The science is clear: the global climate change crisis is increasing variability in the water cycle, thus reducing the predictability of water availability and demand, affecting water quality, exacerbating water scarcity and threatening sustainable development worldwide.

Climate change threatens us all and water is the primary medium through which we feel the impacts of climate change. 90% of global disasters are caused by floods, storms, droughts and other weather-related events. The global water situation will likely worsen as population growth, rapid urbanization and industrialization increase demand for water and intensify the negative effects of climate change on water quality and quantity. To effectively address both water and climate challenges, we must bring climate change and water to the same table – into the same conversation: Tackling them as one.

For this reason, the WMO Secretary General Petteri Taalas and UN-Water Chair Gilbert Houngbo invited water and climate leaders to set and pursue an integrated global water and climate agenda in support of sustainable development and national mitigation and adaptation actions. Their focus is on catalysing action through leadership and example.

The “Water and Climate Leaders” will provide strategic guidance on integrating the climate and water agendas, as well as maximizing synergies in designing and implementing actions to ensure effective climate action for adaptation and resilience.

Objective

Water and Climate Leaders will present the objective of the coalition and which activities and ways of working together are needed to pursue an integrated water and climate agenda in support of national mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as sustainable development.

Event Modality

Press briefing with Q&A. Water and Climate Leaders will each have around 3-4 minutes to present their vision and commitment to the Water and Climate Coalition. The briefing will have a duration of one hour.

Current Water and Climate Coalition Leaders

H.E Mr. Janos Ader, President of Hungary; H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan; H.E. Mrs. Hilde Heine, Past President of the Marshal Islands; H.E. Mr. Komi Selom Klassou, Past Prime Minister of Togo; H.E. Mr. Han Seung Soo, Past Prime Minister of South Korea; H.E. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Aty, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt; H.E. Mr. Carl-Hermann Gustav Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Republic of Namibia, and President of AMCOW; H.E. Ms. Barbara Visser, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands; H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, Kingdom of Morocco; H.E. Mrs. Hannele Pokka, Former Minister of Justice, Finland; H.E. Mrs. Haydée Rodriguez, Vice Minister for Water and the Ocean, Republic of Costa Rica; H.E. Mr. Gilbert Hounbo, President, IFAD and Chair of UN-Water; H.E. Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General, WMO; H.E. Ms. Mari Pangestu, Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank Group; Mr. Howard Bamsey, Chair, Global Water Partnership; Mr. Ernest Gibson, UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change; Mr. Matthias Berninger, SVP Public Affairs & Sustainability at BAYER; Mrs. Lindsey Blodgett, Former President, World Youth Parliament for Water.

Water and Climate Coalition

The Water and Climate Coalition is a multi-sectoral community of actors with the intent to address water and climate challenges in an integrated manner, in support of sustainable development and national mitigation and adaptation actions.

Coalition Members join forces on concrete activities to implement solutions that address the gaps of operational water and climate challenges with a special focus on data, information, monitoring systems and operational capacity.

The objective is that members can engage and align with other members on equal footing to generate momentum through implementing concrete activities at national, regional and global scale.

The Water and Climate Coalition is open for a wide range of members from scientific organizations, private sector, NGOs, UN Organizations, governments and the civil society. The coalition is a non-bureaucratic community of like-minded members.

More information

<https://www.water-climate-coalition.org/>