Striving for a Circular Economy in a Climate-resilient World: The Critical Role of Wastewater

Tuesday 21 March 16:30 - 17:45
French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) Manhattan
22 East 60th Street #1077, New York, NY 10022 (map)

Registration here

A commitment as part of the UN2023 Water Conference

Wastewater is the forgotten part of the water cycle. What is out of sight is out of mind and is not given the attention it warrants for health, environment, or justice reasons. Pollution continues un-abated, and we can only account for 20% of the total wastewater produced globally.

Due to the ever-worsening climate crisis, more communities have to deal with the consequences of floods or droughts each year. Outdated wastewater treatment systems have never been designed to deal with these extremes. As a result, floods create health hazards and pollution, while in periods of drought, valuable 'waste' water is wasted since it cannot be treated and reused.

If we are serious in adopting the much-needed global transformation toward a circular and resilient economy, wastewater management needs to be at the centre of any development policy. The situation is critical in a range of member states at different stages in development.

In this event, we will take a fresh look at SDG 6.3.1, which all our countries agreed to seven years ago. Let us align our ideas and approaches to support better more inclusive wastewater policies and practices in the global efforts towards reaching the Agenda 2030.

Programme

Welcome Remarks

- **Hon. Mrs. Cecilia Abena Dapaah,** Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Government of Ghana (TBC**)**
- **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif,** Executive Director, Under-Secretary-General, UN-Habitat

Wastewater Snapshots from Ghana, Brazil and South Africa

- **Mr. Jerry Asumbere**, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
- **Mr. Felipe de Sá Tavares**, National Water and Sanitation Agency, Brazil
- **Mr. Sibusiso Makhanya**, eThekwini Municipality, South Africa

High-Level Panel

- **Ms. Kitty van der Heijden**, Vice-Minister, Director-General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of The Netherlands
- **Ms. Barbara Pompili**, Member of the French Parliament, Chair of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (previously Minister for Ecological Transition)
- **MEC Nomagugu Simelane**, Sub-National Minister, KwaZulu Natal Province, Government of South Africa (Representing KZN Premier)
- **Mr. François-Marie Didier**, President, Greater Paris Sanitation Authority and Member of Paris City Council
- **Dr. Mauricio Abijaodi**, Director, National Water and Sanitation Agency, Brazil

Moderated by **Mr. Alexander Verbeek**, Policy Director, Environment & Development Resource Centre

Our Commitment

Wastewater 2030 in a Climate Resilient World: **Mr. Graham Alabaster, UN-Habitat**

Comments and Commitments from the Floor

Closing remarks

Dr. Henry K. Kokofu, Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana

Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the event