



WORLD WATER DAY SUMMIT

Innovating for Clean Water

March 22, 2024

Today the Reservoir Center for Water Solutions welcomes water leaders from across public and private sectors to discuss the importance of strengthening the connection between investment and technology to advance the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation across the globe.

WELCOME

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Henk Ovink is the Executive Director of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water and a senior fellow at the World Resources Institute. For more than eight years, Henk was the first ever global water ambassador, appointed in 2015 by the Dutch Cabinet as Special Envoy for International Water Affairs. In this capacity co-leading the second UN Water Conference in 2023, the first since 1977, he helped bring the world together in New York, with more than 10,000 people from every continent, background, and profession. Henk also served on President Obama’s Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, and prior to that was Acting Director General of Spatial Planning and Water Affairs and Director of National Spatial Planning for the Netherlands.

He holds an honorary doctorate at Delft University “for his pioneering work on transformative design for climate change and for his leadership in communicating and practicing the importance of water for peaceful global co-existence.” He is affiliated with the Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes at Columbia University’s GSAPP and Climate School and is also a lecturer at the University of Groningen.

PANEL

The Role of Innovation, Investment and Governance in Achieving Greater Global Water Security

The group will highlight the connection between the private sector accelerating advancements in new water innovations and the public and non-profit sectors in delivering greater water security and water and sanitation for all. Panelists will share their knowledge about trends in water innovation and technology, the role of investors in advancing greater water security, U.S. investments in water security for underserved communities and how innovation, funding and governance in the water sector are serving communities in Africa and Asia.

Panelist bios



Moderator
Radhika Fox
Senior Advisor
Xylem



Tom Ferguson
Managing Partner
Burnt Island Ventures



Stephen Sena
Senior Technical Advisor
USAID’s WASH-FIN 2 Project
Implemented by Tetra Tech



Sivan Zamir
Vice President, Early-Stage
Innovation & Corporate Venture
Xylem



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KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Nancy J. Eslick is the Senior Deputy Assistant to the Administrator for USAID’s Bureau for Resilience, Environment and Food Security (REFS), supporting implementation of the Water for the World and Feed the Future initiatives. She serves as the USAID Global Water Coordinator, leading the agency’s implementation responsibilities under the U.S. Global Water Strategy.

For more than two decades, Ms. Eslick, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, has demonstrated effective leadership in advancing foreign policy and development objectives with USAID and key partners. Most recently, she was the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Assistance, Private Sector, and Donor Coordination focused on developing initiatives for Ukrainian efforts, in the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia. She holds Masters’ degrees in Public Affairs and Environmental Science, with a focus in Water Resources, in addition to an undergraduate degree from Indiana University at Bloomington.

PANEL

Accelerating Innovation for Water and Sanitation Development

Civil society and multilateral stakeholders will highlight the areas of greatest importance for technology transfer from the private sector to populations not yet benefiting from recent water innovations. The group will discuss relevant case studies of collaboration to deploy private sector technologies to water-stressed communities, as well as areas of potential collaboration to scale technology transfer between private and public/civil sectors.

Panelist bios



Moderator
Henk Ovink
Executive Director,
Global Commission on
the Economics of Water



Tjada D'Oyen McKenna
CEO
MercyCorps



Genevieve Edens
Senior Director of
Impact & ESG
WaterEquity



Aidan Cronin
Senior Advisor (Results & Resources)
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
UNICEF

ABOUT THE RESERVOIR CENTER

The Reservoir Center for Water Solutions opened in June 2022 as a consortium and collaboration facility that brings together leaders and thinkers from across the water sector, policy world and beyond. The aim is to develop breakthrough ideas and solutions, eliminate barriers, and advance the water sector’s work to overcome critical water and sustainability challenges.

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