

Emerging trends that shape our water future: A series of online dialogues hosted by the GWP TEC

Dialogue # 1 Just Water Partnerships: A new mechanism for change?

Monday 16 October 2023, 1400-1530 CET

Meeting link: [Click here to join the meeting](#) (TEAMS)

Introducing the online dialogues

As we emerge from the 2023 UN Water Conference, with some renewed focus and momentum, it is timely to take stock of the emerging trends and look ahead to the next decade of water management and explore the opportunities for GWP leadership.

With this in mind, the GWP TEC intends to organize a series of online dialogues with the GWP network to surface and explore some of the emerging trends where GWP could take a leadership position in developing and disseminating knowledge, developing partnerships and building capacity. The intended outcome of the dialogues is to identify and elaborate on areas of strategic importance for GWP to position itself as a leader within the global water community.

Just Water Partnerships: A new mechanism for change?

A starting point for these dialogues will be a reflection on the outcomes from the UN Water Conference, and in particular focussing on the interim report from the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, [Turning the Tide: A Call to Collective Action](#). Within this report, the Commission recommend a seven point call to collective action, which includes the concept of Just Water Partnerships (JWPs). Inspired by the Just Energy Transition Partnerships that have emerged over the last couple of years, which are designed to deliver finance to low and middle income countries to accelerate decarbonization efforts, JWPs could provide a new mechanism to direct multiple sources of financing for water security to countries. As stated by the Commission, JWPs should involve several dimensions:

- Moving from a project-based to a country platform approach for water, similar to that being adopted in the Just Energy Transition Partnerships launched at COP26
- Strengthening the enabling environment for investments via a robust set of regulations and institutional arrangements, and by preparing a pipeline of well-prepared and bankable projects
- Reducing and sharing investment risks to reduce the cost of capital and catalyse greater private finance

The online dialogue will explore these dimensions, consider what Just Water Partnerships could deliver and reflect on lessons learned that shape how we deliver inclusive and equitable water management outcomes.

Draft Agenda

Timing	Agenda Item	Notes
0-5	Welcome on behalf of GWP Technical Committee (GWP-TEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jaehyang So, TEC Chair, Global Water Partnership</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restate the role of the TEC • Introduce TEC members • General housekeeping
5-10	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pablo Bereciartua, Chair, Global Water Partnership</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgency of water challenge • Role of GWP and new strategy on the horizon • How to mobilize the network
10-20	Introducing the global dialogues and framing first dialogue on Just Water Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tom Williams, TEC Member, Global Water Partnership</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Water Conf - important inflection point • Purpose of these dialogues • Introduction of Just Water Partnerships
20-45	Discussion with TEC members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dustin E. Garrick, Associate Professor & University Research Chair, University of Waterloo</i> • <i>Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, vice-rector on International Cooperation at the Kazakh-German University</i> 	Tom to moderate, questions to be developed in advanced and shaped with Dustin and Barbara
45-55	Open floor questions and remarks	Tom to bring any questions or comments from the chat and also invite others to contribute
55-65	Summary of discussion and preview of next global dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Per Bertilsson, interim Executive Secretary, GWP</i> • <i>Jaehyang So, TEC Chair, Global Water Partnership</i> 	Tom to summarize and also invite any reflections from Per and Jae
65-70	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Abdoulaye Sene, Chair of Regional Chairs & Chair, GWP-West Africa</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional dimensions of these discussions are important • Engagement with regional GWP critical • Next dialogue to take place as part of regional dialogues (November)

Detailed questions for Discussion with TEC:

Before we dive into the JWP concept, I first want to **ask you both** for your **reflections on the UN Water Conference**. What are your headline reflections on the event and how it informs our shared path forwards.

Moving to JWP's - we will use the description I mentioned earlier to frame a broader question about inclusive water management approaches for equitable outcomes - one important aspect is water allocation. **Question for Dustin, what are some of the established / emerging principles for water allocation reform to achieve justice and shared prosperity?**

Water allocation in a transboundary context is particularly complex. If we consider the concept of JWPs, they need to be effective in a transboundary context. **Question for Barbara, what can we learn from various legal frameworks for partnership over transboundary waters that are important for this concept of JWPs?**

Question for Dustin, If you were given a sizeable research grant to develop the concept of JWPs, what specific areas would you explore (i.e. where are the current research gaps as it relates to IWRM)?

Financing is clearly an important aspect of these themes, and we need a coordinated approach to financing water. **Question for Barbara, could you provide an example of a coordinated approach to financing water cooperation?**

Open up for Questions from the audience.

Last question for both panelists: As we reflect on all of these topics raised today, where do you think that GWP is best positioned to move the discourse and the action forward, where can GWP really play an important role?