

Executive Summary: A partnership to end water poverty & reduce plastic pollution

3rd September 2020 16:00-18:00 BST

WATER
UNITE

We welcomed...

383

delegates

38

governments represented

14/20

14 countries out of
G20 represented

\$194.3m

possible levy p/a represented - with
leverage this would equate to \$1.94bn

8/10

representatives from the world's
largest water markets attended

33

retailers represented

15

speakers

3

sessions

2

breakout
sessions

2

keynote
speakers

1

plenary

9

partner
booths

A partnership to end water poverty & reduce plastic pollution

Agenda



OPENING & WELCOME

Lord Malcolm Bruce - [Chair at Water Unite](#)

Adam Shaw - [Journalist & Broadcaster](#)

'This is an important moment. We are all facing challenging times and as the world's economies are thinking about how to re-build after the Covid crisis, many are asking the question of how we can build back better.'

Adam Shaw, Journalist & Broadcaster

KEYNOTE SPEECHES: SDGS, WASH AND THE ROLE OF WATER UNITE

Satya S. Tripathi - [UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office at UN Environment](#)

Dr Chantal Line Carpentier - [Chief of UNCTAD, New York Office](#)

'What Water Unite is doing is absolutely praiseworthy. This is a great start, we know the damage done by plastics [...] It is time for all of us to take responsibility and stand up for what is right and support the right kind of causes, such as Water Unite.'

Satya S. Tripathi, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office at UN Environment

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the vital importance of safe water, sanitation and hygiene as critical preventative measures against the pandemic. The crisis has also highlighted the medium and long-term need to build resilient water systems and embedded behaviour change models related to good hygiene that are critical to combat this pandemic and any future crises.'

Chantal Line Carpentier, Head of UNCTAD, New York Office

PLENARY: A PIONEER'S PERSPECTIVE - CO-OP'S JOURNEY FROM RETAILER TO IMPACT INVESTOR

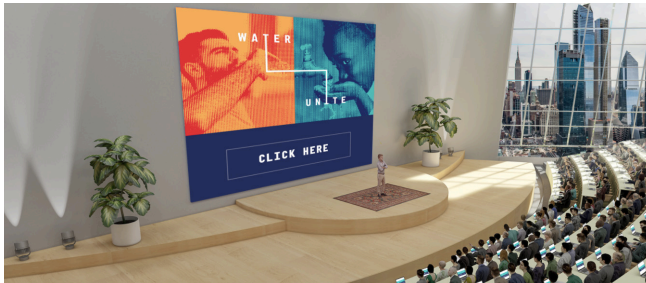
Michael Fletcher - [Commercial Director at The Co-op](#)

'The Co-op & others have demonstrated that a levy on water has no impact on our business but a huge impact on those in need. [...] The Co-op absolutely believes all retailers should follow our lead [...] Surely, if you can afford a bottle of water, you don't begrudge an additional one pence. We've demonstrated this is absolutely true. [...] We need to create a movement around water poverty - it's within our gift to fix.'

Michael Fletcher, Commercial Director at The Co-op

Agenda

continued



SESSION 1: WHY CATALYTIC FINANCING IS THE NEW FRONTIER IN FINANCING THE SDGS

Dr Jeremy Gorelick - Head of the Deal Team for the Water Unite Impact investment vehicle

Sophie Trémolet - Water Security Director - Europe at The Nature Conservancy

SESSION 2: BRIDGING THE MISSING MIDDLE - IMPACT INVESTING - WHY IT WORKS & WHY IT'S NEEDED

Usha Rao-Monari - Senior Advisor at Blackstone Infrastructure Group, & Vice-Chair at Water Unite

Neil Sandy - CEO at Wellers Impact

Panel - Neil Sandy, Usha Rao-Monari & Dr Jeremy Gorelick (moderated by Adam Shaw)

'Impact investing is not just investing in companies. It's about having a deep social and environmental impact and it actually transforms lives, and on mass, can transform nations. [...] If you compare the Water Unite Impact fund with the traditional charitable model you can [see] that leverage and recycling make a huge difference to the impact you can have and really leverages the opportunity we have in front of us.'

Neil Sandy, CEO at Wellers Impact

BREAKOUT 1: GETTING MORE BANG FOR YOUR CSR BUCK? THE ROLE OF M&E IN TODAY'S RETAIL REPORTING

Cathryn Higgs - Head of Ethics & Sustainability at The Co-op

Jessica Mullan - M&E Lead at Water Unite

'Action on the scale required is beyond the reach of any individual organisation - that's why partnership models such as Water Unite are so important as they help to leverage funds that drive long term impact. In the case of WU this leverage is in the region of 10 x [...] I'd really entreat you to talk to Water Unite and to talk to those in your business in decision-making capacities to really get behind this incredible issue.'

Cathryn Higgs, Head of Ethics and Sustainability at The Co-op

BREAKOUT 2: A PROGRAMME'S PERSPECTIVE - THE MODEL IN ACTION AND THE IMPACT

Martijn Proos - Director at Ninety One, and Secretary & Treasurer at Water Unite

Kate Bohnert - Business Development Manager at Savinon

Agenda

continued



SESSION 3: WHY WE COMMITTED TO WATER UNITE

Catherine Roe – CEO at Elior

'It is simple and effective as we can see tangible results from investments made as a case plan. The opportunities are endless [...] I urge CEO's and business leaders to make this commitment to the levy and investment and stand shoulder to shoulder as I have with Steve Murrells CEO of the Co-Op here in the UK.'

Catherine Roe, CEO at Elior

CLOSING REMARKS: COMMITMENTS & CONCLUSIONS

Chris Sellers – CEO at Water Unite

'Innovation has been the hallmark of Water Unite since its inception. Looking back, I see the intelligence and the creativity in the micro-levy funding model, I see the power of retail collaboration and the possibly unprecedented scale of value created by our working together with stakeholders across the value chain.'

Chris Sellers, CEO at Water Unite



ON-DEMAND CONTENT

All content from the event will be live on waterunite.vfairs.com until 3rd October 2020. After this, please contact one of our team to gain access.

NEXT STEPS

Water Unite are looking to expand the micro-levy into more retailers and regions as we look to fund more programmes in water, sanitation and plastics globally. Private and public partnerships will be crucial in making this happen. Please reach out to one of our team to discuss what you can do to make this possible.

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