

IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 2022

# IWA High-Level Summit

12 September 2022



COPENHAGEN  
DENMARK

11-15 SEPTEMBER

2022

[www.worldwatercongress.org](http://www.worldwatercongress.org)  
#WorldWaterCongress

## Partnerships for Smart Liveable Cities

### Water as a Key to Action on Climate and the SDGs

Water is crucial for the life and functioning of cities. Water's role in cities spans access to safe water and adequate sanitation through to enjoyment of a healthy environment. The urgency around water is particularly visible in the added risk of drought and flood due to climate change. The water sector also has an important part to play in contributing to reduction of global carbon emissions.

The International Water Association is convening a **High-Level Summit** to escalate action. The result will be a powerful message to prompt cities to elevate water as they pursue their ambitions to create smart and secure liveable cities for all – cities that are climate safe and where citizens have access to sustainable water and sanitation services.

Cities are ideally placed to contribute much-needed action both on the climate change agenda beyond COP 26 and on implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The IWA Summit will therefore provide an ideal opportunity to focus on water in advance of COP 27, with its expected emphasis on adaptation, and of the March 2023 special UN review of the Water Action Decade.

The IWA Summit will highlight opportunities for action that can help secure progress for cities. With a strong focus on cases, it will facilitate high-level contributions and debate around:

- Funding needs
- Governance
- Partnerships

Partnerships of all kinds are crucial for identifying, developing, and delivering responses and innovative solutions. Consensus and multi-stakeholder approaches support holistic solutions. This is why global cooperation, including partnerships, is the focus of SDG 17.

The Summit will inform and be carried forward in IWA's efforts to promote global best practice around water as a contributor to sustainable, resilient and liveable cities. This includes input to the global climate and SDG agendas, ensuring a lasting legacy for the input of participants. Cases will be drawn from around the world to reflect the diverse needs and circumstances that exist. Debates will integrate Ministerial, city and utility voices, as well as those of other partners such as academia and business.

*The Summit is organised by the International Water Association, Danish Water and Wastewater Association, the Municipality of Copenhagen, P4G and the Confederation of Danish Industry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of Denmark and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.*

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOAL



Co-organiser:



## Summit sessions

### Innovative Funding - for SDGs and Climate Change Action

The scale and location of the funding needs around the SDGs and climate change demand innovation in how this funding is sourced and delivered.

Discussions during this session will be based on the recognition of the massive funding needs for SDGs and climate change action and will explore successful examples of innovative funding to overcome water and climate related challenges. Participants will present partnerships and funding mechanisms that have leveraged new funding and found new methods to transfer funds in a sustainable manner to recipients in developing countries and emerging economies.

Speakers will share challenges, success stories, and lessons learned that will lead towards discussion of recommendations for innovative funding to be taken forward, especially with the UN Water Conference in March 2023 and the 2023 COP 27 meeting in mind.

### Urban Water Governance for Sustainable Cities

Governance has a vital role to play in securing and enabling the frameworks and responses around water and climate change needs. Development and implementation of solutions for sustainable cities requires strong governance that allows for the contribution of all the many relevant urban stakeholders. Discussions in this session will feature successful examples of smart and liveable cities and will explore how to ensure progress and cooperation in urban partnerships, including the value of frameworks such as the IWA Principles for Water-Wise Cities.

Participants will represent all major stakeholder groups in urban water management: politicians and policy makers, municipal officials and urban planners, water managers, utility representatives, private companies and manufacturers, academia, and smart solution developers.

Drawing on examples, the session will discuss urban water challenges, how to improve governance, the role of partnerships to overcome challenges, and key lessons that will feature in further workshops during the IWA Congress and that can be taken forward, especially with the UN Water Conference in March 2023 in mind.

### Partnerships for Innovation and Technology Sharing

Partnerships are a crucial means of supporting the development and uptake of solutions at a local level, especially innovative approaches. SDG 17 highlights this role of partnerships and of cooperation – including 'South-South' cooperation – in delivering progress. Given the need to speed up innovation towards smart, sustainable and climate friendly solutions for the global water sector, it is important to share knowledge about new technologies and innovative processes and methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, for climate change adaptation, and for creating sustainable cities. From the latest digitally-enabled technologies through to nature-based solutions and to decentralised treatment technologies and business models, the opportunities are vast.

In this session, representatives of research institutions, companies and utilities will present innovative technologies, discuss methods to share knowledge in global partnerships, and relevant lessons that can be taken forward, especially with the UN Water Conference in March 2023 in mind.