

# UNEP–ILEC Special Session at the 18<sup>th</sup> World Lake Conference, Guanajuato, Mexico

## “Mainstreaming Lakes and Wetlands in the Global Water Agenda and SDGs”

★ You need to register in order to receive the electronic link to the conference.  
WLC18 Official Site <http://www.worldlakeconference.ugto.mx/en>

Date & Time

**November 10, 2021: 16:00-19:00 (Mexican Time: UTC-6)**

Venue

Online Live and On-Demand (via WLC18 Online Platform)  
**(with Spanish Simultaneous Interpretation)**

16:00

Opening  
Messages

- **UNEP Representative** (On behalf of Executive Director, Inger Andersen)
- **Kazuhiko Takemoto** (President, ILEC Foundation)

16:10

Introduction

- **“Why Mainstreaming?”**  
Walter Rast (Chair, ILEC Scientific Committee)
- **“Overview on the State of World’s Lakes and Emerging Challenges”**  
Patrick M’Mayi (Science Division, UNEP)

16:40

Global  
Overview

- **“The Global Wetland Outlook-Providing a Context for Wetland Management & Policy”**  
Max Finlayson (ILEC Scientific Committee)
- **“Lake Eutrophication Trends and Health Impacts, with Focus on Latin Americas”**  
Sandra Azevedo (ILEC Scientific Committee)

17:25

Messages from  
International  
Organizations

- **Short Presentations in Support of Lake Mainstreaming Statement**
  - a. Thomas Schaefer (Living Lakes Program Manager, Global Nature Fund (GNF))
  - b. Thomas Mehner (President, International Society of Limnology (SIL))
  - c. Christian Holde Severin (Coordinator-International Waters, The Global Environment Facility(GEF))
  - d. Jerker Tamelander (Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands)

17:50

Messages from  
Latin American  
and Asian  
Governments

- **Message from Latin American National Governments**
  - a. Mariano Castro Sánchez -Moreno (Vice Minister of Environment Management, Peru)
  - b. Zulma Esperanza Mena Aguilar (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador)

18:50

Closing

- **Message from Asia**
  - a. Helmi Basalamah (Director General of Watershed Management and Forest Rehabilitation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia)
  - b. Kotaro Kawamata (Director, Water Environment Management Division, Ministry of the Environment, Japan)
  - c. Report on the International Webinar on Mainstreaming Lakes in the Global Agenda by A. Santos-Borja (Vice Chair, ILEC Scientific Committee)

- **The “Way Forward” and Closing**

# “Mainstreaming Lakes and Wetlands in the Global Water Agenda and SDGs”

## ***Background and Purpose***

This Special Session will highlight UNEP and ILEC programs and activities regarding the state of the world’s lakes and wetlands, and the management challenges to their sustainable use, as well as highlighting their essential roles in achieving the SDGs. It also highlights the urgent need to recognize them as a significant missing link in the Global Water Agenda. The Session will introduce a brochure and also a revised version of the “Call to Action Statement” on this topic. Other Session components include a global overview of the state of the world’s wetlands, and global eutrophication trends and health impacts. Relevant perspectives on mainstreaming lakes needs will be provided by Latin American, Asia and African representatives, and highlights from a range of clips from government and international organizations participating in a previous global webinar on this topic will be presented.

In addition to messages previously received from WHO, FAO and other UN/UN-related international agencies such as the World Bank, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and various international scientific organizations and NGOs, including the International Society of Limnology (SIL) and Global Nature Fund (GNF), will also provide their perspectives and support for this initiative. The Session will be closed by recognizing the importance of continued efforts to realize productive deliberations at forthcoming global meetings, including the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Assembly (UNEA5) planned for February 2022 and the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum planned for March 2022.