



REGIONAL PROCESS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Regional Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 30th of April 2024 (CET time).

**The Regional session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the Regional session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Regional Session Code and Title:

Session Code: RP5

Title: Strengthening Resilience: Capacity Building for Gender-Inclusive Proactive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Regional Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

- **Coordinator 1:** Ms Kusum Athukorala Steering Committee Member Women for Water Partnership/Regional Chair Global Water Partnership South Asia , Colombo, Sri Lankamkusumathukorala@gmail.com, +94722442426,
- **Coordinator 2:** Dr Jayati Chourey , Executive Director, SaciWATERS (South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies), Hyderabad , India jayati@saciwaters.org +91 9949420410

Regional Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

South Asia is recognized as one of the most vulnerable regions to climate risks. The increasing intensity and complexity of disaster risks underscores the need for proactive, inclusive disaster management strategies, with gender mainstreaming being an essential element. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDDR) (2015-30) recognizes the crucial need for integrating a gender perspective into disaster risk reduction. Achieving effective gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction requires an investment in capacity building through skill development and education. This effort should be complemented by the creation of an enabling societal environment, advocating for gender-responsive policies, inclusive institutions, and community engagement to empower women in disaster risk reduction efforts. Additionally, it necessitates the reorientation of curricula to incorporate a gender perspective in training professionals for disaster risk reduction.

In a commitment to gender and social inclusion, organizing partners – GWP-South Asia, SaciWATERS, WWF-EDM & University of Kelaniya – have launched various capacity-building initiatives at different levels across South Asia related to climate change and proactive disaster risk reduction. While significant progress has been made over two decades, the journey continues towards realizing the envisioned paradigm shift, marked by successes, lessons learned, challenges faced, and future needs & opportunities.

In this context, the organizing partners propose a session at the Bali World Water Forum to underscore the urgency of prioritizing gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience efforts in South Asia. The session aims to share successful initiatives from the region, focusing on capacity-building for gender-inclusive proactive disaster risk reduction. It will also facilitate discussions on challenges and strategies for integrating gender into water, disaster risk

management, and climate change curricula, leveraging the valuable insights and lessons gained from the South Asian experience to inform and inspire similar initiatives worldwide. By advocating for gender-inclusive proactive strategies in disaster risk reduction, the proposed session at the Bali-WWF ultimately aims to contribute to a more resilient and inclusive future for South Asia and beyond.

Objectives:

- Raise awareness about integrating gender perspectives into disaster risk reduction in South Asia, emphasizing capacity building.
- Showcase successful capacity-building initiatives, ranging from formal higher educational programs to community-based initiatives, in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and India for gender-inclusive disaster risk reduction.
- Discuss challenges in mainstreaming gender in water, disaster risk management, and climate change curricula, and explore strategies.
- Identify innovative approaches for overcoming barriers to gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction.
- Promote international collaboration among stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and gender inclusion, emphasizing capacity-building exchange.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased understanding of women's vulnerabilities to climate-related disasters in South Asia, with a focus on building capacity.
- Recognition of gender-inclusive approaches in building resilience to disaster risks, supported by capacity-building efforts.
- Dissemination of practical tools for integrating gender perspectives into disaster risk reduction efforts.
- Opportunities identified for cross-sectoral collaboration to mainstream gender considerations, leveraging capacity-building initiatives.
- Recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and educators on prioritizing gender inclusion, with a focus on capacity-building strategies.
- Establishment of networks to support ongoing efforts in gender-inclusive disaster risk reduction, emphasizing capacity building.

Detailed Regional Session Plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
10 mins	Welcome and Opening Remarks: Women and Youth Collaborating for Change	Ms Kusum Athukorala, Steering Committee Member, Women for Water Partnership, Sri Lanka	OK*
		Mr Nitish Barole, Founder, Youth for Resilience , India	OK*
10 mins	Visionary Speaker Presentation	Dr Dipak Gyawali Academician, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology	OK*

	Exploring the Intersection: Hydro Diplomacy, Gender, and Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia	(Former Minister of Water Resources, Nepal)	
10 mins	Keynote Address: Amplifying Silent Voices and Addressing Gendered Impacts - Enhancing Ecosystem Resilience in Wetlands	Ms. Dhruba Das Gupta, Project Director – Society for Creative Opportunities and Participatory Ecosystems (SCOPE), India	OK*
10 mins	Presentation of Findings from the South Asian Sub-Regional Consultation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Gender	Dr. Jayati Chourey Executive Director – South Asian Regional Consortium for Interdisciplinary Studies in Water (SaciWATERS)	OK*
10 mins	Unlocking the Advantage: Diverse and Representative Committees Enhancing WASH Inclusion in India	Ms. Akhila Sivadas, Executive Director, Centre for Advocacy and Research. Dasra-NFSSM Alliance, India	OK
10 mins	Bridging Science and Community for Gender-Sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction: A Theatrical Presentation	Dr. Younghyun Cho, Principal Researcher, K-water Research Institute, Korea Dr. Jayati Chourey Ms. Kusum Athukorala Mr Nitish Barole Mr. Kabinrda Sharma	OK
30 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel Discussion and Audience Questions ▪ Focus on Infrastructure: Insights from Sri Lanka ▪ Exclusive Male Perspectives: Discussing Challenges in Supporting Gender Perspectives and Gendered Policies/Activities in South Asia 	1) Mr Lalith Seneviratne, Community water activist, Lions Club Pilimatalawe & Australian Awards alumnae. CSO, Sri Lanka.	OK*
		2) Mr. Amar Gunatilleke, Executive Vice Chairman, Marga Institute- Centre for Development Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka.	OK



		3) Mr Sugath Dharmakeerthi, Senior Secretary, Ministry for Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure, Sri Lanka	OK
		4) Mr Kabindra Sharma, PhD Scholar, Sikkim University & Research Associate, SaciWATERS, India	OK*
10 mins	Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks	1. Ms. Changhua Wu, Chair, Asia Pacific Water Forum	OK
		2. Ms Mariet Verhoef Cohen, President, Women for Water Partnership, The Netherlands	OK*

*Panelists are keen to participate, but their participation is subject to sponsorship.