



Network India

UNGCNI's First Global Roundtable on Water and WASH (Virtual)

Friday, 25th June 2021

6-8 pm IST

Water Crisis Fact Summary as per UNGC CEOs Water Mandate

1. Water is a pervasive and vital sustainability challenge today. Nearly two billion people live in water-stressed areas, while over two billion people live without access to safe drinking water.
2. Water is also a multi-faceted issue, spanning not only water scarcity, but pollution, access to water and sanitation services, and more.
3. Water and climate are inextricably linked. Climate impacts often manifest as water challenges. If climate change is the shark, water is its teeth.

UN GCNI's first Global Virtual Roundtable on Water & WASH will bring together Senior Leaders/Champions from companies dedicated to this cause to deliberate on the looming Water Crisis and the possible solutions/best practices that they have implemented. The second part of this session will have representatives from the relevant stakeholders who will share their experiences/perspective on the ground level efforts, challenges/impediments and possible support that is needed to scale up both awareness and action.

Keeping the various initiatives of UNGC in view, the session will be addressing holistic Water/WASH ecosystem needed to Conserve, Recharge, Reuse, Recycle, Replenish this critical resource and various related issues of education/advocacy/collective action to promote and create Water Ownership/guardianship by one and all. Businesses consume huge amounts of water in various activities, it is not only their social/moral obligation to give back the resource to the ecosystem but also a critical part of their business plans for sustainable growth.

This effort will aim to bring more companies and communities to join our Water Stewardship initiative and align this various National/International policies and practices addressing holistic water requirement of the communities by sustainable access and use.

The session is the first step to be followed by various engagements throughout the year and beyond.

This roundtable will focus on the following:

- Ground Reality of Global Water Crisis
- Best Practices/Sustainability Initiatives
- India: the efforts, gaps, and way forward
- Role/Responsibilities of Businesses

- Role/Responsibility of Non-Business Sectors
- Health & Hygiene
- Women for Water and Water for Women
- Impact of Water on other Natural Resources/Environment/Planet

Expected Outcomes:

- Awareness/Advocacy/Education: Greater understanding of the Water Crisis and related issues- India and the rest of the World
- Showcasing a few Indian/Global Best Practices/Experiences to inspire, motivate and creating Benchmarks: Top-Down and Ground-up Water initiatives merger with Business Strategy
- Generating innovative and sustainable thoughts/ideas/technologies to align Stakeholders' engagement with SDG 6/ UNGC Principles/Policy support/Government Schemes to take the Action forward
- Enhancing the involvement of Businesses in various GII initiatives such as Water Stewardship Mandate, Water Resilience Coalition among others
- A White Paper and Outcome Report of the discussions during the Session as Knowledge Capital

Activities/Interventions planned post this first Session:

1. Instituting GCNI's Water Stewardship CEOs Committee/Forum under whose guidance and leadership, GCNI proposes to scale up the Action and Impact
2. Knowledge/Advocacy Sessions at local level once each quarter with a well-defined Agenda/Expected outcomes
3. Sponsored Research Project(s) in the Water & WASH domain in Water Scarce Geographies of India- proposed is a 6-month study in the FY 2021-22
4. Industrial Water Benchmarking Study- one in FY 2021-22/ Impact Assessment Project(s)
5. Global Water Impact Innovation Challenge for Strat-ups particularly in the backdrop of the COVID 19 Pandemic- one in FY 2021-22
6. Quarterly Outcome Reports
7. Annual Outcome Report