



6th World Water Forum

Thematic Commission and Regional Commission

Concept Note

D - Technical sessions

General Principles:

- *The International Forum Committee (IFC), in conjunction with the Thematic Process and the Regional Process, will organize thematic, regional and integrated technical sessions presenting and discussing the water community's targets and solutions for a more healthy, peaceful, prosperous and resilient blue planet.*
- *Justification:* Building on the 6th World Water Forum's 12 priorities for action (PFA) and 3 conditions for success (CS), the 6th World Water Forum's working groups have developed and agreed on a series of concrete targets, to be reached through an action plan and within a defined timeframe. Coming from all continents and all fields, technical and scientific, social and educational, humanitarian, the working groups are identifying promising solutions and advocating commitments to help reach these ambitious targets.
The idea is to dedicate a 2-hour session to each World Water Forum's target and its related solutions to enable interactive discussions and encourage commitments to the target, to its actions plan and/or to solutions, as well as recommendations on follow-up and partnership building around this issue.
Thematic session: 2h session dedicated to a thematic target
Regional session: 2h session dedicated to a regional target
Integrated session: longer session dedicated to thematic and regional targets that are closely linked to each other. In practice it can mean the 2h thematic session being followed by each of the related 2h regional sessions, or a merged session under another format.
- *When:* The thematic, regional and integrated sessions will take place during the three central days from Tuesday to Thursday 13-15 March during the 08:30-10:30, 11:00-13:00, and 14:30-16:30 time slots. The sessions related to each Priority for Action and Condition for Success will span over 1.5 day, with the sessions of 8 PFA/CS on Tuesday and Wednesday and sessions of the remaining 7 PFA/CS on Wednesday and Thursday. Such programming avoids competition between related themes (water-sanitation, risks-climate change, governance-IWRM). It also maximizes participants' experience and opportunities to contribute. There will be up to 20 sessions in parallel during each time slot. The sessions will create a gradual build up towards the evenings' multi-stakeholders synthesis sessions.
- *Who:* The participants of these sessions are the various Forums attendees, especially experts and professionals with a keen interest for the target of the session.
- *Structure:* The session will be moderated by the thematic and regional Target and Solutions' Group Coordinator. An estimated 4 to 5 panellist would be chosen by the Coordinator to headline the session. Panellists could be members of the Target and Solutions Group or contributors who are heading a particularly promising solution. During the moderated session, an opportunity will be given for each of the panellists to speak on the target, its actions plan and promising solutions. The integrated sessions will be co-led by the regional and thematic coordinators and thematic and regional panellists will come in turn to speak on the respective targets and solutions. Structured by their specific target(s), all session(s) will be focused on solutions and encourage discussions for commitments and follow-up on the target(s).

Information will be presented in a powerful and engaging way and the sessions will be as purposeful, interactive and participatory as possible. The potential use of technology and “voting” systems via handsets or mobile phones has also been suggested.

- *Topics:* The topics chosen for these sessions are the thematic and regional targets deriving from the 6th World Water Forum’s Thematic Framework. They will cover the Thematic Framework’s 12 Priorities for Action and 3 Conditions for Success:
 - Guarantee access to water services for all and the Right to Water
 - Improve access to integrated sanitation services for all
 - Contribute to hygiene and health through water and sanitation
 - Prevent and respond to water-related risks and crises
 - Contribute to cooperation and peace through water
 - Balance multiple uses through IWRM
 - Contribute to food security by the optimal use of water
 - Harmonize water and energy
 - Promote Green Growth and value ecosystem services
 - Improve the quality of water resources and ecosystems
 - Adjust pressures and footprints of human activities on water
 - Respond to climate and global changes in an urbanising world
 - Good governance
 - Financing water for all
 - Enabling environments
- *How:* Each thematic and regional Target and Solutions Group is in charge of preparing its dedicated session. A Q&A and Session demo meeting will be held during the Stockholm World Water Week to answer their queries and demonstrate ways of organising their sessions. Guidance on facilitation methods will then be circulated to the Coordinators to help them present information in a powerful and engaging way, and to ensure sessions are as purposeful, interactive and participatory as possible. Each Coordinator should submit to the IFC Secretariat the outline of their session (i.e. detailed schedule, speakers, list of selected promising solutions and sessions outputs) by mid-November 2011. The outline should be approved by the corresponding Core Group.
- *Facilitation:* As with almost any session, the key will be to have above average facilitation. The session will be moderated by the Target and Solutions’ Group Coordinator. Some sessions Coordinators might be supported by professional Facilitators depending on the complexity and depth of the target.
- *Briefing:* The Target and Solutions Group Coordinator will brief each panellist prior to the session. The briefings should take place as soon as possible once the session outline has been approved by the IFC Secretariat.
- *Expected outcomes:*
 - Interest/commitments in favour of the target and/or most promising solutions to build up to the Commitment day
 - Amendment/endorsement of the Target Action Plan to build up to the Commitment day
 - Key messages and material to be taken and consolidated for the multi-stakeholders synthesis sessions
 - Proposals and recommendations on monitoring/follow-up beyond the 6th World Water Forum and strategic partnership building