

WORLD WATER DAY

THEME: VALUING WATER.



March 22nd, 2021

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM GMT+2



Background

The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/47/193 of 22 December 1992 by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993, in conformity with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) contained in Chapter 18 (Fresh Water Resources) of Agenda 21. The World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The objectives of the World Water Day are:

- To celebrate water and raising awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water.
- To encourage member states to take action to tackle the global water crisis and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- To provide an opportunity to the key players and stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector to learn more about water related issues, to be inspired to tell others and take action to make a difference.

The theme of World Water Day 2021 is “valuing water”. Valuing Water does not limit to the economic aspect of pricing of water, it stresses that cultural, ecological, social, spiritual aspects of water are taken into account in decisions on water. In celebrating the World Water Day, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in collaboration with Waternet Trust, will hold a regional online roundtable discussion with a variety of players in the field in order to gather opinions and comments about water and what it means to them. The aim is to understand how people value water – whether it is economically, socially, culturally or in other ways – how it plays a role in their different fields.

Programme

Time	Activity
	Opening Session Moderator: Guy Brooke, Program Specialist; UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa
14:00-14:10	Welcome Remarks - Prof. Hubert Gijzen, UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa
14:20-14:40	Presentation on the World Water Development Report -Dr Koen Verbist, Programme specialist, UNESCO ROSA
14:40-15:30	Roundtable Discussion Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social perspectives – Dr (Ms) Inga Jacobs Mata, IWMI • Environmental perspectives: - Prof. Dominic Mazvimavi, Lecturer, University of Cape Town • Legal perspectives -Dr (Ms) Mara Tignino, Geneva Water Hub • Economic perspectives- Mr Dhesigen Naidoo, Water Research Commission • Religious/Cultural perspectives- Prof. Ms Barbra Ngwenya, Lecturer, Okavango Research Institute
15:30-15:55	Question and Answer Session
15:55-16:00	Closing Remarks - Prof. Jean-Marie Kileshye Onema, Waternet Trust

Opening and Closing Speakers



Prof. Hubert Gijzen



Prof. Jean-Marie Kileshye Onema

Presenters



Dr Koen Verbist



**Dr Inga Jacobs
Mata**



Dr Mara Tignino



**Prof. Dominic
Mazvimavi**

Mr Dhesigen Naidoo



Dr Barbra Ngwenya

Moderators