Water Stress
Addressing water challenges in fragile settings in Africa.
Side Event at the UN Water Conference 2023

SPEAKERS BIOS

MODERATOR

Worknesh Gonet
UNOPS Multi-Country office Director in Ethiopia

Worknesh has an MBA from the University of Liverpool, a Post Graduate Diploma in Total Quality Management from the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, at the Center for Promotion of Advanced Management Practices, India, and a Diploma in English Language by Kotebe Teachers Training College, Ethiopia. She joined UNOPS with over 20 years of experience working in the development sector with International Non-Governmental Organizations. She worked with well branded international large Non-Profit organizations such as Save the Children, World Vision and ActionAid International. Beginning her career as a teacher, Worknesh made her journey from junior operational to key leadership role in different capacities.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Dr. Koen Verbist
UNESCO Programme Specialist

Dr. Koen Verbist obtained his PhD in 2011 at Ghent University, Belgium, targeting land degradation and the improvement of water harvesting systems in drylands and has co-authored several UNESCO publications on these topics, as well as over 25 scientific papers in international journals. He is a Programme Specialist working at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, where he is supporting the implementation of the Water Sciences Programme (IHP), and interdisciplinary and intersectoral projects in the field of Natural Sciences, with a focus on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. Particularly in Latin America and Southern Africa, he has been supporting the implementation of flood and drought risk management strategies and climate change adaptation strategies on water security. He has led the development of the Drought Atlas and the setup of Flood and Drought Monitoring systems for countries in these regions.
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<th><strong>PANELISTS</strong></th>
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| **Dr. Yahaya Nazoumou**  
Director General for the Authority for Groundwater Management of Niger (ARESNI)  
![Image](image1.jpg)  
Mr. Yahaya Nazoumou holds a PhD in Hydraulic Engineering and Hydrogeology at the National School of Engineers of Tunis from the University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia. He has worked on various projects and consultations in different countries and has held positions as a technical advisor and consultant for international organizations such as UNICEF and the World Bank. He was appointed Director General of National Ground Water Authority of Niger in January 2023. He has published several articles related to groundwater and the impact of climate and uses on water resources in sub-Saharan Africa. He also published results of study of deep aquifers in the South-East and hydrological variability mechanism in Semi-Arid Zone, and Integrated water management in the Merguellil wadi watershed in Tunisia. |
| **Sujin Kim**  
Korea International Cooperation Agency Deputy Country Director Cameroon  
![Image](image2.jpg)  
Kim holds a Master of Science in African Development by The London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Bachelor Degree in Law and Politics by the Catholic University of Daegu, Republic of South Korea. She joined the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in 2014, as a young professional based in Zimbabwe and currently she is KOICA Deputy Country Director for Cameroon. |
| **Mr. Idrissa DIA**  
Director of Economic & Social Infrastructure at the Islamic Development Bank  
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Idrissa has nearly 25 years of experience in development finance, working with the public and private sectors in the Africa, Central & South Asia, Middle East, and North Africa regions. He joined the Islamic Development Bank in 2001, and since 2021, he serves at the General Directorate for Products & Partnerships, overseeing the development & implementation of Policies, Strategies, Knowledge initiatives, Analytics and Advisory services, and Projects Quality enhancement efforts covering all the key development sectors (Water, Sanitation, Energy, Transport, Agriculture, Urban Devpt, Education, and Health). His professional experience/expertise includes the areas of infrastructure financing and municipal services delivery (Electricity, Transport, Water, Sanitation, solid waste, and social housing), disaster risk management, and social inclusion (including Microfinance for economic empowerment of deprived communities). |
Hala Alhamed has a PhD in environmental engineering (Risk based Urban Water Infrastructure Asset Management) from the Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands, and a Masters in Integrated Water Resources Management from the Technical University of Cologne, Germany. With 20 years of work experience in the fields of urban infrastructure planning and management, and water sector’s investment planning, and regulation, Hala’s experience varies between private, public and development agencies such as IsDB, Syria Recovery Trust Fund, the UNEP-DHI Partnership - Centre on Water and Environment, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, the Netherlands Water Partnership and the International Water Association. For UNOPS, she is managing Urban water for Sudan project which covers institutional capacity building to government counterparts and pro poor water infrastructure provision.

ENDNOTE

Boluwatito works with communities in rural Nigeria to address social development issues through Behaviour Change, with a special focus on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Gender, Equal Opportunities, Inclusion and Non-discrimination. Having worked in many rural areas still lacking access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, Boluwatito has acquired relevant experience in the WASH sector in Nigeria and developed an avid interest in issues around water supply, sanitation services and the impact it has on the wellbeing of Nigerians, towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Do you have any questions? Do not hesitate to contact us.
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