



WATER AND INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES: CHALLENGES AND PROPOSALS

This Parallel event will take place in the framework of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, held from March 22nd to 24th at the United Nations headquarters in New York, United States.

This space for face-to-face dialogue will highlight the challenges of community water management as a resilient way to promote the sustainable integral development of people, especially in those places where the lack of water sources or water management systems manifests poverty.

This event intends to address one of the themes for the interactive dialogues of the Water Conference, ***Water for development: valuing water, the water-energy-food nexus and sustainable economic and urban development*** (SDGs 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12) as well as cross-cutting issues, including health, migration, gender, indigenous peoples' rights, education, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

Background and rationale

The lack of water primarily affects the most vulnerable people in our societies, such as the poor, the elderly, the rural dwellers, the illiterate, and the disabled. In addition, the Peoples and communities have developed their lives and cultures around water. Hence in 2010, the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council recognized as a human right the accessibility to drinking water and sanitation.

Unfortunately, the States do not govern the water by human rights standards. Instead, the water is made to serve the interests of national and transnational corporations engaged in agribusiness and coal, minerals, and oil extraction. These corporations give priority to profit over the people

and the planet. Hence, water sources face pollution from mining, fertilizers, pesticides, livestock, and aquaculture wastes. The water sources are also privatized and commercialized, which attacks the fundamental right to this precious liquid. The integral development of the people cannot be achieved if the drinking water sources are at risk of contamination.

On the other hand, many other regions lack water sources or water systems that can transport this invaluable liquid to community locations. The lack of drinking water sources and systems affects everyone, especially vulnerable communities. These communities face a double burden as they try to feed their families and make a living. In addition, these communities face several cross-cutting problems such as health, displacement, invasion of territories, and armed conflicts affecting indigenous and peasant communities.

Our parallel event is an occasion:

- To create awareness among the people on the responsible use of water and to claim their right to water and sanitation.
- To demand from the States to guarantee the right to water and sanitation, to legislate for accessibility to water leading towards sustainable development and transcending the intranational and international boundaries, and to hold the national and transnational corporations accountable for the use and abuse of water.

The water goal (SDG 6) and targets directly address the development aims of the communities. This reflects the need to accelerate the implementation of the SDG6 targets.

Water poses severe challenges to sustainable development and calls for efficient management and equity. This event will discuss these challenges and present proposals that guarantee sustainable development.

Speakers:

- **Luis Liberman**
is an Anthropologist, Rector of the University Institute of Water and Sanitation. Founder of the Institute for Global Dialogue and the Culture of Encounter. Argentine
- **Jose Ballardo Chata.**
Member of the non-profit organization Human Rights and Environment (DHUMA). He has combined education and legal work to defend the rights of the Quechua and Aymara peoples of Puno, Peru.
- **Blair A. R. Nelsen.**
Executive Director, Waterspirit, UN-NGO Representative - Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. New York.
- **Jude Thaddeus Langeh, CMF**
Delegation Superior, Independent Delegation of Cameroon, Claretian Missionaries. He accompanies community processes to guarantee access to water.
- **Carol Jeri Pezo**
A lawyer and Director of the Human Rights, Caritas Madre de Dios. She accompanies indigenous communities in defense of their territory and life, promoting the integral development of the communities.

Moderator:

Brianna Fitzpatrick

Liaison to the United Nations, Caritas Internationalis, New York.

Time	Date	Place
8:30 am to 10:00 am (New York time)	March 24, 2023	Virtual

Sponsors:

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