

## **Terms of Reference of the Youth Steering Committee for the Second International Conference on Water, Megacities and Global Change (EauMega 2020)**

### **1. Introduction**

Paris, New York, Beijing, Mumbai, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Mexico, Lagos... all Megacities – urban centers which accommodate more than 10 million inhabitants - are facing “mega”-challenges related to providing water services for their inhabitants, while managing their environment. Climate change effects of intensifying magnitude and global challenges such as sea level rise, increasing temperatures or urbanization, threaten these cities. Now, there is a need for action to achieve resilient cities.

A transversal and multidimensional solution is proposed, based on the collaboration among scientists who advance knowledge, operators (in both the public and private sectors) who innovate technically and socio-politically, and local politicians who can support new, fairer and more efficient models of water governance, in constant interaction with civil society.

The Second International Conference on “Water, Megacities and Global Change” (EauMega 2020), will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, to bring all these actors together.

### **Scope**

In-line with the UNESCO’s Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021), the conference organizers are committed to engage with youth networks (students, young professionals, members of NGOs, young scientists, etc.) not just as beneficiaries but also as knowledge holders and innovators. To this end, the creation of an EauMega 2020 Youth Steering Committee in charge of organizing youth activities and engagement is proposed.

### **2. Objectives**

#### **Objectives of the conference**

- Produce a scientific and technical overview of water management in Megacities in order to identify and update the most important issues
- Strengthen the dialogue between science, civil society and policy actors
- Launch the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWAC) and its cooperation platform. MAWAC aims to provide a platform for Megacities to share their experiences and challenges, propose solutions, and to obtain access to technical and financial support for programmes and projects, enabling them to successfully overcome the challenges of climate change.

#### **Objectives of the Youth Steering Committee**

- Provide technical and operational ideas and solution to integrate the youth perspective into the debate of the conference
- Propose and organize youth-led activities
- Draft a youth declaration including presenting solutions concerning megacities, water and global change

- Play an important role in the preparatory phase of the conference

### 3. Modus operandi

The Committee will consist of a group of 12 youth aged from 18 to 30 from all over the world, who will meet in videoconference every two weeks for the above-mentioned objectives.

The Committee will advise and propose innovative ideas on the topic of water, megacities and global change to the Global Steering Committee. The Youth Steering Committee will contribute to the preparatory work, on-site organization and outcomes of the EauMega 2020 conference. The Committee members will be free to organize and structure their work in the way they consider more suitable and convenient to them.

The Committee will elect a representative, preferably someone who can be available for any meeting at Paris time, in order to take part in the meetings with the Global Steering Committee to present the progress of the Youth Steering Committee's work and coordinate the overall organization.

### 4. Functions of the Steering Group

Some of the main functions of the steering group will include;

- recommending ways to engage with youth in the forum, e.g. youth participation in sessions
- provide guidance for the drafting and finalization of the youth declaration/statement/call for action of the conference
- identify ways in which their youth group will follow up on the outcomes of conference

In all of the above, the Group will consult with the UNESCO Secretariat.

### 5. Main outcomes of the Steering group

Some of the main outcomes of the Steering group will include:

- finalized youth declaration/statement/call for action statement for the conference
- youth and young professionals engaged in the technical and operational aspect of the conference

### 6. Personal outcomes

It consists of a worthwhile opportunity to learn how the organization of an international event at UNESCO premises works, while being given an opportunity to facilitate youth advocacy.

For the duration of your engagement, the member of the Committee will be working closely with professionals, academics, scientists, operators (both from public and private sector), civil society and policy makers, while being extensively exposed to high-profile dialogue and network of experts from all over the world.

Furthermore, the participant will be involved in the post-conference work to define the outcomes and the results of the event with the Global Steering Committee, while having the chance to involve their respective youth network in the follow-up actions. Participating in the Youth Steering Committee will also be an opportunity to exchange with young citizens from all over the world interested in the same issue, and to strengthen its professional network.

A **Certificate of participation** signed by the Global Steering Committee will be given to the participants at the end of the conference in order to recognize their work and allow the participant to add it on his/her CV.

## 7. Duration and timeline

The effective duration of the engagement will be 7 months spread from July to January 2020.

## 8. Working languages

English will be the main working language of the committee. Knowledge of French or Spanish will be an asset.

## 9. Selection Criteria and submission process

*Who can apply?*

The applicant should:

- i. be aged between 18 and 30
- ii. belong to an active youth-led network whose activities address megacities, water and/or global change
- iii. have knowledge and/or experience (in water, environment or urban-related fields) that can benefit the steering committee and a track record of meeting deadline
- iv. be willing to devote sufficient time to the affairs of the Youth Steering Committee
- v. possess good communication skills
- vi. be willing to work in a team environment

Interested candidates are welcomed to send their CVs accompanied by a 5-line paragraph explaining **why** they would like to be part of the Youth Steering Committee and **how** this will benefit from their participation, along with the name of at least one **reference** if not part of any youth group, to ***eaumega2020@unesco.org*** before **10<sup>th</sup> July 2020**.

During the selection process, efforts will be made to ensure programmatic, geographic and gender balance in the selection of the Steering Committee.

If you are selected, the Global Steering Committee will kindly ask you to sign the participation statement, which you will find in the last page.

## **8. Terms and conditions of participation**

This activity is conducted on a voluntary basis, unpaid, and does not fall within any contractual framework between the organizers and the candidate.

If a member of the Youth Steering Committee decides to attend the conference, all costs related to travel and accommodation, insurance and cost of visa to enter France will be borne by the candidate.



## Ad hoc Youth Steering Committee for EauMega 2020

### Participation Statement

I ....., accept to act as a member of the ad hoc Youth Steering Committee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Water, Megacities and Global Change (EauMega 2020).

I agree to give my time and do my best to be an active member of the Youth Steering Committee as per the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Youth Steering Committee in the framework of the above mentioned conference, in consultation with the UNESCO Secretariat.

I understand that I will not have the status of a UNESCO staff member, that I shall not represent the Organization in any official capacity, and that I will not be remunerated for my participation in the ad hoc Youth Steering Committee.

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Date

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Name

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Signature