



Mar 8, 2024

IV Edition of the Regional Water Dialogues in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024: Towards the World Water Forum 2024

Hybrid mode

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Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

San José, Costa Rica

From March 11 to 13, 2024

Introduction

The 2024 Regional Water Dialogues, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), will take place at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), San José, Costa Rica, in hybrid format (in person and virtual), on March 11, 12 and 13. The event, which integrates a high-level ministerial space, as well as exchanges of technical experiences with a multi-stakeholder approach, is part of the regional process to promote good practices and promote the achievement of SDG 6 in the region.

Goals

Within the framework of the voluntary commitments of the 2023 *Regional Water Action Agenda*, the objectives of this event are: i) analyze the progress and challenges of achieving SDG 6 and ii) highlight successful experiences and lessons learned for the achievement of the same objectives.

Justification

ECLAC promotes spaces for dialogue and exchange within the framework of the Decade of Action for Water 2018-2028 and calls on the different actors of the countries in the region to share their progress in water matters, to innovate, mobilize cooperation, and financing, in addition to replicating, scaling and providing concrete solutions to promote a sustainable and inclusive water transition.

Structure and contents

The sessions are structured according to the priority areas identified in the *Regional Water Action Agenda* adopted in the 2023 Regional Water Dialogues held in Santiago, Chile in February of that year. In each of these sessions, high-level national authorities, private sector members, academia, and civil society will participate.

This edition will have a special session on **water and agriculture**, as well as a space aimed at socializing and analyzing the Regional Process in preparation for the **2024 World Water Forum**, which summarizes the main challenges and proposals for action to address the water challenges in the region.

DAY 1 – Monday, March 11

Registration (8:00-9:00)

Inaugural panel (9:00- 9:50)

Inaugurate the 2024 Regional Water Dialogues and ratify the voluntary commitments acquired in the Regional Water Action Agenda.

Conduction of the Ceremonial by the Legal Unit of International Affairs and Protocol-IICA

Keynote Speakers

- Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary, ECLAC
- Mr. Manuel Otero, General Director, IICA
- Ms. Doris Gutierrez, Presidential Designee of Honduras, Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC
- Mr. Arnoldo André Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Costa Rica

Introduction and Objectives of the IV Edition of the Regional Water Dialogues 2024 Sessions

- Mr. Carlos de Miguel, Officer in Charge of the Natural Resources Division, ECLAC

10:00 Coffee break and group photo

Session 1. Water, Agriculture and Ecosystems (10:15-13:00)

Improve the capacities and conditions of countries to carry out orderly, sustainable, competitive and inclusive water resource management, aligned with the agricultural and ecosystem challenges of the region.

ECLAC in co-organization and finance with:



Part 1. High level panel (10:15 – 11:45)

Keynote speaker

Mr. Manuel Otero, Director General of IICA

High level Panel

- Mr. Víctor Carvajal Porras, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Costa Rica
- Ms. Laura Suazo, Secretary of State for Agriculture and Livestock, Honduras
- Ms. Renata Bueno Miranda, Secretary of Innovation, Sustainable Development, Irrigation and Cooperativism, Ministry of Agriculture, Brazil
- Ms. Rossana Polastri, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, IFAD
- Mr. Nick Kenner Estrada Orozco, Vice Minister of Rural Economic Development, Guatemala
- Mr. Mario Lubetkin, Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO
- Mr. Franz Rojas, Director of Water and Sanitation, CAF

Moderation and closure

- Ms. Monica Rodrigues, Economic Affairs Officer of the Agricultural Development Unit, ECLAC

Part 2. Technical panel (11:45-13:00)

Solutions to guarantee water security in agricultural and livestock production in LAC: Governance, investments and innovations

Panelists

- Mr. José Miguel Zeledón, National Director of Water, MINAE, Costa Rica
- Ms. Mónica Rodrigues, Economic Affairs Officer of the Agricultural Development Unit, ECLAC
- Ms. Tania Ammour, Advisor to the Regional Directorate, IUCN
- Mr. Héctor Manuel Árias, Director of Sustainability and Strengthening, CONAZA, Mexico
- Mr. Christopher Neale, University of Nebraska, Director of the Water for Food Institute
- Mr. Wilson Ureta, Executive Secretary of the National Irrigation Commission of Chile
- Ms. Alba Llavona, Consultant specialist in water resources, ECLAC

Moderation and closure

- Mr. Fernando Schwanke, Project Director, IICA

Lunch (13:00 – 14:00)

Session 2. Water and Productive Development (14:00-15:30)

Highlight the centrality of water management in production and commercial processes. Address new opportunities for the incorporation of the private sector as well as the incorporation of innovative practices and new technologies.

Panelists

- Mr. Ronny Rodríguez, Deputy Minister of Energy, Costa Rica
- Ms. Rayén Quiroga, Chief of the Water, Energy and Biodiversity Unit, ECLAC
- Mr. Ángel Ureña, Coordination Manager of the Interinstitutional Commission of the Hydrographic Basin, ACP
- Mr. Sergio De Román Musulén, Coordinator of Works and Projects, Deputy Directorate General for Irrigation, Natural Paths, and Rural Infrastructures, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAPA), Spain
- Ms. Ana Carolina Argolo Nascimento de Castro, Director-President of the National Agency for Water and Basic Sanitation of Brazil
- Ms. Blanca Antizar, Isle Utilities Consulting Director, Europe, Africa and Latin America Regions

Context, Moderation and Closure:

- Ms. Silvia Saravia Matus, Economic Affairs Officer in charge of water affairs, ECLAC

Session 3. Transboundary Waters: Management, Cooperation and Peace (15:30-17:00)

Call for action on the need to strengthen regional and territorial water cooperation so that it is inclusive, intersectoral and action-oriented. Show its benefits at multiple scales and between different sectors, considering adherence to the United Nations Water Convention.

ECLAC with finance and in co-organization with:



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Context and Moderation of the High Level Panel

- Mr. Andrés Sánchez, Manager of the Water Program of the Americas, Department of Sustainable Development of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, OAS

Keynote Speakers

- Ms. Doris Gutierrez, Vice President of Honduras, Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC
- Ms. Janaina Tewaney, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Panama

High level Panel

- Mr. Gerardo Amarilla, Deputy Minister of Environment of Uruguay
- Mr. René Mateo, Deputy Minister of Soils and Waters, Ministry of Environment, Dominican Republic

Context and Moderation of the Technical Panel

- Mr. Sergio Campos, Chief of the Water and Sanitation Division, IDB

Technical Panel

- Mr. Fernando Cisneros, IWRM Technical Specialist of the Amazon Basin Project, ACTO
- Ms. Yarid Guevara, Head of the Department of Integrated Water Resources Management and Focal Point of the Water Convention, Panama.
- Ms. Liseth Hernández, Tri-National Executive Secretary, Trifinio Plan (CTPT)
- Mr. Pedro Pablo Silva, Director of State Borders and Boundaries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Minrel), Chile

Closure

- Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Chief of Transboundary Cooperation Section, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Pause 5 minutes

Session 4. Towards the World Water Forum 2024: The Perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean (17:05-18:15)

Disseminate the main themes, opportunities and challenges of the water and sanitation sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the Regional Process of the Americas of the 10th World Water Forum.

ECLAC in co-organization with:



Context and Moderation

- Mr. Andrés Sánchez, Manager of the Water Program of the Americas, Department of Sustainable Development of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, OAS

Welcome and presentation of the Regional Process of the Americas of the 10th World Water Forum

- Mr. Benedito Braga, Honorary President, World Water Council (video)

Report of the Regional Process of the Americas: Opportunities and challenges identified in the subregional reports as inputs to the regional report

- South America sub-regional report: Mr. Juan Criado, Sector Officer, Regional Office, UNESCO for Central America, Mexico and Colombia
- Central America and Mexico sub-regional report: Ms. Fabiola Tábora, Executive Secretary of Global Water Partnership (GWP) Central America and Ms. Silvia Chávez, Manager of International Cooperation, CONAGUA
- Caribbean Sub-Regional Report: Ms. Sara Jade Govia and Mr. Dwayne Squires, Operations Officers, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) (video)
- North America Sub-Regional report: Mr. Christopher Neale, University of Nebraska, Director of the Water for Food Institute

Steps to follow and closing words

- Mr. Sergio Campos, Chief of the Water and Sanitation Division, IDB
- Ms. Rayén Quiroga, Chief of the Water, Energy and Biodiversity Unit, ECLAC

Closing Event and Networking (18:15 – 19:00)

DAY 2 - Tuesday, March 12

Session 5. Water and Health and Equity: Key Elements for the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda (08:30-10:00)

Carry out a collaborative and strategic effort between the Member States and other allies, to promote equity in health, combat diseases, improve the quality of service and prolong the duration of life of the population of the Americas.

ECLAC in coordination with:



Context and Moderation

- Mr. Daniel Buss, Chief of Climate Change and Environmental Determinants of Health, PAHO/WHO

Opening

- Mr. Mario Urcuyo, Vice Minister of Health, Costa Rica
- Alfonso Tenorio, Representative of PAHO/WHO, Costa Rica

Keynote Speaker

- Mr. Pedro Arrojo Agudo, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, UN

Panelists

- Mr. Alejandro Barahona, Coordinator of the Public Policy Unit, SE-COMISCA
- Ms. Yessenia Calderón, President, AIDIS Costa Rica
- Mr. Reis López, Representative of UNICEF Women's and Children's Health, WASH

Coffee break 15 minutes

Session 6. Water security and climate resilience: Contributions and experiences of the Network and Observatory for Water Sustainability (ROSA) (10:15-13:00)

Within the framework of the Water Sustainability Network and Observatory (ROSA) project, the objective is to provide the context of the challenges that the region faces in terms of water and climate, proposing to move forward with public policies and investment towards a sustainable and inclusive water transition.



Panel: National Experiences

- Mr. Jaime Luis Carrera, Viceminister of Water, Guatemala
- Mr. René Mateo de los Santos, Viceminister of Soil and Water, Ministry of Environment, Dominican Republic
- Mr. Gerardo Amarilla, Deputy Minister of Environment, Uruguay
- Ms. Marissa Castro Magnani, Director General of Boundaries, Borders and International Transboundary Waters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Plurinational State of Bolivia

Panel: Lessons and Initiatives

- Mr. Juan Manuel Quesada, President, Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers (AyA), Costa Rica
- Mr. Jesús Heriberto Montes Ortiz, Surface Water and River Engineering Manager, CONAGUA, Mexico
- Mr. Rubén Alvarado, Director of Market Intelligence at CORSATUR, Ministry of Tourism of El Salvador
- Mr. Rodolfo Lacayo Ubau, Executive Director, National Water Authority, Nicaragua

Panel: Data and Evidence-Based Policies

- Mr. Franz Rojas, Director of Water and Sanitation, CAF
- Mr. Sergio Campos, Chief of the Water and Sanitation Division, IDB
- Ms. Rayén Quiroga, Chief of the Water, Energy and Biodiversity Unit, ECLAC

Context, Moderation and Next Steps

- Ms. Silvia Saravia Matus, Economic Affairs Officer in charge of water affairs, ECLAC

Lunch (13:00 – 14:00)

Session 7. Circular Economy Opportunities in the Sanitation Sector – Towards a Roadmap for LAC (14:00 – 18:00)

Present a roadmap to transform public policies and regulatory frameworks that allow expanding investment opportunities in circular systems at various scales and with a multistakeholder approach.

With the financing and in co-organization with:



Context and Moderation

- Mr. Diego Fernández, Senior Expert of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector, ECLAC

Context and Opportunities

- Ms. Blanca Antizar, Isle Utilities Consulting Director, Europe, Africa and Latin America Regions

Panel of experiences in circular management in Wastewater Treatment Plants in large cities

- Ms. Marilyn Marixenia García-Paredes, Juan Díaz WWTP, Panama City
- Mr. Orlando Salgado, Water Treatment Manager, Aguas Andinas, Santiago de Chile
- Ms. Natasha Avendaño, EAAB General Manager, Salitre WWTP, Bogotá

Presentation of initiatives for the recovery of methane in Wastewater Treatment Plants in small municipalities of Mexico and El Salvador

- Mr. Alfredo Montañez, Financial Expert in the Water and Sanitation Sector, ECLAC
- Ms. Silvia Chávez, Manager of International Cooperation, CONAGUA
- Mr. Carlos Flores, Representative of WWTP, Metapán, El Salvador
- Mr. Jorge Castaneda, President, ASA, El Salvador
- Ms. Jennifer Fuentes, Regional Director, FIDEAGUA

Round table: Regulatory Frameworks and Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Circular Economy Projects in Sanitation

Innovative financing mechanisms

- Mr. Sergio Campos, Chief of the Water and Sanitation Division, IDB
- Mr. Franz Rojas, Director Water and Sanitation, CAF
- Ms. Mónica Altamirano, Specialist PPP and Systems Thinker - NetworkNature Plus Consortium member

Regulatory frameworks

- Ms. Ruth Quevedo, Executive Director CRA, Colombia
- Mr. Guillermo Torres, Technical Secretary of CONAGUA, Panama
- Mr. Mauro Gutiérrez, President SUNASS, Peru
- Mr. Ignatius Jean, Executive Secretary, CAWASA

Global and regional initiatives

- Mr. Alex Pires, Global Wastewater Initiative, UNEP
- Ms. Virginia Barbancho, Permanent Technical Secretary of CODIA

Closure and Next Steps

- Ms. Silvia Saravia Matus, Economic Affairs Officer in charge of water affairs, ECLAC

Closing Event and Networking (18:00 – 19:00)

DAY 3 – Wednesday, March 13

Session 8. Valuation of Water in the Region: Progress and Challenges (08:30-11:30)

Discussion of the water valuation progress in the region. Showcase successful projects and address complexities of water governance and the implications of climate change to promote sustainable water use in LAC.

ECLAC in coordination and finance with:



Opening

- Ms. Christine Pirenne, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Central America

Keynote Speaker

- Mr. Cristián Alfredo Barrantes Bravo, Viceminister of Agriculture, Peru

Context

- Mr. Hombray Taylor, Coordinator of the Water and Agriculture Initiative, IICA
- Ms. Elizabeth Coble, Research Coordinator, ROSA Project, ECLAC
- Ms. Iris Bijlsma, Program Coordinator, Dutch Business Development Agency (RVO) at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, The Netherlands

Panel

- Ms. Margarita Villafañe, Governor in Charge of the Arhuaco People of La Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia
- Mr. Kenneth Alfaro, Youth Network for Water Latin America
- Ms. Marissa Mar Pecero, Women for Water Representative in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Ms. Ana Carolina Argolo Nascimento de Castro, Director-President of the National Water and Basic Sanitation Agency of Brazil
- Ms. Cristal Ange, Valuing Water Initiative (VWI), Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Mr. Carlos Estévez, Water Resources Coordinator, Cabinet Ministry of Public Works, Chile
- Mr. William Salas, Water Resources Specialist, ANA Peru

Connections and Synergies

- Mr. Juan Sebastián Durango, General Secretariat of the Andean Community, CAN
- Ms. Lucrecia Rodríguez, Executive Secretary, Central American Agricultural Council (CAC)
- Mr. Pierre-Louis Lempereur, Ambassador of the European Union in Costa Rica

Moderation and Closure

- Ms. Fabiola Tábora, Executive Secretary of Global Water Partnership (GWP) Central America

Coffee break 15 minutes

Analysis of the progress in the commitments of the Regional Agenda for Action for Water and closing words (11:30-12:00)

- Ms. Allegra Baiocchi, Coordinadora Residente ONU, Costa Rica
- Mr. Fernando Schwanke, Project Director, IICA
- Ms. Silvia Saravia Matus, Economic Affairs Officer in charge of water issues, ECLAC