#OpenWaterData - joint commitment

1. Basic information

1.1. Title/name of commitment

Adopt open water data policies

1.2. Lead entity name

International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)

1.3. Lead entity type

Partnership

2. Goals

2.1. SDGs covered by commitment

- 6.3 : By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4 : By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5 : By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6b : Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management
- 16.6 : Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7 : Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.10 : Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

3. Contact information

3.1. First name

Elisabeth

3.2. Last name

Lictevout

3.3. Contact title

Director of IGRAC

3.4. Telephone

3.5. Email
elisabeth.lictevout@un-igrac.org

3.6. Headquarters (City/town, Country)
Delft, the Netherlands

4. Partners and beneficiaries
4.1. Partners
To be added on 31 March 2023: List of partners who have joined the commitment

4.2. Countries
To be added on 31 March 2023: List of countries of partners

4.3. Other beneficiaries
Virtually everyone: every person or organization directly or indirectly benefiting from water data

5. Details
5.1. How would you best describe your initiative?
You may include objectives, implementation methodologies, follow-up mechanisms, governance, etc. Max. 500 words

This commitment is a joint commitment of water data-owning organizations to make their data open. It means that data will be made freely and readily available online for download. Each partner has specified what this commitment practically means for them: what data will become open, when, how, etc. You can access this information at https://www.un-igrac.org/OpenWaterData. The need for open water data is urgent. Therefore, commitments will be implemented within one year, before 22/03/2024 (World Water Day).

5.2. Expected impact
How will this new and additional action accelerate SDG implementation, including addressing interlinkages. Max 500 words

It has been demonstrated that open data policies improve existing services or support new ones, some of which might result in job creation and economic value[2]. In the water sector, a wide variety of users benefit from open water data policies, whether in governmental organizations, research, consultancy, private companies, NGOs, civil society organizations, etc. Monitoring data, water use records and other observations of surface water and groundwater can be used at various levels, from local to regional, including transboundary assessments of shared water resources. Open data policies allow all stakeholders to participate in an efficient way to the management of water resources and constitute a key element of good water data management practice[34]. UN-Water identifies data and information as one of the five accelerators where efforts and investments should be concentrated if we want a chance to achieve SDG 6. This will not happen if data are not accessible!

Furthermore, open data are time and cost-efficient. While advanced data sharing platforms with filtering, visualization or analysis functionalities might represent a long-term investment in terms of development and maintenance, open data can be as simple and as cheap as a downloadable data file stored on a website or in the cloud. Free data sharing platforms can also be used to share water data. In any case, not having to handle individual data requests is a significant time-saver for both data holding organizations and data users, which increases the overall efficiency of the water sector.

Finally, open data policies support transparency and accountability of the public institutions in charge of water management towards taxpayers and stakeholders, which has a positive impact on the adoption of public policies and the implementation of water management strategies. This commitment is thus a clear contribution to the achievement of SDG 16 ("... build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.")

5.3. Regions
Global

5.4. Description of deliverable
Please add at least one, and up to four, tangible deliverable(s), including the final deliverable + delivery date.
To be added on 31 March 2023: Link to the list of commitments

5.5. Resources devoted to delivery
Please specify at least one, and up to four, resources that are devoted to this initiative.
To be added on 31 March 2023: Link to the list of commitments

5.6. Start date
March 2023

5.7. End date
22nd of March 2024 (World Water Day)

5.8. Website
https://www.un-igrac.org/OpenWaterData

5.9. Additional information
Please provide additional website link(s) on your initiative, which may contain relevant photos, short video clips or key documents. Max 500 words.
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