



ACCELERATING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WATER DOMAIN: A CALL FOR ACTION

An advocacy initiative from the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme
and the convened Water and Gender Multi-Stakeholder Coalition

<https://en.unesco.org/wwap/water-gender>

THE OBJECTIVE

The scope of this Call for Action is to bring attention to the need of accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of women in the water domain, as well as to encourage the development and implementation of gender-inclusive strategies. This initiative calls upon decision-makers, political leaders, governors and policy-makers, financiers, CEOs and other relevant actors to accelerate concrete actions towards the achievement of: *water access to all without discrimination; promoting women's leadership in water management and governance; protecting women's water rights and applying gender-equal financing, narrowing the gender gap between policy and practice, prioritizing the collection of sex-disaggregated water data and counter-fighting norms and stereotypes that disadvantage women and girls.*

THE ROADMAP TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WATER SECTOR BY 2030

The Call for Action is a process that will be launched at global level in August 2021 (at the SIWI World Water Week) and culminate in March 2023 in coincidence with the International Water Decade Mid-Term Review celebrations. The Call will be promoted at international and regional levels with dedicated events that will disseminate supporting messages and contributions from the countries that adhere to the initiative. The results emanating from the Call will be monitored and communicated during the years up to 2030 - the last deadline to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The main events roadmap until 2023 are illustrated in the figure below:



Road map of the main events where the Call for Action will be presented (2021 – 2023)

RESPONDING TO KEY QUESTIONS

1. Who can join the Call for Action and for what purpose?

Everyone can join in the Call for Action: governments at any level, private sector, civil society, international and regional organizations, non-governmental and non-profit organizations, development banks, financiers, and academia among others. For example, the Call for Action can be used by governments to confirm political commitment on these topics and foster actions that integrate gender considerations into water policies, improve gender-equal financing, implement sex-disaggregated water data collection and analysis to inform policies and pursue a gender-equal access, use, and control of water resources and related decision-making.

2. Is there a deadline for joining the Call for Action?

The Call for Action process has started and will continue after its official launch at the World Water Week ([23rd](#) and [25th](#) of August 2021) until March 2023 in coincidence with the International Water Decade Mid-Term Review celebrations.

It can be joined at any time using the following email: waterandgendercallforaction@unesco.org.

3. Is there any advocacy material available to promote the Call for Action?

A full package of information, advocacy and messaging materials is available on [UNESCO WWAP website's special Call for Action section](#), which can be easily downloaded and freely used.

This Call is fact-based. The analysis document "[Taking Stock of Progress Towards Gender Equality in the Water Domain](#)" (UNESCO WWAP, 2021) is an assessment of the existing and emerging challenges to gender equality in the water domain. It provides information and data on different aspects, among others: access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, employment, climate change management, water governance, education and training, and data collection and funding. This document can also be downloaded from the [UNESCO WWAP website](#).

Critically important to fully understand the Call for Action is the conceptual Position Paper “Accelerating Gender Equality in the Water Domain: A Call for Action” (available soon), which contains the Call’s recommendations to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in the water domain while achieving safe and secure water for all.

4. What the Call for Action will bring about?

The Call for Action advocates for bold actions to accelerate the equitable access to water resources and water services, becoming inclusive and sustainable. These actions should trigger the necessary cultural changes for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the water domain by 2030. It is expected that members of the Water and Gender Multi-stakeholders Coalition led by UNESCO WWAP, and all governments, organizations, private sector, civil society, ODA and other entities supporting the Call will develop actions either on gender-transformative advocacy, policy, programming and planning, or financing as a result of the Initiative. Relevant actions will be reported and disseminated in dedicated events and platforms.

5. How to support and where to follow the Call for Action?

Everyone can use the Call for Action to promote the importance of accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of women in the water domain, in line with the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goal 6. The CfA’s advocacy package and other relevant materials can be downloaded and shared. UNESCO WWAP Water and Gender brochure can provide further information.

Call for Action activities, including events at international, regional and national scale can be followed through the [UNESCO WWAP website’s special Call for Action section](#) and through the [WWAP’s Twitter](#) conversations.