

**Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference
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Statements by Ms. Tove Lexén, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

Session 3. Strengthen water governance at national and transboundary levels)

SIWI hosts the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management. The platform is a partnership of organizations that are committed to holistic management of land, freshwater, coasts and the ocean. The partners work independently and jointly to grow understanding of the linkages between the mentioned systems, build commitments for source-to-sea action and act on the ground.

Mentioned comprehension and cooperation are crucial for meeting the challenges we are currently facing. Today, there is a lack of coordination between sectors across the mentioned ecosystems, and no holistic management of the source-to-sea system. Inclusion of upstream and downstream perspectives in developing policies, plans and projects are missing, resulting in benefits in one location at the expense of another. Moreover, there is limited recognition of the impacts of land-based activities on coasts and the marine environment, in turn leading to losses of their social and economic benefits to upstream populations.

These challenges can be addressed by strengthening coordination through implementing integrated source-to-sea management. The source-to-sea approach can be used to address challenges that arise from activities on land and in freshwater systems, thereby advancing the progress in accordance with the aims of Water Action Decade and the targets of SDG 6.

The Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management is open to all organizations committed to promoting, implementing, and building expertise in source-to-sea management. All states and stakeholders are most welcome to join the Platform.

Thank you!

Session 5. Improve knowledge, management and protection of groundwater

Governing groundwater is complex. For achieving the SDGs in the context of climate change and the multitude of competing needs, empowered participatory mapping and monitoring for robust data collection and building of adequate knowledge is needed to complement the country reporting towards SDG 6.6. Management is both a matter for national policymakers and regulatory bodies, as well as for end-users who manage groundwater well infrastructure, aquifer recharge and water quality control at the very local level. Thus, SIWI recognizes the importance of the examples shared by precious speakers in this session.

Moreover, the discussions around groundwater need to be connected to the efforts for realizing the human rights to drinking water and sanitation. 2.2 billion people rely on groundwater for their daily consumption, of which around 1 billion practice self-supply in response to being inadequately served by public water distribution. This practice should be supported, for instance through recommendations relating to resource protection, quality, health and affordable water treatment methods.

Thank you!