



The Global Thematic Consultation on Water in the post-2015 Development Agenda

*“In Uganda toilets are not so wide-spread in some rural areas toilets are not priority instead holes are dug in the gardens for waste. In most urban slums around Kampala when it rains they open the toilet wall so the water can run off. The city council has built its own toilets that are free and is trying to enforce free access for all in the vicinity but toilets in most malls are still not free so people still ease themselves on pavement’s or better still in polythene bags that they damp as waste” . Pricilla
Uganda contributor to the water consultation*

The Thematic Consultation on Water was launched in November 2012 and consists of two parts. The general global consultation reaches out to a wide audience of people interested in water and encourages them to share their views. It will remain online and active for the whole duration of the consultation period. The second part consists of three sub-consultations allowing for more in-depth discussions around 1) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2) Water Resources Management and 3) Wastewater Management and Water Quality. The sub-consultations will be structured around weekly discussions based on issue papers. A water resources management/wastewater treatment and water quality meeting on 27 – 28 of February in Geneva will complement the sub-consultations. The five weeks of sub-consultations will be followed by two weeks to sum up the discussions while targeting priority cross-cutting issues with a special emphasis on inequalities in water. The three thematic sub-consultations will be held from mid-January until February 15th 2013.

An on-line engagement professional is working full-time to ensure outreach to a broad audience. To complement these efforts the Water Consultation is also conducting dozens of online surveys; downloading data on weekly topics; holding live Q&A sessions; trading streamed videos; synthesizing reports, and reaching out through social media. Recent analytics suggests that the water consultation is tapping deep into new constituencies. The water web site has attracted more than 25,000 views; the Facebook profile reaches 45,000 unique user reach; and the Twitter account reaches 40,000 hits.

The Thematic Consultation on Water will culminate in a **High-Level Meeting** to round up discussions and sharpen key messages to be taken forward in the different processes shaping the emerging development framework. The meeting will take place in The Hague in conjunction with the celebrations of World Water Day on 21-22 March 2013.

Given its complexity, it is challenging to frame a global dialogue on water. While it is too early to make conclusions, **preliminary findings** underline that water’s centrality to development is not up for debate. Participants point to the fact that water is tied to most global challenges – food security, human health, climate change, natural disasters, and the list could go on. Links to water use in agriculture have been made along with the fact that population growth could have an impact on future water availability. Given this reality, consultation participants seem to agree that reflecting water in the post-2015 agenda is crucial.

The Consultation is facilitated by UN-Water and co-led by UNDESA and UNICEF. The co-hosting countries are the Netherlands and Switzerland and other countries to be determined.

Contact the consultation via our e-mail Water2015@worldwewant2015.org if you have suggestions or questions and visit <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/water>