



**International  
Science Council**

The global voice for science

# **The ISC at the UN 2023 Water Conference Statement**



# INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

## Interactive Dialogue 4 on Water for Cooperation

Thur. 23 March 2023, 15:00-18:00, Conference Room 4, UNHQ, New York

The International Science Council (ISC) works at the global level to catalyze and convene scientific expertise, advice and influence on issues of major concern to both science and society.

The ISC has a growing global membership that brings together over 230 international scientific organizations. The mission of the ISC is to act as the global voice of science and for science. That is why ISC is here today to rise its voice.

1. The ISC highlights the importance of science and actionable knowledge in responding to current global water and climatic crises as well as emerging and future challenges, water cooperation being one of the means to achieve water-related goals and other SDGs.
2. Most current water problems can be addressed through applying existing knowledge, it is therefore urgent to translate existing scientific knowledge into options, solutions and interventions for making progress on the ground. This requires, amongst others, a closer collaboration and more systematic dialogue between policy-makers and scientists for developing a joint understanding of multi-faceted issues and the context in which they are to be addressed, for advancing evidence-based policy-making and co-designing fit-for-purpose solutions and actions acceptable to and beneficial for all.
3. Given the centrality of water in social, political and economic affairs across all scales, it is paramount to strengthen the role of science to better understand and address the complex interplay of natural and human factors that still hinder progress in resolving current water crises and to prevent future ones.
4. This is even more true in case of transboundary water crises, usually characterized by little collaboration, weak governance, lack of participatory decision-making and of formal settlement mechanisms.
5. The need for strengthened cooperation is evident because of existing and emerging challenges related to population growth, migration, conflicts, climate change.
6. The shortage of water resources of sufficient quantity and quality, combined with the rapidly growing and urbanizing populations, changes in food and energy requirements, and lifestyles is giving origin to an increasing number of water conflicts around the world (P. Gleick Pacific Institute, Water Conflict Chronology, 2018) mostly in already water-stressed areas. Establishing novel solutions founded on a scientific basis to a wide range of water problems is the goal of water diplomacy in addressing transboundary water disputes.
7. The actions empowering society to move forward include acknowledging water as a human right, providing a collaborative response to security challenges and water justice, multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral dialogues, enabling local actors and actions, amplifying people' voices and accounting for water export (water embedded in goods) towards water-rich countries.
8. The ISC commits itself to offer its large, comprehensive and geographically distributed expertise in supporting intergovernmental efforts to solve water crises.

---

The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together 40 international scientific Unions and Associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils