



**International  
Science Council**

The global voice for science

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



## INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

### Interactive Dialogue no. 5 on Water Action Decade

Fri. 24 March 2023, 10:00-13:00, Conference Room 4, UNHQ, New York

1. The world is not on track to meet global goals related to water by any measure. With only seven years left to achieve the SDGs, and almost at the mid-point of the Water Decade, there is an urgent need to translate scientific knowledge into appropriate solutions on the ground.
2. With its broad-based membership in the natural and social sciences as well as technology, the International Science Council is prepared to provide integrated, independent, and evidence-based advisory support to UN-Water and other relevant organizations of the UN system as well as to Member States in order to achieve SDG6 and related SDGs.
3. Given the centrality of water in social, political, and economic affairs across all scales, it is paramount to strengthen the role of science as an objective authority in an increasingly contested field.
4. While science has delivered solutions to address many current water issues it also actively addresses anticipated and not yet well understood water challenges.
5. Science is crucial in accelerating the achievement of water-related goals of the Water Action Decade through providing actionable knowledge, closing knowledge-implementation gaps and guiding evidence-based policymaking.
6. To this end, an adequately resourced mission-oriented science is required that integrates natural and social sciences and acts as a critical reviewer of decisions and actions taken at policy and implementation level.
7. Simultaneously, science supports water education and training through promoting the open science paradigm and interlinking local and regional activities to form global water-knowledge and capacity building networks.
8. Lastly, in order to close the science-policy gap communication and close collaboration among experts, policymakers, practitioners and affected communities is to be improved to arrive at co-designed solutions acceptable to all, that can be easily implemented by non-experts.

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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