



BRING
WATER
BACK TO
CLIMATE
DISCOURSE

6th Karachi International Water Conference

27th & 28th November 2023



DRAFT CONFERENCE DECLARATION

The 6th Karachi International Water Conference is centred on the theme "Water Matters in Climate Discourse," recognising water's pivotal role in and beyond climate change. In the past two days, a profound truth emerged: water's significance transcends its role in climate considerations; it is inherently central in every realm of life, influencing financial landscapes, matters of justice and human rights, health and nutrition, circular economy principles, and women's empowerment. In essence, water is life.

Recognising water as the essence of life, the conference advocates for the establishment of a unified body comprising water scientists, researchers, thinkers, policymakers, academics, representatives from civil society, and high-ranking government officials. This collective entity is crucial for public trust and governmental responsiveness.

Advocating for the establishment of the inaugural "National Panel on Water," the conference envisions it as a preeminent, independent authority influencing pivotal water-related decisions. The Panel will lead research initiatives, disseminating reports for informed decision-making across all levels.

In its pursuit of excellence and sustainable impact, the National Panel on Water invites collaboration with esteemed United Nations agencies and international development partners, especially UNDP, UNESCO and IWMI.

Modelling its approach after the success of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the National Panel on Water aims to replicate its influential role in shaping policies and data within the water sector, progressing from grassroots to national, regional and international stages. The long-term goal is to become an international panel on water, amplifying the voices of the global majority.

Another commendable outcome is the National Commission on Human Rights' commitment to integrating water justice into its mandate. A dedicated working group will systematically incorporate water justice within the human rights framework, focusing on identifying and safeguarding water rights to construct a cohesive narrative. Acknowledging challenges in fragmented legislation governing water law and rights, the initiative proposes a robust mechanism for holding the public sector and government accountable for water rights and water justice.

Mainstreaming youth in water management is crucial for ensuring sustainable and effective solutions to the world's water challenges. Inclusive and youth-centric water management is key to building a more sustainable and water-secure future. To transform these ideas into reality, Hisaar Foundation, in partnership with IWA YWP Pakistan, has launched the Youth Water Network. This outcome from the conference aims to empower young people in water management with the goal of fostering intergenerational equity and also cultivate a sense of responsibility for the environment.

Recognising that accessing micro-finance relies on impoverished individuals participating in a comprehensive poverty graduation system, the initiative proposes a journey involving cash and asset transfers, skills training, and community-based infrastructure development. Through interest-free loan cycles, individuals are prepared to graduate into microfinance lending and SMEs. In financing the water sector, partnerships with grassroots organisations are vital, necessitating innovative financial instruments from the corporate sector.

The conference symbolises the passing of the torch, emphasising that the future of water management lies with young people and women. The primary goal is to inspire increased participation in both the water and public sectors, cultivating a critical mass to serve as a torchbearer for transformative change.