



Official UNFCCC Event Proposal on :

“Groundwater for adaptation : challenges and solutions”

Tuesday 15th November 2022, 11:30 am - 01:00 pm, Room 6

With simultaneous interpretation in English – French

Organized by:



Context

Groundwater accounts for more than half of domestic water use worldwide and more than 40% of irrigation water comes from groundwater. In the context of climate change, groundwater resources have the potential to strengthen water and food security, especially by buffering climate variability. However, the sustainability of their use can also be jeopardized due when effects of climate and other global changes increase pressure on their quantity and quality.

The session will first take stock of the status of the world groundwater resources, as presented in the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) 2022, entitled “Groundwater: making the invisible visible”. The main findings of the WWDR will be presented during the event.

The session will then focus on links between groundwater and climate change, explicitly considering how groundwater contributes to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to the resilience of communities to climate extreme events. Special attention will be given to interactions between the cryosphere and groundwater/aquifers; challenge of sea-level rise and coastal aquifers in SIDS, or and the role of groundwater as a unique or major source of water under arid and semi-arid contexts. Solutions to better protect groundwater resources, - by establishing the required governance arrangements and implementing management instruments-, and maintaining their multiple services, - including the protection of ecosystems-, will be also introduced.

The session aims to make aware policy and decision makers, as well as the general public, of the importance of groundwater to water security. It will address how the mobilization of the accelerators identified for SDG 6 (finance, governance, data and innovation) apply specifically for groundwater, taking into account its specific opportunities, and establishing how groundwater-based solutions (i.e. tools and approaches based on development of groundwater resources or enhancement of their characteristics in line with nature-based solutions approaches) can help adapt to changing climate.

Links will be also made to the UN World Water Day (WWD) 2022 campaign, entitled “Groundwater: making the invisible visible”, coordinated by UNESCO and IGRAC on behalf of a dedicated UN-Water Task Force.

Program

INTRODUCTION (10 min):

- **Mrs. Florika Fink-Hooijer**, Director General for Environment, European Commission

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

- **Mr. Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Water, Senegal (TBC)**

PANEL (45 min)

Moderator:

- **Marie-Laure Vercambre**, Director, French Water Partnership (FWP)

Panel: Projects holders, implementing agencies and climate finance funds' perspectives (40 min)

- **Cyril Courjaret**, CEO, Suez International Businesses, Suez
- **Nabil Ben Khadra**, Executive Secretary, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), TBC
- **Ellodie Giuglaris**, French Geological Survey (BRGM) and French Hydrogeology Committee (IAH)
- **Abhishek Jain**, Fellow & Director, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW India), TBC

QUESTION & ANSWERS (35 min)

Moderator : **David Laurent**, Head of Climate and Ocean, Entreprises pour l'environnement (EpE)

CONCLUSION (5 min):

- **Dr. Eric Tardieu**, Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
- ou
- **UNESCO-IHP**