



*"Water security for peace and development."*

**THE FORUM OF RESPONSES**

# Dakar 2022: The Forum of Responses



**MS. SHWETA TYAGI\***

## DAKAR 2022 - THE FORUM OF RESPONSES

“This 9th World Water Forum gives us the opportunity to sound the alarm on the seriousness of the situation so that water-related issues remain at the heart of the international agenda. The lives and health of billions of people around the world are at stake, but also the preservation of international peace and security”, said H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal at the opening ceremony.

The 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum took place in Dakar, Senegal from 21-26 March 2022, under the theme: ‘*Water Security for Peace and Development*’. It is the first time that an international event of this magnitude has been organized in sub-Saharan Africa. The location was aptly chosen as Africa faces acute challenges of universal access to



water and sanitation while also battling the challenges of poverty and growing pressures related to climate change, rapid population growth, uncontrolled urbanization, pollution, etc.



**Figure: Speech by the President of the Republic of Senegal H.E. Macky\_Sall in Opening Ceremony 9th World Water Forum**

The Grand Opening Ceremony was attended by more than 2000 participants from all over the world. The ceremony was graced by His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal. In the presence of his counterparts from Ethiopia, Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, the Vice-President of Gambia, the President of the World

Water Council, Mr Loïc Fauchon, the President of the World Bank, the Director-General of UNESCO and other participants from the water community all over the world.

The Forum was opened by H.E. Macky Sall, he noted that water is at the beginning and at the end of life and is important for peace, development and security in Africa, as well as globally. The President invited the international community to pay attention to water issues and asked participants to do everything to meet the expectations of the forum. Mr Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council and co-organizer



**Figure - Speech by Mr Loic Fauchon President World Water Council in Opening Ceremony 9th World Water Forum**

of the Forum spoke at the opening ceremony and reiterated calls for all to work together to combat global water challenges and to adopt dialogue and cooperation to bring an end to water conflicts. He

also called for the international community to set up a blue fund to help prevent the extreme shocks imposed by climate change.

There were also speeches from world leaders including, Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the



**Figure: video message His Majesty Naruhito, the Emperor of Japan**

Republic of Congo, said that we will win the water battle through a permanent collective commitment in the context of a truly active solidarity and a consequent financial effort. Mrs Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Republic of Ethiopia, said that this year's theme of water security for peace and development is an important topic for a secure society and a water development model. Through a video message His Majesty Naruhito, the Emperor of Japan said that he hopes that the discussions at the Dakar Forum will bring new impetus to the water agenda in Africa and the world to achieve our goal. Recalling the theme of the Forum, World Bank President David Malpass noted the

impact of Covid-19, inflation and rising interest rates on the economy, as well as the impact of climate change to development and peace. He called for policy and institution reform, increased investment in water and greater citizen participation in the face of the world's water challenges.

On behalf of the UN, the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Audrey Azoulay released the 'World Water Development Report 2022' by handing over the report to the President of the Republic of Senegal, Macky Sall, during the opening ceremony. The report is aptly titled "Groundwater: Making the invisible visible". Ms Azoulay said that ground water is 20 times more important in volume than lake water but insisted that groundwater must be preserved from inappropriate use. She said that global cooperation at the UN level is the only solution to face the challenges and opportunities of water in general and advocates an international commitment to sustainable and equitable management of this vital resource.

One of the most prestigious and globally recognized prizes 'The Hassan II World Water Prize' was given to the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS). It contributes to creating global awareness and taking concrete measures to promote the cause of water. The prize is awarded at every World Water Forum and the Moroccan Minister of Equipment and Water, Nizar Baraka, presented the prize to the High Commissioner of OMVS, Hamet Diane Séméga. The prize consists of a trophy, a certificate and a sum of 500,000 US dollars.



**Figure: most prestigious and globally recognized prizes 'The Hassan II World Water Prize' was given to the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)**

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FORUM

### INITIATIVE DAKAR 2022

The main innovation of the Forum was the selection of high-impact projects for the achievement of SDG 6 on universal access to water and sanitation. The Dakar 2022 Initiative is a project focusing on economic, social and environmental development. The projects must respond to this goal and also take into account 4 priorities of the Forum: water and sanitation security and sanitation; water for rural development; cooperation; Tools and Means including the crucial issues of governance, knowledge management and innovation. In the end, 126 labelled projects were selected and will benefit from international exposure, partnerships and, for some, funding from the Forum's partner institutions.

### HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS

The Forum kicked off with a number of high-level meetings including the Ministerial Round Table on 'Water Security for Peace and Development', under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Water and Sanitation of Senegal. During this strategic meeting, the ministers discussed the major problems encountered in their respective countries and the challenges for water security. At the end of this high-level meeting, the stakeholders were called upon to adopt an action plan covering the various aspects of drinking

water quality, sanitation, pollution prevention and risk management. A roundtable discussion on 'Tools and Means for water security' was conducted by member countries of OECD with the participation of UNESCO. During this session, the speakers outlined the actions and work provided by several actors for universal access to water. The speakers noted that technical solutions and infrastructures are essential to ensure universal access to water and sanitation to deal with water that is overly abundant, scarce, and polluted. The speakers called for a wide range of means and tools is needed to implement such policies at all levels by governments and public and private sector actors.

The highly anticipated Parliamentarians' Dialogue was held on the second day of the Forum. The panel focused on the follow-up of the evaluation and consolidation of national public policies and international commitments on water and sanitation, in the service of peace and sustainable development. The discussions resulted in several solutions recommended by the parliamentarians, among others, the creation of a global parliamentary fund on water and innovative legislative frameworks; the establishment of a Blue Fund for water investment; the regular monitoring of governments' international commitments; the adoption of a water code already in place in Côte



Figure: Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Additional Secretary, Department of Water Resources, RD&GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti participating in the High Level Meetings under the theme of "Water Security & Sanitation for Peace and Development" at the 9th World Water Forum

d'Ivoire. The parliamentarians also emphasized the issues of financing human resources to be increased and the consistency of public policies.

### YOUTH VISION OF THE FORUM

Participation of youth was one of the priorities of this year's Forum. Senegal, with the support of its partners, created a place for the convergence of ideas and solutions across generations, sectors and countries: the Youth Space. The Youth Space offered young people from all over the world the possibility to work together with key actors, to strengthen their capacities on major water-related issues, as well as gather to make the necessary transformations that our societies and our planet require to ensure a sustainable and equitable present and future. By creating a true intergenerational exchange within the Youth Space, the World Water Forum in Dakar positioned itself as the catalyst of a global youth movement for water at the local, regional and global levels. Also to ensure a better representation of the world's youth, the SE9FME with the support of its partners had set up the 'Water Jambaars Programme' (Jambaars, a Wolof word meaning 'warrior'). The objective is to ensure a diverse representation of young people from around the world, Strengthen the scientific, technical, entrepreneurial, managerial, and leadership capacities of young people, Supporting and valuing youth initiatives in improving global water security, among others.

### IMPORTANCE OF NEXUS APPROACH

During the high-level session on applying the nexus approach to the 'Water-Energy-Food-Environment' synergy, the panellists iterated that the Nexus issue is now more than necessary, especially in the context of developing countries in general and sub-Saharan Africa in particular, where storms, floods, droughts, climate shocks are aggravated by the heavy consequences of the health crisis. The panellists agreed that the nexus approach should be promoted and they mentioned, among other things, promoting a better understanding of the nexus concept for the development of synergies, bringing out good practices and innovative solutions to make the nexus approach operational, defining cooperation methods in order to maximise the benefits.

### INDIA'S FOOTPRINT AT THE WORLD WATER FORUM

The Indian Government participated in a big way at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. The Prime Minister was represented by a high-level delegation under the honourable Minister of Jal Shakti Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat including officials from the ministry, WAPCOS Ltd, a Government of India undertaking, state governments like Meghalaya sending a high-level delegation, more than 100 delegates attended from India like members of world water council, other states and agencies.



Figure: Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat gave a presentation on 'Water for Peace and Development' at the 9th World Water Forum

The Jal Shakti Ministry showcased India's successful initiatives including, inter alia, success stories of the Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, projects between India and Africa, via a country pavilion which was organised by Wapcos Ltd. The pavilion was visited by the President H.E. Macky Sall himself and was appreciated.



**Figure: the pavilion was visited by the President H.E. Macky Sall**

Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, gave a presentation on 'Water for Peace and Development'. He talked about India's challenges in the water sector and explained how India has dealt with it through programmes like the Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission envisioned by PM Narendra Modi.

Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Additional secretary, Jal Shakti Ministry also spoke during the Forum on water supply and sanitation where she showcased India's successful endeavours to improve the water supply and sanitation situation in the country.

As a cherry on the cake for India, The Kyoto World Water Grand Prize worth 2 million Yen has been awarded to an Indian organization called 'Pragati'. The Kyoto World Water Grand Prize is jointly organised by the Japan Water Forum and the World Water Council. This 5th edition rewarded field organisations from developing countries involved in the field of water. The award aims to find and develop outstanding local activities related to water issues around the world. The Grand Prize is an initiative of the City of Kyoto, host of the 3rd World Water Forum in 2003, and is awarded every three years on the occasion of each World Water Forum.



**Figure Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Additional secretary, Jal Shakti Ministry and Officials from WAPCOS**



**Figure Dr. Arvind Kumar having a discussion with Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti and Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Additional secretary, Jal Shakti at India Pavilion, Dakar Senegal**



**Figure Dr. Arvind Kumar with H.E. Sh G.V. Srinivas, Ambassador Embassy of India, Dakar (Senegal)**

## INDIA WATER FOUNDATION AT THE WORLD WATER FORUM

India Water Foundation (IWF) had a big presence at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. As Governor on the board of World Water Council, Dr Arvind Kumar organised and contributed to various high-level panels and sessions.



Figure: Dr Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation during his panel discussion in one of the thematic session of Rural Development of the 9th World Water Forum Dakar Senegal

Dr. Arvind Kumar spoke as a panellist in the session on '**Participatory governance for rural water supply and sanitation**'. The objective of the session was to highlight the contribution of the participatory governance approach to the massive development of sustainable sanitation in rural areas and rural towns and

better understand the reforms undertaken in the governance of the sector. During the session Dr. Arvind elaborated on how adopting integrated approach by cooperation, coordination and convergence will help in ensuring access to water supply and sanitation in rural areas. The session was organized by Programme SolidariteEau on 21st March 2022.

Dr. Arvind Kumar also spoke as a panellist in the session on "**Localizing Multi-stakeholders partnership for Sustainable Resilient and Inclusive Water Resources Management in Africa and Asia**". The objective of the session was to organize political dialogue to achieve water-related SDGs and water security in Africa and Asia among multi-sectors and actors to enhance the urgency and political commitment for sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient water resource management. Focusing on "policy coherence" and "stakeholders engagement," it will discuss what we need to do and how to mainstream water resilience into political and development agendas towards quality growth in post-Covid-19 communities in Africa and Asia. During the session Dr. Arvind elaborated on how border partnerships between governments, international organisations, private sector and regional Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) should be augmented and CSO's should be given more space and scope in order to address regulatory and resource mobilization challenges. The session was organised by Japan Water Forum and OECD.



Figure: President, India Water Foundation during his panel discussion in one of the thematic session on "Localizing Multi-stakeholders partnership for Sustainable Resilient and Inclusive Water Resources Management in Africa and Asia".

Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary of IWF was part of a high-level panel discussion in the session on **‘Systems approach to deliver water to people’**. The objective of this session was to present a preliminary vision Systems Approach to Deliver Water to People and to solicit feedback from the broad water community on the vision. During the session Ms. Tyagi elaborated on how adopting an integrated approach instead of a sectoral approach for achieving and implementing SDGs and also stressed on how cooperation and coordination among various agencies is imperative to deliver water and sanitation facilities to all. The session was organized by the World Water Council and moderated by Dr Rabi Mohtar, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Agricultural & Food Sciences



Figure Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary of IWF was part of a high-level panel discussion in the session on **‘Systems approach to deliver water to people’**.

American University of Beirut and closing remarks by Mr Guatavo Saltiel, Lead water and sanitation specialist at the World Bank.

To commemorate India Water Foundation’s founding day, IWF organized a special session on **‘Ecosystem based Adaptation for Complete Water Security’** at the World Water Council boot at the Forum. The session was moderated by Mr. Atul Bagai, Head, UNEP India Office, other speakers in the session were Mr. Lifeleng Li, Director, FAO Land and Water Division, Mr. Piyush Dogra, Consultant World Bank and Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation. During the session Mr. Aiban shngain Swer, OSD of MBDA Meghalaya Government presented the case study of Meghalaya during the session. The session was inspired by the latest book of Dr. Arvind Kumar with Elsevier publications on Ecosystem based adaptation.



Figure: Dr Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation during the special session on **Ecosystem based Adaptation for Complete Water Security** to commemorate IWF's founding day

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Figure: Dr. Arvind Kumar with H.E. Sh Dindin Wahyudin, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Dakar (Senegal)



Figure: Dr. Arvind Kumar with Ms. Jennifer J. Sara, Global Director, Water Global Practice, World Bank, Governor, World Water Council

## OUTCOMES OF THE FORUM



Figure: Closing ceremony at the 9th World Water Forum 2022 Dakar, Senegal

*“Rest assured, nothing that has been done and said here in Diamniadio will be in vain, let alone forgotten. With abnegation, we will bring together the results of the Forum to the heart of the world water agenda, in particular at the 2023 UN conference on water. We will implement them in our territories, our homes, our fields, our rivers, our factories, in nature and in all our activities, in short, at all times and in all places” said*

*Mr. Serigne Mbaye Thiam at the closing ceremony.*

The 9th World Water Forum concluded with the release of a declaration called “Blue Deal”. The Dakar Declaration- A “Blue Deal” for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development aimed at guaranteeing access to water and sanitation for all, ensuring adequate financing and inclusive governance, and strengthening cooperation. Through this declaration in four main areas, the aim is to accelerate the implementation of the right to drinking water and sanitation for all by providing appropriate legislative frameworks, said Abdoulaye Sène, Executive Secretary of the 9th World Forum. The declaration also emphasizes the need to mobilize all stakeholders through integrated and inclusive strategies. The text is the result of three years of preparation and a week of intense exchanges.



Figure: Closing ceremony at the 9th World Water Forum 2022 Dakar, Senegal

The 9th World Water Forum was a historic and effective Forum and was a perfect illustration that nothing great happens without passion and commitment. The Forum had a footfall of over 30,000 participants with over 3000 projects launched and 5000 contributions made. The Government of Senegal left no stone untouched to make Forum a success and made sure that all the participants felt welcomed by offering free transportation and food during the whole event. The Dakar 2022 has shown initiative, imagination, and dedication in placing various countries on the path leading to the improvement of the various indicators relating to water. The outcomes from the forum through its high level exchanges, proposes of innovative action plans will bring water issues to world and will have a real impact on the populations, especially those who do not yet have proper access to water and sanitation. This Forum has made the horizon clear and the road well marked towards the 10th World Water Forum which will be hosted by the Republic of Indonesia in 2024.



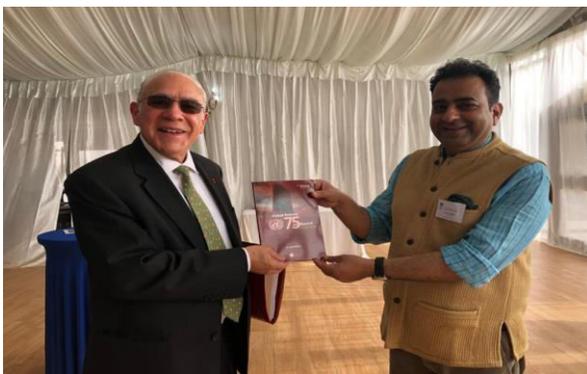
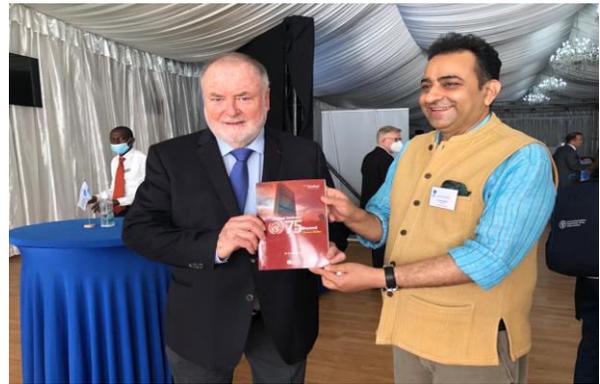
# 9<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM, DAKAR SENEGAL



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**77<sup>th</sup> BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING OF THE WORLD WATER COUNCIL**



## **Shweta Tyagi**

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India Water Foundation

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