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Multi-stakeholder Coalition Gathering Summary



**Call for Action on
Gender Equality in Water**

Online - 19 September 2025

National institutions



International / Regional Organizations and IGOs



NGOs, Civil Society and Private Sector



Universities / Education institutes



Coalition Status

- 195 members 
- 75 countries represented 
- 34 MS represented at gov. level 

Do not forget to send your logo!

Coalition platform : <https://www.unesco.org/en/multi-stakeholder-gender-equality>

email : waterandgendercallforaction@unesco.org

TODAY'S OBJECTIVES



unesco
World Water
Assessment Programme

**Accelerating
Gender Equality
in the Water Domain**

Through a Multi-stakeholder Call for Action

- Reconnect with Coalition's Members
- Reflect on progress since Pisa (Jan 2025)
- Share updates on projects, initiatives, ...
- Agree on priorities for 2025–2026
- Keep building momentum towards 2030

Part 1: Reflections & Updates



a) Pisa Workshop Highlights

- **Discussions focused on contributions** from papers, research, and activities across five themes for the “Call for Action” and multi stake holders coalition work.
- **Enriching reflections and discussions** on WWDR(World Water Development Report) water and gender equality

“Challenging the Usual” – International Workshop publication

- **8 papers** (approx. 75,000 words, minus intro and conclusion)
- Nov 2024 – Jan 2026: **timeline from CfP to final publication**
- **Internal review and manuscript compiling** are ongoing with UNESCO WWAP.

Ideas for a good launch opportunity?



PUBLICATION CONTENT:

- **Anna Brusarosco** – *Water women matter: female leadership in the Friuli Venezia Giulia River Contracts*
- **David Chacon** – *Gender equality in sustainable water management in France: the case of public water operators*
- **Pooja Kini** – *Intersectional gendered experiences of water infrastructure: a case study of Lakshman Basti*
- **Grace Oluwasanya, Ayodetimi Omoniyi & Manzoor Qadir** – *Numbers speak louder: a data driven approach to addressing gender disparities in the water sector*
- **Bianca Rizzo, Tommaso Pacetti, Xenia Schneider & Enrica Caporali** – *How the WEFE-nexus management can accelerate gender equality*
- **Kimberley Worsham & Rebecca Gianotti** – *Professional attrition in international water, sanitation, and hygiene sector*
- **Francesca Greco** – *Gender and water in Italy: women's roles in water decision-making – preliminary review and framework*
- **Wifag Mahmoud & Eiman Karar** – *Water and gender-balance in Sudan: challenges and way forward*
- **Maria Pulido-Velosa, Maria Donoso & Rita Teutonico** – *Analyzing governance structures in water management in rural areas of Colombia*

Throwback to the Pisa workshop and Coalition Meeting

52 participants from 18 countries: academics, practitioners, policymakers

5 central themes: presentations & discussions

5 central themes



- 1. Equitable access and sustainable use and management of water**
- 2. Gender equal funding**
- 3. women's leadership, participation and decision-making in water governance**
- 4. policy instruments for inclusion and equality in water**
- 5. bridging the gender data gap**

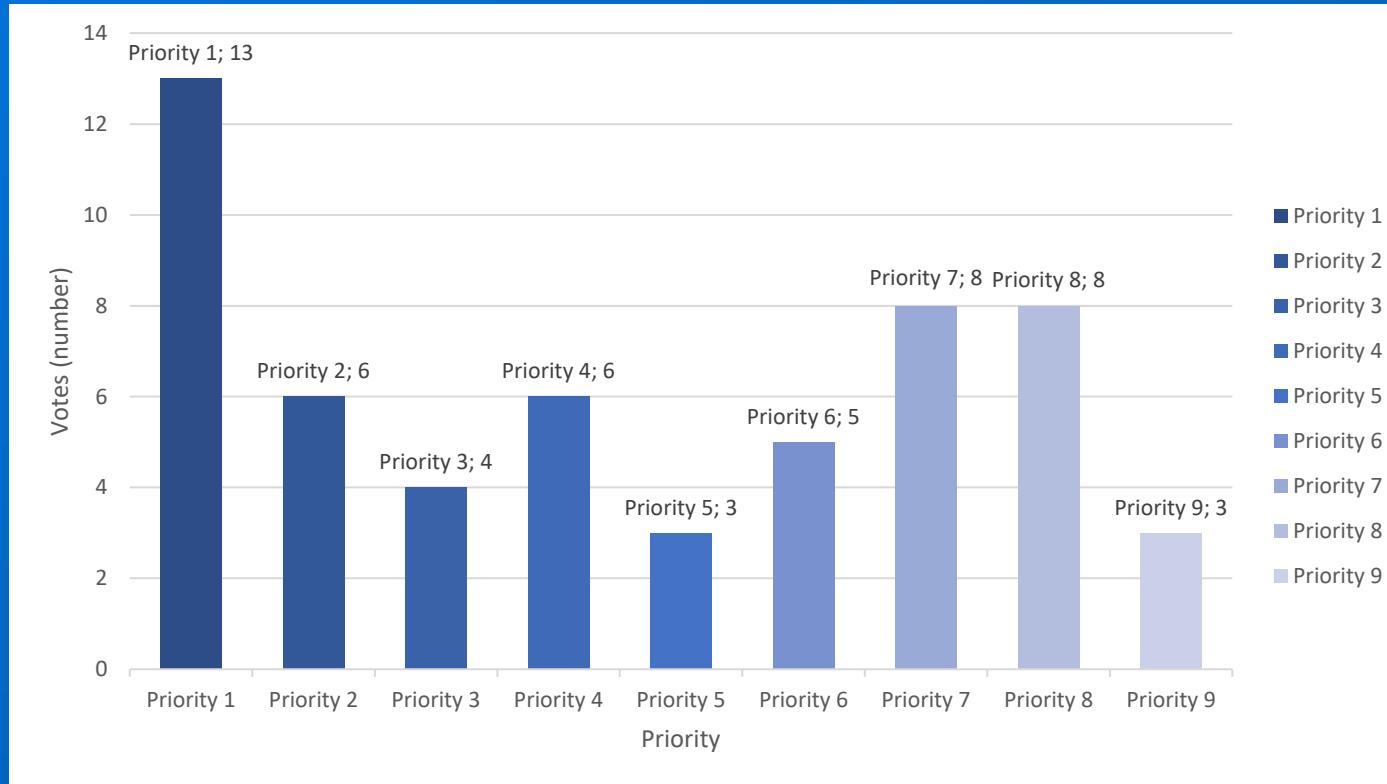
Throwback to the Pisa workshop and Coalition Meeting

Vote for Coalition Priorities 2025 -2026

1. **Create a shared repository of gender-responsive funding opportunities** with open access for coalition members and partners
2. **Design and implement a recurring international workshop series**, with the University of Bari proposing to host the next edition
3. **Establish a protocol for systematic sex-disaggregated data collection** across water-related sectors, informed by WWAP's Toolkit and tailored to national contexts
4. **Use digital platforms and media campaigns to raise awareness and reach underserved populations, especially rural women and youth**
5. **Engage male allies through mentorship and dialogue to foster inclusive leadership and challenge gender norms in water institutions**
6. **Improve internal communication within the Multi-Stakeholder Coalition, including regular updates, shared resources, and coordinated advocacy efforts**
7. **Align future Coalition activities with global milestones, including the UN Water Conference 2026 and the World Water Development Report 2026, which will focus on Water and Gender Equality**
8. **Launch mentorship networks** to elevate women's leadership in water governance, with targeted outreach to young professionals and underrepresented groups
9. **Develop mechanisms for gender budgeting** within water institutions, including training modules and policy templates

Throwback to the Pisa workshop and Coalition Meeting

Vote for top three priority actions 2025 -2026



20 participants

Vote for your top 3 priority actions here ➡ <https://forms.gle/QeSGpdEtzMBK2E3y5>

Top 3 voted priorities

1. Create a shared repository of gender-responsive funding opportunities with open access for coalition members and partners
7. Align future Coalition activities with global milestones, including the UN Water Conference 2026 and the World Water Development Report 2026, which will focus on Water and Gender Equality
8. Launch mentorship networks to elevate women's leadership in water governance, with targeted outreach to young professionals and underrepresented groups

2-3 mins short updates(water & women) sharing

Conferences & Coalition

- ***Maren Heuvels (GIZ): facilitating a coalition of currently eight women's networks*** (global and regional) representing women working in water security, water and sanitation. **Planning to position the topic of women in water jobs** within the UN 2026 Water conference process. Contact: (maren.heuvels@giz.de) or network leaders (Ulrike Kelm, Elizabeth Koch, WfWP).
- ***Ulrike Kelm (Women in Water & Sanitation Network (WWSN))***: **leading member of the Stronger Together Coalition.**
- ***Elizabeth Koch (WWAP team - FYI Women in Water Diplomacy Network)***: **planning on engaging in some CSW sessions** and World Water Day activities in New York in March2026.

2-3 mins short updates(water & women) sharing

Research and project

- **Isabella Cubillo (Human right to water):** Gender indicator to UNESCO, doing country profiles on menstrual health management, update Countries legal study at website of how menstrual health management has been included in constitutions around the world focus on gender and WASH. **Menstrual Health Country Profiles :** <https://humanright2water.org/menstrual-health-management/>
- **Acuba Firmina (Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda):** Implementing a climate resilient wetland restoration project that is gender responsive. Provide and train women, men, youth and other vulnerable who are former wetland users on alternative livelihood as a motivation to leave wetlands to allow them to be restored.
- **Carrazana Maximiliano (MISP):** Program 'Water and Gender' objective on "Mainstreaming the gender perspective in water management in the Province of Buenos Aires", Developing a work aimed at the production, analysis and dissemination of statistical data disaggregated by sex linked to water management using as a methodological basis approach of the World Water Assessment Program UNESCO Water Resources (WWAP), purpose of generating evidence that strengthens the planning, execution and monitoring of public policies in the water sector.
- **Rebecca Sands (Water Integrity Network):** Working at the intersection of water challenges and governance, integrity, anti-corruption. The phenomenon of sextortion, people being demanded sex in exchange for water. **New research in Uganda** this year, comparing the results with other studies that have done in Kenya and Bangladesh. an opportunity to publish the research. Looking for more organizations and researchers who are passionate about taking some of the research findings forward.

2-3 mins short updates(water & women) sharing

Publication

- **Imburgia, Laura Veronica (UNESCO WWAP):** Working on the 2026 water development report. Keep **promoting, disseminating the work toolkit on sex disaggregated data** and indicators. **Engaged in different projects** mainly with Jeff Global Environmental Facility to integrate gender into and the collection of sexist aggregated data into transboundary water projects in different regions. **Supporting the development of a guideline** for doing that for Jeff projects at the global Jeff level.
- **Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré (BPW International to UNESCO):** Article about a school in Nigeria about the problem of water sanitation for girls and wanted to see how to get funding. **BPW in Brazil**, working as a public defender to protect indigenous rights and especially to safe water.
- **Litumelo Mater-Sievers (GWP, Southern Africa):** Developing some publication for Jeff on water and gender equality, supporting 2 transboundary (River basin organizations. JEF founding and small island developing states), **promoting the development of gender strategies** and policies for each of the Arabic area.
- **Marissa Mar Pecero:** Made the series 4 TV program at Mexico for junior high school on 40 women in Mexico. Couldn't get an opportunity on Mexico Women Conference.
- **Francesca Greco:** Writing a chapter in the new handbook of water diplomacy, and the chapter is about gender transformative water diplomacy, involvement of director of Berkamo in the coalition.

Part 2: Events & Priorities



- Key events in late 2025 & 2026?
→ “Who/what?”
- Priorities for the remainder of 2025 & for 2026

What do YOU think WE should do as a Coalition?

**Women for Water Partnership
(WfWP)**

IWRA

UNESCO WWAP



- Others participating?
- Funding?

Brief sharing of additional upcoming events

Upcoming events

- **Francesca Greco (27 & 28 Nov 2025):** Organizing the final workshop of research project, the topic of enhancing the knowledge and knowledge production of women in the water sector.
- **Lesha Witmer (Women for Water) (IWRA Morocco early December):** (potentially organized by Women for Water, WAP, Human Rights to Water), looking for collaborators a little bit of funding for it. The layout of the proposal can be send to everybody who is interested. Looking at people who can be there in person. To help with the session contact: advisoradvocacy@womenforwater.org
- **Sooyoung (i-WSSM) (World of the Congress in Marrakesi 1st Dec 2025):** World of the Congress event, upcoming World Water Congress in Marrakesi, December 1st. IWSSM is preparing a special session focusing on water gender, especially gender mainstreaming in the water domain. Planning to attend WWC, please fill in your information in the spreadsheet link below. [Checking link](#)
- **Tanja Miskova, Slovenia (Dakar high-level meeting in Senegal Jan 2026):** Dakar high-level meeting, which is the preparatory event for the UN Water Conference in January in Senegal. Water conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in June. co-organizing one of the high-level meetings and a special session on water non conflicts.
- **Elizabeth Koch(Dakar Water Diplomacy Symposium 24th Jan 2026):** Women in Water Diplomacy Network is planning on convening a water diplomacy symposium on January 24th, which is the Saturday prior to the UN Water Conference preparatory meeting in Dakar. (Dakar Water Diplomacy Symposium)

Part 3: Way Forward

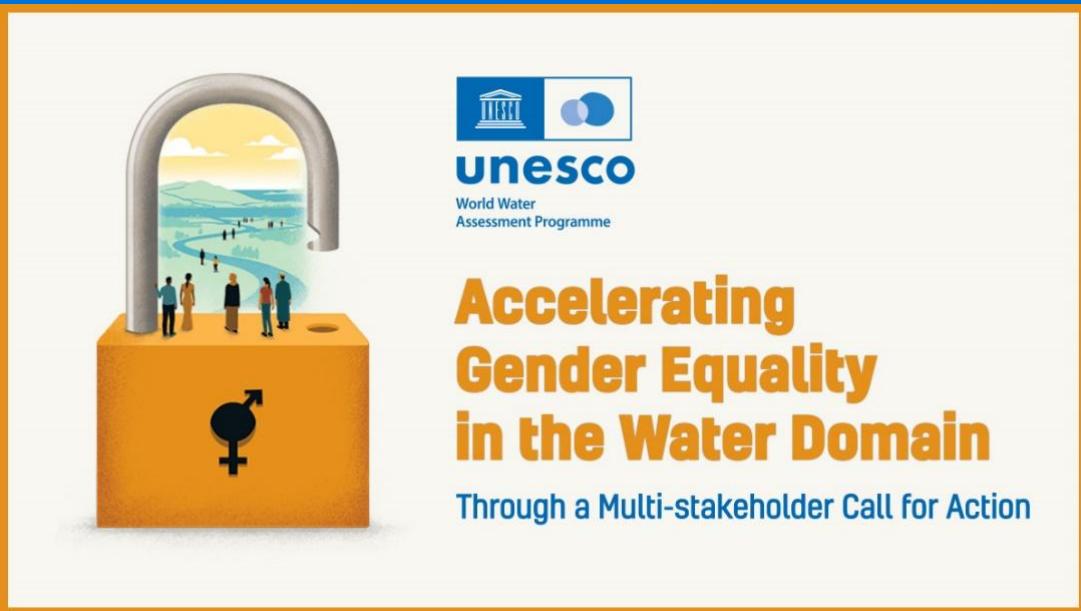
Revitalizing our Call for Action!



- Strengthening our collaboration & action
→ *Through the Working Groups?*
- Ideas for communication & outreach (joint messaging, campaigns, stories)
- Engagement: bringing in new members & partners

How do we amplify our collective action and voice in 2026?!

CLOSING



- Consolidated summary & draft workplan after meeting
- Circulation of event & priority calendar
- Date & location proposal for next operational meeting

THANK YOU!