



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



unitar
United Nations
Institute for Training and Research



YORK **U**
UNIVERSITÉ
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VIRTUAL PANEL

LAUNCHING THE GLOBAL WATER ACADEMY

*Humanitarian responses to the emerging water crises
as a result of extreme climatic events*



14 JULY
2023



10:00 am
(NY time)



Aim: This virtual panel will be used as a platform to launch the Global Water Academy. The President of the UN General Assembly, Executive Director of UNITAR, and the President of York University will provide opening remarks. A panel will follow on the topic of: "Humanitarian responses to the emerging water crises as a result of extreme climatic events."

Introduction to the Virtual Panel Event

The Global Water Academy was announced at the UN Water Conference in March 2023 in New York City as a multi-stakeholder collaboration between the United Nations, academic institutions, and private sector partners, with York University (Canada) as Academic Lead. The three key pillars of the Global Water Academy will tackle diverse aspects of the water sustainability crisis: training, research, and knowledge mobilization, ultimately used to inform decision-making and public policy. The Global Water Academy aspires to foster training and capacity development, empower community-based networks, weave traditional knowledge, and inspire innovation to co-create sustainable water solutions and ensure equitable access to water for all. By doing so, the Global Water Academy will empower policy and decision-makers, government officials, industry, and the communities most affected by water insecurity, with the knowledge, expertise, and capacity to ameliorate the water crisis.



At the launch of our first event, we will host a panel entitled: "Humanitarian responses to the emerging water crises as a result of extreme climatic events." Extreme climatic events, including heatwaves, droughts, and storms, are increasing in frequency and intensity over the past few decades, with consequences for freshwater. For example, extreme climatic events have been associated with changes in freshwater availability and degradation of water quality, including elevated concentrations of nutrients, contaminants of emerging concern, and potential for algal blooms, some of which may be toxic. As humans and wildlife rely on freshwater for life, alterations in the freshwater supply in response to extreme climatic events can have catastrophic impacts, particularly during humanitarian crises. This panel aims to explore the humanitarian responses, challenges, and solutions to alleviating the freshwater crisis, particularly in the face of global environmental degradation and extreme climatic events.



Program and Speakers

Welcome



H.E. Mr. Csaba Körösi (TBD)

President,
UN General Assembly



H.E. Mr. Nikhil Seth

UN Assistant Secretary-General
Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)



Dr. Rhonda Lenton

President and Vice-Chancellor,
York University, Canada

Moderator



Prof. Sapna Sharma

Associate Professor and York Research Chair in Global Change Biology,
York University

Speakers

With the panelists, we hope to cover the role of climatic extreme events on freshwater and how this affects Indigenous and African women. We will then move to thinking about solutions, such as governance and AI tools to provide clean water in refugee camps.



Prof. Syed Imran Ali

Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research,
York University



Dr. Nicolas Jarraud

Global Water Partnership,
Sweden



Ms. Jessica Vandenberghe

Assistant Dean, Community and Culture,
University of Victoria



Ms. Swani Keelson

Founder,
Global Water Promise

Question and Answer Period

Closing Remarks

