



Kingdom of the Netherlands



GLOBAL COMMISSION on the
ECONOMICS OF WATER



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

Special Event:
The Economics of Water
Transforming governance to secure a sustainable, just and prosperous future

Thursday, March 23, 2023

UNHQ, Conference Room 2,

from 15:00 - 18:00 EDT / 21:00 – 02:00 (next day) CET

The Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW) cordially invites you to a special event at the UN 2023 Water Conference.

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 unprecedented human, economic and ecological costs in virtually every region of the world.

We are seeing the results not of freak events, nor of population growth and economic development, but of having mismanaged water globally for decades. We now face a systemic crisis of water. One that is both local and global, with nations and regions connected in ways more profound than previously understood. One that interacts with global warming, and the loss of natural capital, in ways that exacerbate all three. One that imperils all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): from SDG 6, our ability to ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation; to food security and health; to ending poverty and inequalities; to enabling trade for sustainable growth; and ensuring peace within and between states. **A sustainable and just water future can be achieved.** It requires transforming the economics and governance of water, so as to deliver on the human right to safe water, protect the global water cycle as a global common good, and keep the Earth system safe for all.

At the UN 2023 Water Conference, the GCEW will set out a 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. The GCEW's call for collective action is aimed at spurring dialogue, action and change. Following the UN 2023 Water Conference, the GCEW will continue to engage with stakeholders, and will 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.

The special event is a **jointly chaired open dialogue with stakeholders** that will initiate a global consultative process that will contribute to the final GCEW report in 2024. Initial and key findings of the GCEW will be presented and discussed with representatives from the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, Local Authorities Major Group, Indigenous Peoples Major Group, Private sector and Industry Major Group, and representatives from public utilities, youth and agriculture organizations.

Please share with us your interest in this event: [HERE](#).

[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. Its recommendations are independent of the Government of the Netherlands.