

8th WORLD WATER FORUM YOUTH SATELLITE EVENTS

Youth active in securing water and sanitation for all!



The guidelines to a global strategy facilitated by the Youth Delegates Program of the World Water Council in partnership with multiple youth-led organisations and networks to raise awareness on hydro politics and welcome input from young people across the globe to the 8th World Water Forum.

Join us!



Dear young professional, entrepreneur, student or researcher,

This is the first time that the world's biggest water-related event is hosted in the Southern Hemisphere. We want to make it all the more historic by making sure it also has the most meaningful youth engagement!

BACKGROUND

Brazil will host the 8th World Water Forum from March 18 to 23, 2018, bringing together over 30,000 actors from different sectors who are expected to engage in political, technical and democratic dialogues in order to achieve rational and sustainable water use at the local, regional and global levels. The event is organized by the World Water Council, an international organization that brings together all those interested in the theme of water.

The #WorldWaterForum8 focuses on SHARING knowledge, opportunities and best practices among the multiple stakeholders. However, active youth contribution remains a challenge, especially for vulnerable groups. Some have never heard of the World Water Forum, others are not even aware that a water "world" exists; some are in non-privileged positions in their organisations and do not get assigned to participate in water-related activities, others simply cannot afford to attend events and join the dialogue.

In the second Stakeholders Meeting of the Forum held in Brasília on April 26 to 27, 2017, the youth attending started to design means to meaningfully participate with their networks and organizations. Following the discussions, the Youth Delegates of the World Water Council facilitated the planning and execution of the Youth Satellite Events initiative and led a co-creation session in May 30, 2017, with interested youth parties who gathered during the XVI World Water Congress promoted by the International Water Resources Association from May 29 to Jun 3, 2017, in Cancun, Mexico.

The concept note for the 8th World Water Forum Youth Satellite Events was approved by the 62nd Board of Governors of the World Water Council meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, as a strategy to mobilize, reach out to, establish or support regional youth networks and connect youth to the Forum processes. Following the approval, the guidelines structured in the present document were elaborated by an Editorial Team composed by Focal Points from the organisations and networks signing the Youth Satellite Events initiative.

The Youth Satellite Events encourage and welcome coordinated input from young people across the globe to the 8th World Water Forum and aim to collect a unified youth standpoint on the priorities for hydro politics at the local, regional and global levels. The organizations and networks invested in the initiative believe in the generation of "from youth to youth" content to support the engagement of youth groups in water, particularly the ones who cannot afford or who are not able to attend water-related events such as the World Water Forum, but who are stakeholders with relevant contributions to address the water challenges of today.

These guidelines offer an insight on how to promote a successful Youth Satellite Event and communicate effectively about the experience. We count on you to be active in securing water and sanitation for all and in the largest water event in the world! ;-)

Youth Delegates of the World Water Council - Lead Team
Partner organisations and networks - Editorial Team

WHAT ARE THE 8th WORLD WATER FORUM YOUTH SATELLITE EVENTS? HOW TO PROMOTE ONE?

A 8th World Water Forum Youth Satellite Event is an independently organised, offered and/or hosted event, accredited by a network, individual or organisation other than the World Water Council, and held before the 8th World Water Forum, in order to raise awareness on hydro politics and welcome coordinated youth input.

You must follow the event definitions and instructions outlined below in order to hold a legitimate 8th World Water Forum Youth Satellite Event.

The Satellite Events are designed to be a moment in existing event agendas, or a scheduled stand-alone agenda, aiming to connect water focused groups of youth in the run up to (or on the road to) the 8th World Water Forum. Several goals could be listed to justify the initiative, such as raising awareness on water security challenges, however, the overarching goal is to promote a strong and meaningful youth contribution to the 8th World Water Forum.

We want youth to influence the agenda of the technical and political dialogues highlighting what we understand as priorities for our shared water future. The Satellite Events are also a platform to demonstrate the skills, talents and innovations that youth worldwide are using to promote and protect the human right to water and sanitation. It increases the positive visibility of the youth in the water world by demonstrating our capabilities in hydro politics, facilitation, entrepreneurship and leadership.

So, **are you leading - or could you lead - any event, debate, session, forum or other group activity with youth before March 2018?** Does the agenda fit a couple of hours to convene discussions on local and regional water issues?

HOW CAN YOU ORGANIZE A SATELLITE EVENT?

There is no mandatory format to be followed, however, we suggest that you:



>> Schedule the Youth Satellite Event for a **2-4 hours duration** (timing depends on the profile of the group gathered, the size and knowledge of water management) to accommodate the introductions, exchange of perspectives, interactive activities and collective work towards an unified standpoint of the youth attending.

>> Include **one awareness raising and/or input moment at the opening** of your Youth Satellite Event, such as a short talk, panel or presentation by an invited key speaker on water in your region, in order to make sure participants are informed about water management in their geography. Depending on the audience gathered, you can start by providing answers to questions as "what river basin are you part of?" or "what are the water conditions in the basin?" and even go deeper in more technical and political discussions. Gamified learning experiences are more than welcome here, in order to make the input enjoyable.

>> **Invite trained facilitators and mentors (or resource guests)** as local volunteers and contributors to support the creative process and provide background knowledge on the water issue. You may drive the participants to work in groups, focusing on the six water-related themes shaping the discussions of the 8th World Water Forum:



The 8th World Water Forum also promotes discussions on three cross-cutting themes related to water: Sharing, Governance and Capacity Building. Visit www.worldwaterforum8.org for detailed descriptions and more information about the themes above.

>> In case you do not have access to facilitators, **consider setting a World Café, a Marketplace with Break-Out spaces or an Open Space Technology approach to support group work.** There are several step-by-step descriptions on Google regarding how to apply those approaches and you may decide which design is the best to facilitate integrated working of your youth audience towards the priorities for hydro politics in relation to the themes above.

Imagine a Satellite Event taking place in an afternoon. A potential outline could be:

14:00 - Opening: sets the context for the Satellite Events, introduces its goals and links to the 8th World Water Forum

14:15 - Input/Awareness Raising Moment: presentation and/or discussion on water issues relevant to your region and/or locality, in order to make sure participants are at similar page regarding water information

15:00 - Group Work on the themes of the 8th World Water Forum, aiming to set the priorities according to your audience

16:30 - Collective draft of a Youth Statement: groups present what they have identified as priorities and work towards drafting a Youth Statement that reflects the main issues to be addressed and call for actions (see expected outcomes below)

18:00 - Closing

EXPECTED OUTCOMES - MINIMUM REQUIRED DELIVERABLES

A successful 8th World Water Forum Youth Satellite Event generates as outputs:

- **Youth Statement:** invite youth to review and indicate priority water issues in your region, in a very direct and objective manner, and in the form of a structured document that clearly presents their positioning and call for actions (aim for one page max!);
- **Impact & Engagement Data:** keep track (in an Excel or Word file) of information related to the representativeness of your group: the gender of the participants, the municipalities/provinces/countries they come from, and ethnicity are very important impact metrics. Besides that: **is there anyone leading an initiative (it could be a project, enterprise/startup, research...) that is tackling water challenges and helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goal - SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation?** Register the initiative and share with us! The impact data will allow the Editorial Team to determine youth involvement in SDG 6 and the empowerment of vulnerable groups as women, for instance;
- **A 3 to 5 minutes video** combining testimonials and the summary/overview of the day and the outcomes of your Satellite Event. This does not need to be a professional video, statements registered with a mobile phone are just fine.

Mapping, monitoring and connecting the information generated with the Youth Satellite Events is essential to **enable the consolidation of local and regional networks of young water entrepreneurs, researchers, professionals and students**. It also facilitates the identification of outstanding youth to take part in water agendas beyond the 8th World Water Forum.

The minimum number of participants for an event to be considered a 8th World Water Forum Youth Satellite Event is 15, and the majority (over 50%) must be aged between 12 to 35 years old.

There is no need to have a background on water in order to host a 8th World Water Forum Youth Satellite Event. The mixture of backgrounds is encouraged in order to outreach those who are not yet connected to the water agenda.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

> > Before March 2018

It's time to be active and make sure your voice is represented in the 8th World Water Forum! Youth organisations and networks worldwide are invited to spread the word on the Youth Satellite Events initiative and engage in planning and executing a Satellite Event at the local and/or regional levels.

The Editorial Team will maintain a database updated with the activated contacts; monitor the delivery of the expected outcomes; consolidate a global impact map and welcome the Youth Statements and the audiovisual content to be generated by the Satellite Event organisers.

In the meantime, the Youth Delegates will also work towards securing strategically means to showcase the outputs of the 8th World Water Forum Youth Satellite Events initiative in the multiple processes forming the Forum agenda.

The Editorial Team will systematically review the outputs and draft a global Youth Statement, connecting the content of all the local and regional Statements submitted. All the outputs will be processed to be presented in the 8th World Water Forum, always in alignment with the youth engaged.

> > In March 2018

The outputs are going to be showcased in the Forum, at the Expo area, in a youth-focused stand, and the Youth Delegates of the World Water Council are also doing their best to secure sessions and activities linked to the main Forum agenda, within the Regional and the Citizens Processes. The goal includes, as well, the delivery of a Global Youth Statement based on the results of all 8th World Water Forum Youth Satellite Event to the policy-makers involved in the Political Process of the Forum.

Online strategies for coordinated youth engagement in social media during the Forum are also welcomed, such as artistic interventions and debates. Share your ideas with us! :-)

> > After March 2018 and the closing of the 8th World Water Forum

The Editorial Team will work hard to compile all the experience with the Youth Satellite Events into an e-publication that showcases outstanding initiatives led by youth worldwide towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal - SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. We want to show the world our powerful role in building a better water future for all!

We also commit to support the local and regional networks identified and activated during the Youth Satellite Events initiative to advance with their engagement in hydro politics. Together, we can disseminate the youth position in water issues, take a proactive approach for generating and leading solutions to the main challenges identified and call for action from other strategic stakeholders.

The Youth Delegates of the World Water Council will keep track of the lessons learned and of the best practices while implementing a Youth Satellite Event, aiming to improve the strategy towards the next Forums.

HOW TO COMMUNICATE AND ENGAGE OTHER YOUTH IN THE INITIATIVE?

When promoting an event, include in the planning process enough time to engage in social media. Designate a person or group to be in charge of collecting and sharing:

- **1 min video-testimonials** about the experience of running and/or participating in a 8th World Water Forum Youth Satellite Event. Tell the audience your perspectives and spread the word about what actions youth in your region would like to see taking place;
- **3 to 5 pictures registering the event** and the participants engaged in the activities. A great final group picture to close the event is always a nice shot!

Report on the experience in social media and encourage the participants to do the same using the tags:

#WorldWaterForum8 #ForumMundialdaAgua
#YouthSatelliteEvents
#WWC #YouthDelegates

And of course, add the tags related to your own organisation or networks ;-)

REPORTING THE OUTCOMES

Once the Youth Satellite Event you led is over, please submit to wwfyouthsatelliteevents@gmail.com the expected outcomes - minimum required deliverables:

- The **Youth Statement** elaborated;
- The **Impact & Engagement Data**. Excel or word files are just fine, but feel free to present the information in more creative ways if you are willing and available to;
- The **3 to 5 minutes video** combining testimonials and the summary/overview of the Satellite Events and its outcomes.

In addition to that, we kindly ask you to submit as well:

- **Up to 3 pictures** registering the experience;
- **Up to 3 links for 1 min video-testimonials** that may have been registered and uploaded to social media.

Help us process the information by writing down in the email subject field:

Youth Satellite Event | Your Location/Region

Please include your **contact information: full name, email, phone number, mini bio and link to social media**.

We will acknowledge receipt and get in touch with you while drafting the regional positions from youth on water.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT...

>> The Youth Satellite Events are an initiative led by the Youth Delegates of the World Water Council, in partnership with youth organisations and networks, aiming to encourage active youth engagement in water. Unfortunately, we are in NO condition to financially support the Satellite Events to be held worldwide. We encourage the ones interested in attending the #WorldWaterForum8 to find means to secure their participation - and let us know if you are going to be there!

The signatory organisations and networks often share opportunities related to not only the WWF8 but many water-related events and activities in their social media and mailing list. Follow those and keep yourself updated to what is going on the water world!

>> The beauty - and importance - of water is that it connects multiple fields of expertise and multiple stakeholders. Be inclusive and go beyond the water "bubble" when convening a Youth Satellite Event: encourage and facilitate the involvement of vulnerable youth groups. People of colour, minorities, poor and indigenous young people are largely underrepresented in decision-making about water and sanitation, alongside young women.

>> The Editorial Team will regularly report on the Youth Satellite Events initiative progress in the social media of their networks and organisations, offering tips, articles, online training sessions and other relevant content that may help you to run a successful event and build off the outcomes of the experience. What does it mean? The guidelines in this document are not the only resource to count on ;-)

SOME USEFUL LINKS

Learn more about the #WorldWaterForum8 and connect with ongoing activities, public consultations and calls for proposals: www.worldwaterforum8.org

For information on the World Water Council and the Youth Delegates program, please visit: www.worldwatercouncil.org

Find what are the Sustainable Development Goals and keep track of their achievement here: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

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