



Kingdom of the Netherlands



GLOBAL COMMISSION on the  
**ECONOMICS OF WATER**



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

Side Event – Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 13.15 – 14:30, UNHQ Conference Room 4

## **Turning the tide A Call to Collective Action by the Global Commission on the Economics of Water**

### **The growing global tragedy of water**

The world faces a growing tragedy of water. Four billion people experience water scarcity for at least one month in a year. Whole countries and regions in the Global South have been pushed into severe food insecurity. And floods, droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires are inflicting an unprecedented toll in virtually every region of the world.

However, we are seeing the results not of freak events, nor of population growth and economic development, but of having mismanaged water globally for decades. As the science and evidence shows, we now face a systemic crisis, that is both local and global. Dangerously too, the water crisis is increasingly intertwined with global warming and the depletion of biodiversity, with each reinforcing the other.

Without urgent actions, the water crisis will endanger not only our ability to deliver on the human right to clean and safe water and sanitation, but virtually all the SDGs. No person, place, economy or ecosystem will be spared.

### **A seven-point call to collective action**

**A sustainable and just water future can be achieved. It requires a new framework for the economics and governance of water. We must take actions that are bolder, more integrated across sectors, more networked at national, regional, and global levels.**

**At this Side Event during the UN 2023 Water Conference, hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW) will set out a seven-point transformative agenda: for how we govern, value and use water, from the local to the global, and open up major opportunities for innovation and investment, to enable more efficient, inclusive and sustainable use of water.**

#### **Objectives**

- Call for collective action on valuing water, and putting water at the heart of decision-making processes globally, both in the public and private sectors.
- Dialogue on the seven-point agenda advocated by the GCEW.

### Format

<b>Side Event – Turning the tide, A Call to Collective Action, by the Global Commission on the Economics of Water</b> in the presence of H.M. King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and H.E. President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan	
<b>Introduction (10 min)</b>	
13:15pm	Opening remarks by H.E. Liesje Schreinemacher, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands
	Introduction by moderator Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Member of the GCEW, former President of the UN General Assembly and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ecuador
<b>Setting the stage – the GCEW’s Call to Collective Action (20 minutes)</b>	
13:25pm	Prof. dr. Johan Rockström, Professor in Earth System Science at University of Potsdam
	Prof. dr. Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London
	Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General WTO
	H.E. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister, Government of Singapore
<b>Perspectives from Global leaders (15 min)</b>	
13.45pm	H.E. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados (video message)
	Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, IMF
	Guy Ryder, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy
	Axel von Trotsenburg, Managing Director of Operations, World Bank
<b>Moderated round of reactions from the floor (25 min, 2 min per intervention)</b>	
14:00pm	Reactions and Views from the floor
<b>Closing (5 min)</b>	
14:25pm	Closing remarks by H.E. Mark Harbers, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands

### Registration

Please register using the following link before Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>: [Registration link](#)

Interventions from the floor will be on a first-come, first-serve basis through the registration form in the link above. Ministerial-level speakers will be given first preference.

This event will be broadcast via UN Web TV.

Please contact Ms. Joyce Langewen ([joyce.langewen@minbuza.nl](mailto:joyce.langewen@minbuza.nl)) in case of further questions.

### **Background on the Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW)**

The GCEW was established in May 2022 at the initiative of the Government of the Netherlands as co-host of the UN 2023 Water Conference, with the aim of re-envisioning the economics and governance of water so as to achieve a sustainable, just and prosperous future for all. Co-chaired by Mariana Mazzucato (Professor at University College London & Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Director-General, World Trade Organization), Johan Rockström (Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research) and Tharman Shanmugaratnam (Senior Minister, Singapore), it comprises a diverse group of policy leaders and experts, with strong representation from the Global South. The GCEW's recommendations are independent of the Government of the Netherlands.

The GCEW's call for collective action is aimed at spurring dialogue, action and change. Following the UN 2023 Water Conference, it will continue to conduct societal dialogues across the world, listen to diverse communities and communities of practice, and help build consensus in support of the needed collective actions for the common good.

When its two-year mandate ends in mid-2024, the GCEW's final report will complete a sustainability trilogy that began with the 2006 Stern Review on the economics of climate change, and the 2021 Dasgupta Review on the economics of biodiversity.