



Ministry of Environment
of Denmark



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK

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Side event for the UN Water Conference, March 22- 24 2023

Title: International Partnerships and how they contribute to achieving SDG 6

Date: March 23 inside the UN Headquarters

Partnerships of all kinds are crucial for identifying, developing and delivering responses and innovative solutions. Consensus and multistakeholder approaches support holistic solutions. This is why the global cooperation, including partnerships, is the focus of SDG 17 and theme 4 for Interactive Dialog at the UN Water Conference:

Theme 4: Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, Water Across the 2030 Agenda.

We cannot change the dependence and centrality of water – so we need to change our ways and we need to do it together. Globally, we have the technologies needed to overcome our common water challenges. We need to share our knowledge, and we need to help each other come up implementation, innovation and processes for sustainable solutions. Across governments and companies, cities, regions, countries and sectors around the world – we need partnerships to accelerate implementation. When it comes to funding, partnerships are also becoming increasingly important all over the world. We need a lot of investment and we must ensure that the right people are working together – government officials, companies, the financial sector and many more.

For decades the Danish public and private sector, as well as academia, has worked together to modernize the water sector. This has resulted in the Danish water sector being one of the world's most efficient when it comes to service delivery and water and energy consumption. Denmark can contribute with valuable knowledge and solutions and has therefore developed extensive global partnerships on water management. Such global partnerships are crucial to deliver tangible results for implementation of the SDG6 and ensure our cities and communities are resilient, reliable and sustainable and can protect our planet for future generations. For example, since 2016, Denmark has had a partnership with South Africa regarding sustainable water supply. In 2021, a partnership was started with India regarding an efficient water supply. South Africa is currently accelerating the Partnership program model and expanding the network of partners, both with local and international partners, like with Denmark in the recent past. South Africa will showcase a two multimillion program.

The objective of this event is to gather experience and share knowledge about concrete international and cross-sectoral partnerships on water. Cases will be drawn from around the world

to reflect the diverse needs and circumstances that exist. A panel discussion will focus on how partnerships can help fund sustainable water protects and sustainable urban solutions. Speakers will include ministers from South Africa and India and representatives from California, from organizations and from the private sector.

Draft Program:

- Welcome, Moderator, C40, Director Mark Watts
- Welcoming remarks, Minister for Environment, Denmark, Magnus Heunicke
- Framing messages, Minister for Water and Sanitation, South Africa
- Framing messages, Minister for Jal Shakti, India (TBC)
- Framing messages, UNICEF, xx

Panel Discussion based on concrete experiences with partnerships on water, Moderator, C40, Director Mark Watts

- Short presentation, California State Water Board, chairman, Joaquin Esquivel
- Short presentation, P4G, Director for Partnerships, Robyn McGuckin
- Short presentation, IWA, President, Tom Mollenkopf
- Short presentation, Grundfos, CEO, Poul Due Jensen
- Discussion among the panelists - What is needed to create the good partnerships?
- End of session, Moderator, C40, Director Mark Watts

Commitments:

During the last year, Denmark has more than doubled its commitments to water engagements as part of the development aid with a specific focus on new and improved access to water in Africa.

New commitments (subject to parliament approval) for the Water Action Agenda:

- USD 40m to a Team Europe Initiative on transboundary water management in Africa
- USD 10m to One WASH sector programme in Ethiopia in partnership with UNICEF
- USD 11m to the Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership
- USD Xm til the UNICEF Innovation WASH HUB
- USD 5m to increase water access and climate resilience in Burkina Faso in partnership with WFP
- USD 17m to a framework program from 2023 to 2026 on Strategic Sector Cooperation in eight countries, of which there is a focus on water in the six countries (India, China, Ethiopia, Morocco, Kenya and South Africa).