

To the attention of H.E Retno L.P. Marsudi,
Special Envoy on Water to the Secretary General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters, East 42nd Street
New-York City,
NY 10017
United States of America

Montreal, Canada, January 25th, 2025

Subject: "One voice for water" Open call for the establishment of an advisory board to the Special Envoy on Water / Follow-up on the recent nomination of the Special Envoy on Water and reinforcement of global water governance at the UN level

H.E Mrs Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing diverse groups including women, indigenous communities, and youth within the water sector, the Butterfly Effect (BE) Coalition extends heartfelt congratulations on your appointment as UN Special Envoy on Water and Sanitation. Your leadership arrives at a key juncture, as the global community focuses on advancing the UN 2023 Water Conference outcomes and achieving SDG6 as well as all other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), given the central role that water plays in all of them. We are confident that you will champion efforts to ensure equitable and safe water and sanitation access while addressing crucial aspects like water governance, ecosystem preservation, human rights to water and sanitation, respecting the "leave no one behind" principle and effective civil society participation.

As Civil Society Organizations, water advocates, as well as other organizations and representatives deeply committed to these issues, we are eager to support your efforts. Additionally in the interest of enhancing broad and inclusive perspectives in the decision-making process, we would again respectfully propose the creation of an **Advisory Board** composed of representatives from major groups and other stakeholders, including civil society, youth, women, academia, indigenous nations and other key actors including geographically and gender balanced representation, as well as leading experts to provide advice to strengthen your governance. This committee would support your mandate by gathering all stakeholders' voices, reinforcing the legitimacy of global water and sanitation governance under your leadership.

Consequently, this Advisory Board would aim at identifying means to enhance collaboration between different actors, UN bodies and international processes to further strengthen the role of the United Nations in delivering the SDGs and supporting their assessment and monitoring. Moreover, the Butterfly Effect Coalition would be happy to contribute through its members to the implementation of the UN system wide strategy on Water.

This idea of an Advisory board was warmly supported by Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed during a meeting that was held with her and her team alongside BE representatives on December, 11th, 2023, following our open letter "[Water Needs a Home](#)". The letter called for a stronger institutional framework for water governance and highlighted the need for inclusive and participatory decision-making. We believe that establishing a diverse board of counselors would be an important step forward to put this vision into practice.

We are keen to support your mandate and ensure that the voices of all partners, particularly those most affected by water and sanitation challenges, be at the forefront of these global efforts. We remain at your disposal to further discuss how we might contribute to your mission and share insights from civil society and other key groups.

We look forward to working together in the pursuit of safe water and sanitation for all.

Sincerely yours,

The undersigned organizations¹

¹ This letter has been initiated by the Butterfly Effect NGO coalition, coordinated by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW)

List of signatories (ongoing)



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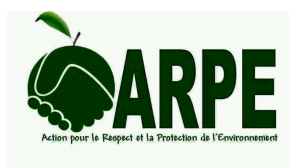
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- TANDEM GENERATION
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- Global Youth Movement for Water
- CCOAD Niger