

WATER POLICY GROUP SUPPORT FOR THE 2026 UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

Following consultation with the co-host governments of Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, the Water Policy Group is pleased to announce two groundbreaking contributions to the success of the 2026 UN Water Conference to be held in Dubai on 2-4 December 2026:

- sharing the collective personal experiences, opinions and perspectives of the people responsible for water outcomes at the national level; and
- proposing a 'new global approach' to sustainable water management.

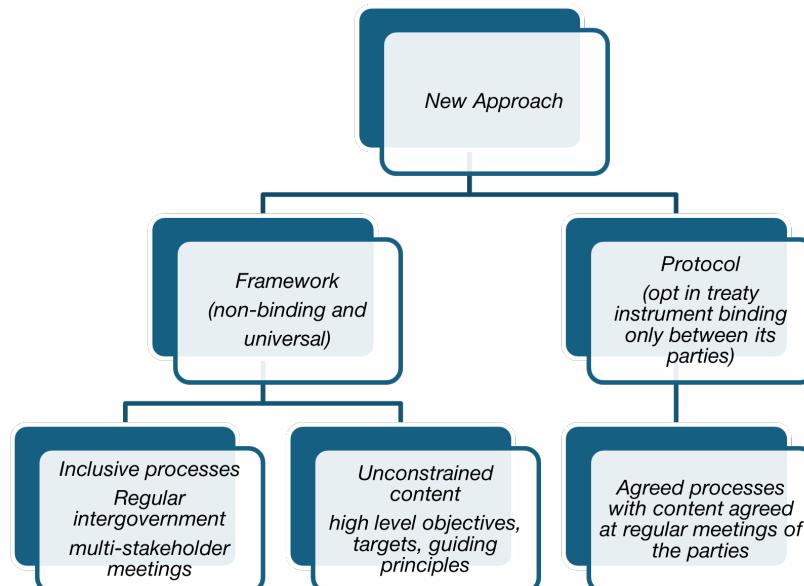
Water Policy Group will provide the Conference with the global results of its groundbreaking *Listening to National Water Leaders* project currently underway.

This project will provide the aggregated experiences, opinions and perspectives of Ministers, top level officials and other people tasked to achieve water outcomes in their countries. Already, the national water leaders of over 70 countries are participating in the project. The background, purpose and high level questions can be found in [this Concept Note](#). This also shows how the project will help inform discussions at each of the Interactive Dialogues of the Conference.

The outcomes of similar projects in 2021 and 2023, in which 125 countries participated in total, are available in the Water Policy Group's [Global Water Policy Reports](#).

If you are the national water leader of a country which has not yet participated in the current project, please contact us at info@waterpolicygroup.com and an invitation will be provided directly.

Our [new global approach to sustainable water management](#) proposes a comprehensive non-binding water policy framework setting out high level objectives, targets, guiding principles and priorities and an opt-in sustainable water management protocol under which participating countries would voluntarily prepare and agree on principles, guidance and standards that they would endeavour to observe.



The Water Policy Group offers this proposal for discussion in the Interactive Dialogue of the Conference that will be focussing on the topics of water in multilateral processes, on Sustainable Development Goal 6, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond, and global water initiatives.

Water Policy Group Global convenor, Mr Tony Slatyer, said, “listening to national water leaders, we know how common their experiences can be, of both the challenges and the solutions, across countries large and small, rich and poor, and all the cultural and geographic diversities of the world. There is much scope for everyone to benefit by global sharing of experiences and learning.”

“At a time of disruption and uncertainty in many multilateral processes, Water Policy Group believes successful international cooperation on water resource matters can be a good example of positive multilateralism and be hugely beneficial for the participating countries.

“That is why Water Policy Group is proud to offer these ambitious projects for consideration at the 2026 UN Water Conference,” Mr Slatyer said.

This statement is being issued now for the information of the [High-Level Preparatory Meeting for the 2026 UN Water Conference](#) in Dakar, Senegal (26 and 27 January 2026). Delegates may obtain further information from Water Policy Group member Professor Kenzo Hiroki who is attending the meeting or from our contact address below.

Contact: info@waterpolicygroup.com

Water Policy Group
25 January 2026



Water Policy Group (www.waterpolicygroup.com) is a global network of water sector experts who have been decision makers and trusted advisers within governments and international bodies handling water policy and strategy. The members of the group have had direct experience in working with complex water policy issues, and share a common goal that their knowledge, networks and experience can help achieve the sustainable development of water resource to serve the global public interest.

Members: Ms Charafat Afailal, Mr Pablo Bereciartua, Ms Mercedes Castro, Ms Anne Castle, Dr Jane Doolan, Professor Kenzo Hiroki, Ms Felicia Marcus, Mr Dhesigen Naidoo, Mr Tony Slatyer, Mr Tom Soo, Professor Khin Ni Ni Thein and Dr Olcay Ünver.