

# “PROMISES, PROMISES: BUT WHO DOES WHAT ON THE GROUND?”

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# WORLD WATER DAY (22 MARCH) A SECOND WOMEN'S DAY (8 MARCH)? PROMISES

- In 1992 the Dublin principles were formulated. Principle No. 3: “Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water”.
- In 1995 the Beijing Action platform under chapter K formulated some crucial principles like “I. Ensure that clean water is available and accessible to all by the year 2000 and that environmental protection and conservation plans are designed and implemented to restore polluted water systems and rebuild damaged watersheds
- In 2002 the Johannesburg Platform for Action and after that the Commission on Sustainable Development (2003-2004) were very explicit on the role women can and should play
- The Commission on the status of women refers
- The combined targets of SDG5 and 6 are clear and crucial

# HOW TO GET THERE?

- However: it seems lots of promises but not enough action on the ground.
- “Leaving no one behind” is a powerful slogan;
- Even more powerful: Enabling those that have not enough voice (yet) and be able to act on their own behalf
- Women are actors and Yes, women like to get a “little help from a friend”; but do not want them to take over. (and women are a very diverse group)
- **Women’s empowerment and “water” are intrinsically linked; implement SDG5 and 6 (and other water-related targets) together is a necessity.**

# WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2019 AND MORE

- “Fulfilment of the human rights to water and sanitation requires that the services be available, physically accessible, equitably affordable, safe and culturally acceptable”, and gender sensitive ... The human rights to water and sanitation are neither temporary nor subject to state approval, and they cannot be withdrawn
- Water rights, which are normally regulated under national laws, are conferred to an individual or organization through property rights or land rights, or through a negotiated agreement between the state and landowner(s)”. For women to be able to manage water and sanitation, land rights and thus right to water are crucial and till today a big impediment all over

# WHAT'S NEEDED?

- Advocate for land and water rights for women
- Women are actors to support: give them a vote! Position women as agents of change, leaders, professionals, experts and partners on equal footing with men in water and sustainable development programs to achieve equitable access to water for all for all uses
- Multi- disciplinary research to create the evidence base: that diversity, women's involvement works > OECD and WfWP started a project on this - and IWRA members can assist with that?!
- SD principles applied: technology is one component, social and economic impacts and inputs are just as crucial
- (Sex-) disaggregated data collection and analysis (both qualitatively and quantitatively)
- Citizens science and data collection to fill the gap and create trust and ownership: how to motivate, enhance, validate and incorporate



# WHAT'S NEEDED?

- Acknowledge and enhance traditional and indigenous experience and knowledge
- Certify earlier acquired competences and experience
- Ensure access to information and rights
- Support women to participate in and have access to vocational education at all levels and thus get access to the labor market (only 17% of paid jobs in the water sector are filled by women; but they do most of the work unpaid!)
- Train moderators, resource persons to ensure women's voices are really heard and their suggestions incorporated
- Change working conditions and HR policies to ensure a gender balance



# RESOURCES

- [www.womenforwater.org/](http://www.womenforwater.org/) publications
- Email: [secretariat@womenforwater.org](mailto:secretariat@womenforwater.org)