**UN 2023 Water Conference Virtual Side Event Proposal as one of the components of the “Ecocivilisation Year of Water 2023 Preparation”**

**Concept Note (ver-2) Thursday, 19 Jan 2023, Yangon**

**Proposed Virtual Side Event: “Co-Creation: The New Water Governance Paradigm”**

Co-organisers: -

1. Women for Water Partnership – <https://www.womenforwater.org>

2. G100 – <https://www.G100.in>

3. Ecocivilisation – <https://www.ecocivilisation.eu>

4. Myanmar Water Academy – <https://www.myanmarwatersacademy.com/demo3/> (next month we can publish it on Internet)

5. WRTC International – <https://www.wrtc.org> (this site is in restructuring moment)

6. Earth Forever – <https://www.Earthforever.org>

7. RASIT – <https://www.rasit.org>

8. GWP-SEA - <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-South-East-Asia/>

9. AHIC – Agro-Hydro Informatics Centre, Myanmar

10. Golden Plain (GL) – <https://www.goldenplain.org>

Session Concept Note

The proposed virtual side event, "CO-CREATION: The New Water Governance Paradigm" planned to convene under the thematic focus "ID 5: Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan". Ten co-organizers come together to accelerate the implementation of the objectives of the decade (2018-2028) by choosing a hands-on geographical area as Myanmar, where there is polycrisis and many socio-economic, governance and technical challenges. The co-organizers are future thinkers and each organization has track-records of foresight thinking, thriving, global/regional coverage (G100, Ecocivilisation, GWP-SEA, RASIT/CANSU Global, Women for Water Partnership, Earth Forever, and Women Plus Water) where as others [Myanmar Water Academy, AHIC, Golden Plain as co-organizers and a number of Myanmar entities organizations, both NGOs and Private Firms, and ] have life-long (both live-in and research) knowledge of Myanmar Water Resources, history in water management and governance, technology, sociology, anthropology, agriculture sector development (or otherwise), soil and water sciences, seed production, rainwater harvesting, market fluctuations, supply chain challenges, etc. etc. in Myanmar and South East Asia.

The session organizers are strongly committed to good water resources management and integrated water resources management aided by advanced and practical technologies on the one hand and establishing the multi-layered governance style led by conscious, thriving and volunteer change agents. Women are more likely than men to engage in water harvesting and small-scale irrigation. However, research shows that women lack equal access to the information needed to produce food more effectively and efficiently. Women need to be engaged in designing, implementing, and monitoring climate-smart agriculture. With a food crisis and climate change affecting millions of people in Asia and the Pacific, equipping female farmers with technology, support, and resources, is a win for women and food security for all. (Ref. ADB) We found the gap between what we know need to be done and what nothing can be done by individual and/or a single organization/company/government department all over the world, however, it was more so in current Myanmar and the South East Asia. In our SEA region, many well-informed purpose-driven water, environmental, and sustainability professionals who have enough exposure to sustainability science and climate change adaptation suffer from the committed dissonance stemming from the chasm between they feel permitted to do under prevailing socio-economical-political circumstances and a necessary immediate, science-informal and data-driven systems transformation.

This proposal aims to overcome this deadlock by creating a new water governance paradigm with the collaboration of ten very committed organizations. Cross-sector partnerships include, Agriculture, Water, Economy, Governance, Academia, and the actors are multi-stakeholders with women (professors, governance experts, researchers, farmers, merchants, exporters, community leaders, grassroots), Youth (also multi-level together with Young Water Professionals), international partners, sponsors, and Researchers. As impacts of the polycrisis unravel and mainstream awareness hits a tipping point, need for a multi-layered governance system is obvious. Individual change agents are necessary regardless of the polycrisis, socio-economic limitations and cultural differences. Diversity-Inclusion-and-Consciousness led leadership at all level may activate the multi-layered governance across the landscape of the Water World. Therefore, we have chosen a pilot project area as Myanmar and keen to replicate in other countries and regions when appropriate. Cross-sector partnerships include, Agriculture, Water, Economy, Governance and the actors are multi-stakeholders with women, Youth, communities, sponsors, and Researchers.

List of Speakers: -

1. Mrs. Mariet Verhoef-Cohen ([president@womenforwater.org](mailto:president@womenforwater.org) ), President of the Women for Water Partnership;

2. Dr. Habeen Arora Rai (ha@g100.in), Founder and President of G100;

3. Dr. hc Violeta Bulc (violeta.bulc@vibacom.si), Founder and Curator of Ecocivilisation;

4. Prof. Dr. Khin Ni Ni Thein (aiweb.lead@gmail.com), Founder of Myanmar Water Academy and Initiator of Future Water Think Tank;

5. Mr. Fany Wedahuditama (fany.wedahuditama@gwpsea.org), Coordinator of GWP-SEA;

6. Drs. Alice Bouman-Dentener (alice.bouman@gmail.com), Co-founder of RASIT/CANSU Global;

7. Mrs. Diana Skreva (diskreva@earthforever.org), Executive Director of Earth Forever;

8. Prof. Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace (cschuster.wallace@usask.ca), Women Plus Water, University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

Local organizations are in partnership with this commitment. These are Myanmar Water Academy (MyanWA), Agro Hydro Informatics Centre (AHIC) Myanmar, Golden Plain Myanmar (Agricultural Firm) with NGO setting is a big organization in Myanmar's Agriculture sector), Supreme Water Doctor, a private sector entity with 70% of the total market coverage in Myanmar, Smaller SMEs like e-waste group (startups incubators) - they are important for our project to spread the 'water circular economy message', Research Groups - important for capacity building (the first phase of the project will begin with awareness raising and capacity building), ‘Three reading Clubs’ - existing reading clubs in water with minimum 100 members each (they are effective and multi-stakeholders setting in capacity building and knowledge sharing).

The **first phase** of the “Co-Creation: The New Water Governance Paradigm” **project** will begin with awareness raising and capacity building as well as knowledge/data collection and sharing. The **second phase** will be making incubators for wastewater treatment in several settings (centralized, decentralized and mobile) – there will be ‘rainwater harvesting campaigns and on ground implementations’ – also water resources reassessment by communities training/applying the ‘citizen science’. **The third and final phase** will be formation of river basin organizations and multi-layered governance structural design. **Phase I (2023-2024), Phase II (2025-2026), Phase III (2027-2028)**. The results will be presented at the World Water Forum (10) in Indonesia, WWD2024, mid-term review results will be presented at the WWD2027, and the final results will be presented at the closing ceremony of the Water Action Decade 2028. Myanmar NGO Water Mothers (part of Myanmar Water Academy) participated in the **International High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028,**that was held **from 20 to 22 June 2018 in Dushanbe** and Women Water Forum: Bridging Voices to Actions”, a preconference event.

Representatives for the co-organisers are as follows: -

Women for Water Partnership (WfWP): Mrs. Mariet Verhoef-Cohen <President@womenforwater.org>; Myanmar Water Academy (MyanWA): Dr. Maung Maung Min Thein <icewe.asia@gmail.com>; G100: Dr. Harbeen Arora Rai <ha@g100.in>; Ecocivilisation: Dr hc Violeta Bulc <violeta.bulc@vibacom.si>; RASIT/Cansu Global: Drs. Alice Bouman-Dentener <alice.bouman@gmail.com>; GWP-SEA: Mr. Fany Wedahuditama@gwpsea.org>; Earth Forever (Bulgaria) Mrs. Diana Skreva <diskreva@earthforever.org>; Agro-Hydro Informatics Centre (AHIC) Myanmar: Mrs. Khin Thein Htwe <thein.khinhtwe@gmail.com>; Golden Plain Myanmar: Mrs. Htwe Htwe Aung <htwehtweaung@goldenplain.org>; Women Plus Water, University of Saskatchewan, Canada: Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace <cschuster.wallace@usask.ca> , Canada

Main Contact Person for the Session Proposal is Prof. Dr. Khin Ni Ni Thein [aiweb.lead@gmail.com](mailto:aiweb.lead@gmail.com).

**ANNEX 1.**

**Additional Partners who are not co-organizers: -**

1. Supreme Water Doctor - Private sector entity

2. Smaller SMEs like e-waste group and few others

3. Sub-national local NGOs

4. Research Groups

5. Three Reading Clubs

**ANNEX 2.**

**UN 2023 Water Conference Concept**

In March 2023 the world will come together during the **UN 2023 Water Conference** convened by the UN General Assembly. The parameters of the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference are described in General Assembly resolution 75/212. The mandated outcome document of the Conference is a summary of its proceedings.

We need clear **commitments, pledges and actions**, across all our sectors, industries and interests, uniting nations, stakeholders and professionals on actions that help deliver on the water actions in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, actions that can be scaled and replicated in the years to come. Such commitments will be compiled in the Water Action Agenda, another key outcome of the Conference. The emphasis **should be on accelerated implementation and improved impact** towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets, looking at content, process and structure. The existing and future challenges in the field of water require innovative and transformative ideas and a “beyond business as usual” approach.

 For more detailed information about the Water Action Agenda, please see below:

* [Concept Note on the Water Action Agenda](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/Water_Action_Agenda_operations_concept_note.pdf)
* [Frequently Asked Questions on the Water Action Agenda](https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/faq)

On 24 October 2022, over 1200 stakeholders participated in an open stakeholder consultation at the UN Headquarters as well as online. The discussions were focused on five roundtables where participants shared and discussed proposals for potential game changers for the Water Action Agenda based on the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework: capacity development, governance, data and information, financing and innovation.

As [defined by the President of the General Assembly, a gamechanger can be](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/Concept%20note_Stakeholder%20Consultation_24%20Oct.pdf):

“a method, an approach a cooperation strategy, capacity development activity, or agreement that will transform the way we think, do business, plan and implement policies, or govern at local, regional and global levels. A game changer is catalyzer to becoming more resilient to water, climate, food and energy crises, as well as to economic, ecological, social and political changes. Ultimately, the goal is the enhancement of cooperation to leverage benefits across actors, sectors and scales, and serves as means for sustainable development.”

A summary of the stakeholder consultation with potentially game changing ideas identified by stakeholders is published [here](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/final_water_consultation_report_19_oct.pdf).

All contributors to the Water Action Agenda are encouraged to be **inspired by the game changers**. The gamechangers aim to support the Water Action Agenda, ensuring effective, action oriented, inclusive and integrative voluntary commitments needed for a successful implementation of SDG 6 and beyond.