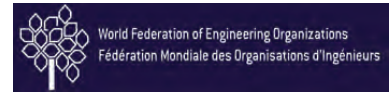




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The Role of the S&T Community on the Pillars for Accelerating Progress and Transformative Actions on SDG 6

March 23, 2023 / 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST / 7:00 - 8:00 pm CET



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Side Event organized by WFEO and ISC at the UN 2023 Water Conference

Register here: bit.ly/3ZxVprq

Limited access to safe water and sanitation, strains on available water resources, threats to water use in critical aspects of daily life and exacerbating disaster risks in the forms of droughts, floods and other damage to ecosystems still affect too many people worldwide. Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) – ‘to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030’ – supports many, if not all, of the other 16 SDGs, particularly on health and disease prevention, education, food, gender equality, energy, and climate change.

However, we are alarmingly off-track, and the issue is only going to become more critical in a context of changing weather patterns under the effects of climate change, migration of populations and shifting resource demands, poor management of water resources leading to overuse, pollution, damage to critical aquifers and the resulting inadequate supplies of water for critical needs, such as health care and food production.

The challenges we face are unprecedented and growing. With less than 10 years to go to achieve the SDGs in time, we need an immediate and integrated global response to rapidly improve progress on SDG 6.

Therefore, the UN has launched the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework – a new, unifying initiative that involves all sectors of society to speed up progress by improving support to countries. It is part of the UN Secretary-General's Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. The work will be carried out through action pillars: Engage, Align, Accelerate and Account.

Within the scope of the “Accelerate” pillar, five accelerators will dramatically improve the international community. These are:

- Financing – Optimized financing is essential to get resources behind country plans.
- Data and information – Data and information targets resources and measures progress.
- Capacity development – A better-skilled workforce improves service levels and increases job creation and retention in the water sector.
- Innovation – New, smart practices and technologies will improve water and sanitation resources management and service delivery.
- Governance – Collaboration across boundaries and sectors will make SDG 6 everyone's business.

Traditionally, society has advanced after technological innovations have occurred, but today, as with climate change, changes are happening first and mitigation and/or adaptation technology is lagging behind. Therefore, we need disruptive changes that will allow us to achieve the SDG 6 targets.

For this, the technical and scientific community role is vital, both in terms of providing data and information to support decision-making and the adoption of policies and practices for more efficient and sustainable water governance and management; supporting capacity development for improved water resource management; as well as driving innovation and supporting the development and application of improved technologies for water use, recycling and conservation, and efforts to reduce excessive costs for water access.