2026 UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

DO THE DREAM™
Youth Development Initiative

BEYOND WATER SECURITY

Powering the Girls Who Power Water Through the HeForShe Economy

Investing in Gender Equality, Clean Energy,
and Climate-Resilient Communities

HIGH-LEVEL GLOBAL SIDE-EVENT
CONCEPT NOTE & SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

9 December 2026 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
2 hours 30 minutes | Virtual-first, globally livestreamed

Prepared for institutional, development, philanthropic,
corporate, media and implementation partners

1. Executive Summary

Beyond Water Security: Powering the Girls Who Power Water Through the HeForShe Economy is a proposed high-level global side-event to be convened on 9 December 2026, in the context of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference in Abu Dhabi. The event will position women, girls and young people not simply as beneficiaries of water and energy interventions, but as leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, technical experts and decision-makers shaping solutions across the water–energy–climate nexus.

The event advances a practical proposition: lasting water security requires more than infrastructure. It requires reliable clean energy, gender-responsive investment, inclusive innovation, climate-resilient communities and institutions that enable women and young people to participate fully in designing, financing and delivering solutions.

Through the HeForShe Economy, men and boys will be engaged as strategic allies and accountable partners—in public leadership, finance, business, utilities and communities. The programme will connect gender equality with economic productivity, clean energy access, reliable water services, climate adaptation and decent work, with a focus on moving from commitments to measurable action.

Delivered as a 150-minute virtual-first programme with global livestream distribution, the event will convene policymakers, multilateral institutions, development finance partners, utilities, private-sector leaders, civil society, women and youth innovators, investors and international media. Its intended outputs include practical recommendations, visibility for scalable solutions, partnership and investment leads, and a documented post-event action agenda.

2. Strategic Context and Global Relevance

The 2026 United Nations Water Conference is scheduled for 8–10 December 2026 in Abu Dhabi and is co-hosted by the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Senegal. The conference provides a significant global platform to accelerate action on Sustainable Development Goal 6: ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Water and energy systems are deeply interconnected. Water abstraction, treatment, pumping, distribution and wastewater management require energy, while many energy systems depend on water. Unreliable electricity, climate pressures, infrastructure gaps and unequal access to finance can undermine water services. These pressures often intensify existing inequalities, including the disproportionate time and care burdens experienced by women and girls.

This side-event will bring an integrated gender, energy and climate perspective to water security. It will contribute to dialogue relevant to SDGs 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13 and 17: gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work; industry and innovation; climate action; and partnerships for the Goals.

Institutional positioning: this document presents an independently proposed side-event. It does not imply formal UN organisation, endorsement, partnership or approval. Any use of UN names, emblems or branding, and any reference to official side-event status, will be subject to the relevant written permissions and conference procedures.

3. Event at a Glance

Element	Proposed arrangement
Event title	Beyond Water Security: Powering the Girls Who Power Water Through the HeForShe Economy—Investing in Gender Equality, Clean Energy, and Climate-Resilient Communities
Date	Wednesday, 9 December 2026 (proposed; subject to confirmation and conference scheduling)
Location / context	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; convened in the context of the 2026 UN Water Conference
Duration	2 hours 30 minutes (150 minutes)
Format	Virtual-first, professionally produced and globally livestreamed; with a clear connection to the Abu Dhabi conference programme, subject to approvals
Primary audience	Government, UN and multilateral institutions, development finance institutions, water and energy utilities, private sector, philanthropy, civil society, academia, women and youth leaders, investors and media
Central proposition	Gender equality is an economic and implementation strategy for water security, clean energy access and climate resilience.
Working language	English; interpretation and captioning options subject to resources and platform capacity
Convening structure	Lead convenor and institutional, technical, media and funding partners to be confirmed

4. Rationale and Case for Action

4.1 Water security depends on resilient, integrated systems

Reliable water services depend on the performance of interconnected infrastructure, energy supply, finance, governance, technical capacity and community participation. Renewable-energy-powered pumping and treatment, efficient infrastructure, storage, digital monitoring and climate-informed planning can strengthen reliability and affordability while reducing emissions.

4.2 Women and girls must shape solutions and investment decisions

Women and girls are water users, workers, entrepreneurs, engineers, researchers, community organisers and decision-makers. Their meaningful participation strengthens the relevance and

uptake of solutions. Access to finance, technology, skills, procurement opportunities and leadership pathways can enable women-led enterprises and institutions to create economic and social value.

4.3 Men and boys are strategic allies

The HeForShe Economy positions gender equality as a shared responsibility and an economic imperative. Men and boys—particularly those with influence in government, finance, business, utilities and community institutions—can help dismantle structural barriers, champion equitable workplaces, support women-led enterprises and direct resources toward inclusive solutions.

4.4 Climate resilience must be community-centred

Climate-resilient water services require anticipatory planning, locally led adaptation, nature-positive approaches, disaster preparedness and infrastructure able to withstand droughts, floods, heat and other climate pressures. Women and young people should have meaningful roles in designing, implementing and monitoring these responses.

5. Goal, Objectives and Intended Outcomes

Overall Goal

To mobilise leadership, investment and cross-sector partnerships that advance gender-responsive water security, clean energy access and climate-resilient communities, while positioning women, girls and young people as leaders and innovators across the water–energy nexus.

Specific Objectives

- Elevate evidence, lived experience and scalable solutions led by women, girls and young people across water, energy and climate sectors.
- Demonstrate the economic and development case for investing in gender equality as a driver of stronger water and energy outcomes.
- Engage men and boys as accountable allies through the HeForShe Economy, including in leadership, finance, procurement and community action.
- Connect investors, development partners, utilities, technology providers and women- and youth-led enterprises to practical partnership opportunities.
- Promote renewable-energy-powered water services, water efficiency, climate adaptation and inclusive green jobs.
- Generate recommendations and voluntary commitments that can be tracked beyond the conference.

Expected Outcomes

- Policy and investment recommendations on gender-responsive water–energy–climate action.

- Stronger connections between women and youth innovators, financiers, utilities, governments and technical partners.
- Documented partnership pathways and expressions of interest for pilots, technical assistance, mentorship, procurement and investment.
- Greater visibility for women- and youth-led solutions and constructive male allyship.
- A post-event report documenting key insights, speakers, proposed commitments, partnership leads and follow-up responsibilities.

6. Thematic Pillars

Pillar	Strategic focus
1. Gender equality as economic infrastructure	How does women's leadership strengthen water service delivery, productivity, household resilience and local economic development? Which policy and financing barriers must be addressed?
2. Clean energy for water security	How can solar power, storage, efficient pumping and other clean-energy solutions improve the affordability, reliability and resilience of water systems?
3. Women and youth as innovators	What is needed to move women- and youth-led solutions from prototypes to procurement-ready, investable and scalable enterprises?
4. The HeForShe Economy	How can men in leadership and institutions shift capital, procurement, workplace practices and decision-making toward gender equality?
5. Climate-resilient communities	How can locally led adaptation, water stewardship, early warning, nature-positive solutions and inclusive governance protect communities?
6. Finance and implementation partnerships	Which blended-finance, grant, guarantee, procurement and corporate partnership models can translate commitments into delivery?

7. Proposed Programme | 2 Hours 30 Minutes

The programme will combine high-level perspectives, moderated dialogue, solution showcases and an action-oriented close. The sequence and timings below are indicative and will be finalised with confirmed speakers and production partners.

Time	Session	Purpose
00:00–00:10	Opening and welcome	Welcome, conference context, event objectives and expected outcomes.
00:10–00:25	Keynote: Beyond Water Security	Strategic framing of the water–energy–gender nexus and the case for inclusive resilience.
00:25–00:50	Leadership dialogue: The HeForShe Economy	Senior leaders and male allies examine accountability, capital allocation, institutional leadership and shared responsibility.

00:50–01:20	High-level panel: Powering the Girls Who Power Water	Women leaders, youth innovators, utilities, policymakers and technical experts discuss clean energy, water access, innovation and climate resilience.
01:20–01:40	Solutions spotlight: From Innovation to Investment	Selected women- and youth-led enterprises or community initiatives present solutions, followed by investor and utility responses.
01:40–02:05	Investment and partnership roundtable	Development finance, philanthropy, business and public institutions identify financing pathways and partnership opportunities.
02:05–02:20	Youth and community voices	Short interventions on local priorities, implementation barriers and community-led solutions.
02:20–02:30	Abu Dhabi Action Call and closing	Summary of priority recommendations, partnership invitations, next steps and closing remarks.

8. Speaker and Stakeholder Architecture

The speaker roster will be developed through a balanced invitation process. Priority will be given to individuals and institutions able to contribute policy authority, technical expertise, implementation experience, finance, innovation or measurable commitments.

- Government and public institutions responsible for water, environment, energy, gender equality, youth, climate and economic development.
- Relevant UN entities and multilateral institutions working across water, gender equality, energy, climate, development and youth, subject to availability and approval.
- Development finance institutions, national development banks, climate funds, philanthropic foundations, impact investors and grant-makers.
- Water utilities, renewable energy companies, engineering and technology firms, infrastructure investors and corporate sustainability leaders.
- Women and youth leaders, including engineers, researchers, entrepreneurs, community water leaders and innovators.
- Civil society organisations and academic institutions working on water, sanitation, gender equality, climate adaptation and energy access.
- International broadcasters, development and climate correspondents, specialist water and energy publications, and digital media partners.

9. Audience Engagement, Media and Communications

A coordinated communications plan will build awareness before the event, support meaningful participation during the programme and extend the reach of its outcomes afterwards.

- Pre-event campaign: save-the-date announcement, speaker and partner introductions, registration drive, partner communication toolkit and media briefing note.

- Live engagement: professionally managed livestream, moderated questions, audience polling where feasible, social-media highlights, speaker quotations and media-ready clips.
- International distribution: outreach to international media houses, including prospective Canadian broadcast and digital media partners. Coverage and carriage remain subject to editorial interest, technical feasibility and written agreements.
- Post-event amplification: edited recording, executive summary, outcomes report, partner acknowledgements and targeted follow-up with investors, institutions and solution providers.
- Accessibility: clear digital materials, accessible registration and participation guidance, captions and interpretation options where resources permit.

10. Deliverables and Measurement Framework

Deliverable / indicator	Measurement approach
Participation and reach	Registrations, live attendance, countries or regions represented and stakeholder groups participating.
Gender and youth representation	Composition of speakers and panellists, with attention to substantive leadership roles for women and young people.
Audience engagement	Questions, poll responses, audience contributions, livestream reach and recording views where platform analytics are available.
Solutions visibility	Number of women- and youth-led solutions showcased and follow-up enquiries generated.
Partnership development	Documented partnership leads, expressions of interest, investor or utility introductions and follow-up meetings requested.
Commitments and recommendations	Actionable recommendations and voluntary commitments documented, with follow-up owners where agreed.
Knowledge products	Executive summary, post-event report, recording link and concise action/partnership tracker.

Quantitative targets will be agreed with sponsors and partners once the speaker roster, platform capacity, communications reach and media arrangements are confirmed. No organisation will be described as having made a commitment without its express consent.

11. Sponsorship and Strategic Partnership Proposition

The sponsorship model is designed to connect institutional visibility with practical engagement and post-event impact. Contributions will support programme development, event production, global livestream distribution, speaker participation, communications, reporting and follow-through. Sponsor recognition and participation will be delivered transparently and in a manner that protects the independence and credibility of the programme.

11.1 Proposed Sponsorship Categories

Category	Contribution	Proposed benefits
Lead / Convening Partner	US$5,000	Prominent Lead Partner recognition across approved event materials; acknowledgement during opening or closing; invitation for up to two senior representatives to contribute strategic perspectives, subject to programme balance; acknowledgement in the post-event report; and priority consideration for two panellist places and one speaking engagement at a proposed follow-on UN-context session in New York in February 2027, subject to confirmation, eligibility and programme approval.
Strategic Partner	US$3,500	Prominent logo placement; opportunity to nominate qualified speakers and up to two panellists for consideration; acknowledgement during the event; inclusion in the post-event report and partner communications.
Programme / Innovation Partner	US$2,000	Recognition associated with a programme segment or solutions showcase; logo on approved materials; opportunity to share a concise partner or solution profile; and consideration for up to two panellist places.
Supporting Partner	US$135	Name or logo acknowledgement on approved digital materials; recognition during closing acknowledgements and in the post-event report; and one panellist opportunity for consideration, with post-event engagement.

All speaker and panellist opportunities are invitations for consideration, not guaranteed speaking rights. Final selection will be based on relevance, expertise, diversity, programme balance, conference rules and written confirmation. The proposed February 2027 New York engagement is a prospective follow-on opportunity; its format, venue, status and participation arrangements remain subject to separate confirmation.

11.2 Sponsor Value Proposition

- Association with a globally relevant, implementation-focused conversation on water, energy, gender equality and climate resilience.
- Visibility among policymakers, development partners, investors, utilities, innovators, civil society and international audiences.
- Opportunity to demonstrate leadership in inclusive infrastructure, clean energy, water stewardship, youth development and climate action.
- Structured engagement with women- and youth-led innovators and potential implementation partners.

- Post-event documentation of the dialogue, sponsor participation and follow-up opportunities.

12. Budget and Sponsorship Requirement

Budget component	USD	NGN
A. Pre-event planning and preparation	$3,700.00	₦4,981,149.05
B. Virtual event delivery, global livestream and Hubcast media logistics	$4,850.00	₦6,529,344.03
C. Remote speaker participation support	$400.00	₦538,502.60
D. Post-event reporting and follow-through	$1,900.00	₦2,557,887.35
DIRECT PROGRAMME COSTS	$10,850.00	₦14,606,883.03
Contingency (10% of direct costs)	$1,085.00	₦1,460,688.30
GRAND TOTAL	$11,935.00	₦16,067,571.33

Currency calculation note: the NGN amounts above have been recalculated using the implied planning exchange rate of ₦1,346.2565 per US dollar, derived from the supplied A-category conversion. These are planning estimates and must be reconfirmed against the applicable exchange rate, supplier quotations, taxes, bank charges and payment date.

12.1 Budget Scope

- A. Pre-event planning and preparation: concept and programme development, stakeholder mapping, speaker outreach and coordination, partner engagement, registration setup, communications planning, production planning and administration.
- B. Virtual event delivery and global livestream: platform and production management, livestream and recording, Hubcast media logistics, moderation, technical rehearsals, audience engagement, graphics, event-day coordination and international distribution coordination.
- C. Remote speaker participation support: approved connectivity, access or participation assistance for selected remote speakers. This allocation does not constitute a general travel or accommodation budget.
- D. Post-event reporting and follow-through: editing and packaging of recordings, executive summary, outcomes report, partner acknowledgements, action and partnership tracker, and post-event engagement.

The budget makes provision for international livestream and media-distribution logistics, including prospective engagement with media houses in Canada and other markets. It does not guarantee editorial coverage, broadcast carriage or a media partnership; these require confirmation and, where applicable, separate agreements.

12.2 . **NAIRA ACCOUNT: DoTheDream YDI** **Account No:** 0118538339

Sort Code:058152492 **Swift code:** GTBINGLA

Sponsor Via ZELLE : accounts@dothedreamydi.org

Sponsor Via PAYPAL : accounts@dothedreamydi.org

13. Governance, Integrity and Risk Management

- Independence and transparency: disclose financial and in-kind contributors and preserve balanced, evidence-based discussion.
- UN identity and permissions: do not use UN logos or imply UN endorsement without written authorisation. Confirm the applicable side-event process, venue or zone, and participation requirements with the conference organisers.
- Speaker confirmation: invitations are not confirmations. Publish names, titles and institutional affiliations only after written approval.
- Financial accountability: maintain an approved budget, documented quotations, delegated approvals, receipts and a post-event expenditure statement.
- Data protection: obtain appropriate consent for registration data, photography, recording, livestreaming and distribution, supported by a clear privacy notice.
- Technical resilience: conduct rehearsals, test internet and audio, appoint a technical producer and moderator, and prepare backup access and recording arrangements.
- Reputational safeguards: conduct proportionate due diligence on sponsors and partners; ensure all impact claims and commitments are substantiated.
- Safeguarding and inclusion: maintain respectful participation standards and accessible channels for questions and contributions.

14. Implementation Timeline

Period	Priority actions
Immediately following approval	Confirm lead convenor, governance, event date, format, budget owner, sponsor prospectus and approval pathway.
T–6 to T–5 weeks	Confirm side-event requirements and permissions; secure anchor partners; develop speaker longlist; appoint production and communications leads.
T–4 weeks	Issue speaker invitations; confirm initial participants; launch save-the-date and registration; begin sponsor and media outreach.
T–3 to T–2 weeks	Finalise programme, moderator, speaker briefs, partner assets, visual identity and technical plan.
T–1 week	Complete speaker confirmations; conduct technical rehearsals; finalise scripts, presentations, accessibility and media distribution arrangements.
9 December 2026	Deliver the 150-minute programme; monitor participation and media outputs; document recommendations and partnership leads.
Within 10 working days	Publish executive summary and recording; circulate partner acknowledgements; issue the outcomes report and action tracker.

Within 30–60 days	Follow up with prospective partners, investors, utilities and solution providers; review progress against agreed actions.

15. Call to Action

Governments, UN and multilateral stakeholders, development finance institutions, philanthropic foundations, responsible businesses, utilities, media organisations and civil society partners are invited to participate as sponsors, knowledge partners, speakers, technical contributors and implementation collaborators.

By investing in the leadership of women and girls, engaging men and boys as accountable allies, and connecting clean energy with water and climate solutions, partners can help move beyond water security as an isolated service challenge towards a more inclusive, productive and resilient development economy.

POWERING WOMEN. ENABLING WATER SECURITY. BUILDING RESILIENT FUTURES.

16. Partnership Enquiries

Organisations interested in sponsorship, speaking, technical partnership, media collaboration or showcasing a women- or youth-led solution are invited to express interest and identify their preferred area of engagement.

Lead convenor / contact person: Adebusuyi Olutayo Olumadewa
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Co convenor / contact person: Ola Oluyinka
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17. Planning References and Important Notes

The conference dates and context in this proposal reflect the planning information supplied for the 2026 UN Water Conference: 8–10 December 2026 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, co-hosted by the UAE and Senegal. The conference venue, side-event eligibility, application process and all relevant permissions should be verified directly with the official conference organisers before publication or contracting.