Stockholm International Water Institute

www.siwi.org

Dani Gaillard, Senior Advisor, Danielle.gaillard@siwi.org

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Multifaceted challenges call for a multitude of integrated and cross-sectoral solutions for a just transition of societies towards a sustainable future for all. **Only by addressing SDGs holistically and simultaneously can we achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and build resilient and equitable societies to successfully meet current and future challenges.**

Likewise, global processes that address sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, and biodiversity targets (e.g. SDGs, Paris Climate Agreement, Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and others) must better link to each other to leverage progress on a continual basis.

Due to the transformative ambition of the SDGs, achieving its targets is inherently a collective action problem, one that needs to incentivize joint action by individuals and organizations, governments and non-state actors, in the pursuit of a common goal where individual gain is dependent on collective gain through cooperation.

Cooperation and coordination across sectors are no longer a luxury but an imperative. The triple planetary crises of(s)2.1 b 0 (o)r1im(at)-3.9(e)-1 ((o)rht)-4(a)10 (n)-4(g)2 (e)-1 , oiverstl(o)-2.1 (s)2.1 (s)2 ((a
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Water connects all the Sustainable Development Goals and enables co-benefits to be optimized. The International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, calls for inclusive, holistic, and cross-sectoral water management to be placed at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Climate Action Agendas. To this end, we maintain the need for an integrated cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder approach, where water-related solutions accelerate the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

The **Water Action Agenda (**Water Action Agenda | Sustainable Development (un.org) can be a key element for supporting the transformation towards a more just and equitable world where everyone's basic needs and rights are met without compromising the livelihoods of future generations. The Water Action Agenda, with over 800 commitments from regional, national and local governments, UN agencies and all other stakeholders including the private and non-profit sectors, is a clear outcome of the **UN 2023 Water Conference** convened by the UN General Assembly (resolution 75/212 and whose outcomes are recorded in resolution A/77/L.106)

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Water-related climate and ecological disasters threaten the world, with unprecedented droughts, floods, and wildfires having devastating impacts on rural and urban livelihoods, ecosystems, infrastructure, industries and entire societies. Conflicts provide further risks, causing human suffering, food shortages, and spikes in energy prices and the cost of living. Meanwhile, dirty water and unsafe sanitation are leading causes of death and preventable disease in many low-income countries. This represents huge economic losses on a global scale, not only from direct loss and damages incurred by water-related disasters, but also by hampering food security and productivity, incurring massive health care expenditures, and impeding access to education and gender equality that would lead to improved livelihoods.

Climate change is also serving as a risk multiplier, particularly since already unstable regions tend to be disproportionately impacted by water scarcity, water-related disasters, and food insecurity. Water is fundamental to all aspects of climate action, both mitigation and adaptation. All pathways to net zero require massive transformations of every sector of society, such as food and energy, which must take into consideration sustainable and reliable access to freshwater. To achieve the fast, just, and profound transitions we need, every sector of society must understand how they impact and are impacted by access to water. Water must therefore be at the heart of all climate strategies and be adequately prioritized and financed.

Ensuring that people have access to clean water and safely managed sanitation is necessary to combat diseases, improve nutrition, increase school enrolment rates, and tackle gender discrimination. Investments in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) have a high social and economic return on investment. Every dollar invested represents a four dollar return in benefits to society. Positive change in this sector depends on improved water governance, namely well-functioning systems and decision-making processes for sustainable and resilient services. This stretches far beyond infrastructure investment as it requires institutional capacity, correct and relevant knowledge, multi-partnership engagements in policy making transparency, and

Innovation is broader than technology and **includes innovations in governance, finance, culture and working with nature**. Locally-led innovation is critical to building inclusive systems by empowering local communities and marginalized groups. Good governance, finance, culture and partnerships are necessary to develop, bring to market and scale innovations.

Whilst innovation and new technological opportunities can be used for better access to data – such as measuring, mapping, and forecasting– the spread of misinformation and disinformation can also have negative effects that could escalate crises. Further research is needed on geopolitical security perspectives including the impacts, aims, uses, risks and opportunities related to, and the actors involved in the use of AI.

Earth observation satellites and other programmes offer the potential to monitor events and 108.84Tm0 Td( )T

2030 Agenda. A sustainable future cannot be conceived without acknowledging the foundational concept of water governance, which depends on the ability to fairly allocate water resources for multiple purposes (health, energy, agriculture, nature...), to prevent conflict and mitigate the disastrous impacts of climate change on people and the planet. It has social, economic, political, security, and environmental dimensions, all of which must be carefully considered, included and addressed, from scoping to decision-making.

How societies choose to govern their water resources and services has a profound impact on people's livelihoods and the sustainability of water resources, as well as on freshwater ecosystems and sustainable economic development. Ultimately, access to water and its sound management, from source to sea, is a matter of survival and resilience and can help to break the circle of poverty, inequality, and insecurity, especially for women and youth. This means the bridging of institutional and legislative silos across all sectors and borders and the entire water cycle [illegible]