

# WOMEN'S WORLD MAJLIS

## WATER WEEK

### **A Thirst for Equality:**

### **Addressing the Challenges in Accessing Water Resources**

### **Women's Pavilion Programming, in collaboration with World Majlis**



<b>Curation</b>	Women's Pavilion, co-curated with Australia Pavilion
<b>Date</b>	Thursday March 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
<b>Time</b>	15:00 – 16:30 GST
<b>Venue</b>	Women's Pavilion

## Overview and Key Questions

Sustainable water management has as many definitions as there are sources in the world. Yet, the Water Foundation tells us that proper SWM should include “using water in a way that meets current, ecological, social, and economic needs without compromising the ability to meet those needs in the future”<sup>1</sup>. By 2050, there is an expected 80% increase in demand for water in cities, thus demanding sustainable and environmentally conscious water management solutions.

To ensure water security, we need to build in capacity, adaptability, and resilience for the future planning and management of sustainable water resources. These initiatives must be holistic, and gender inclusive as most current water infrastructure and legislation are designed by men for men. Fewer than 50 countries have gender-inclusive laws and policies in water resource management, and just 17% of women worldwide work in water-related paid jobs (GenderCC, 2019).

This security is necessary as we can see the multitude of water scarcity already affecting every continent. Scarcity in availability due to physical shortage, scarcity in access due to the failure of institutions that ensure a regular supply, and scarcity due to a lack of adequate infrastructure. If we are to keep up with projected reports of increased water use, especially in regions that are already reaching their limits in water services, then we must include the female-abled workforce in every department.

The World Bank has also reported that involving women in water governance can make water programmes up to seven times more efficient. But, how can we work together to make the change, today?

- How can and do women contribute to, benefit from, and make decisions in water resources management and governance?
- What does sustainable water management look like regionally and globally? Are these efforts environmentally conscious?
- What positive spillover effects does society have when women have adequate and equal access to water facilities and supplies?

<sup>1</sup> Water Foundation, 2022. <https://waterfdn.org/sustainable-water-management-swm-profile/#:~:text=Sustainable%20water%20management%20means%20using,those%20needs%20in%20the%20future.>

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## Moderator

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### **The Honorable Karlene Maywald** **South Australia Water Ambassador**

The Hon Karlene Maywald has extensive national and international experience in water policy reform, basin wide catchment management and ecological sustainability. Maywald was a Minister for Water Security with the South Australian Government and is most recognised for her significant contribution to progressing national reforms to the management of Australia's Murray Darling Basin as well as driving unprecedented water policy reforms and infrastructure investment in South Australia. Her experience includes Chairing Australia's National Water Commission and the International Centre for Excellence in Water Resources Management and being a Director of the South Australian Water Corporation.

Maywald is currently the Chair of WaterAid Australia and a Director with WaterAid International, providing clean water, decent toilets, and hygiene knowledge to people around the globe who do not yet have access to them. Her other current roles in the water sector include Director with the Australian Water Association, Chair of the Peter Cullen Environment and Water Trust, and a member of the Australian Committee for the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage.

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## Participants

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### **H.E. Ilya Espino de Marotta** **Deputy Administrator and Vice President for Operations,** **Panama Canal Authority**

In May 1985, Ilya received a degree in Marine Engineering from Texas A&M in Galveston, Texas, USA. Since graduating, she has worked with the Panama Canal in diverse roles.

In 1996 she completed a master's degree in Economic Engineering from Santa María La Antigua University (Panama). She also took courses in Managerial Development at the INCAE Business School in Managua (Nicaragua), and from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston (Illinois, USA).

Her 1 January 2020 commencement as Deputy Administrator crowns her more than 35-year career at the Authority. Before her latest role, she fulfilled pivotal positions such as Executive Vice President for Engineering and Program Management, which included heading the execution of the Panama Canal Expansion, and Executive Vice President for Transit Business where she was responsible for all maritime operations, emergency response, dredging operations, maintenance of Canal's infrastructures, floating and rolling equipment, customer affairs and marketing analysis.

She has been recognized widely for her achievements, including being named 'Outstanding Woman of the Year' by the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, and was included in Forbes Magazine of Mexico's list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Central America. Ilya is a judge for the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering, as well as a member of the Ronald McDonald Charity Organization of Panama Board of Directors, the International Women's Forum, and Association of Women Directors of Panama, an organization which aims to improve the effectiveness of Panama's boards of directors through the inclusion of women.

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**Salma bin Breik**  
**Advisory Leader, GHD Pty Ltd, UAE**

Salma Bin Breik is the Advisory Leader for GHD in the UAE, having taken on the responsibility to establish the Advisory team in 2019 and now leads the team across the Middle East. Along with her team, Salma leads GHD Advisory to deliver services beyond the design and delivery of assets such as water, wastewater, transportation systems, and property and building to include business case development, asset management, infrastructure investment and economics, risk and assurance and regulation. She is currently Project Director, delivering projects for clients in health, property and buildings and transportation sectors as well as for government agencies.

Working with GHD, an Australian employee-owned multinational technical professional services firm, means working collaboratively with a globally connected network. Teams around the globe are solving some of the world's biggest challenges in the areas of water, energy, and urbanisation. Salma and the team leverage this expertise to deliver impactful results on UAE projects including:

- Part of a team with the Environment Agency in Abu Dhabi to deliver a ground water monitoring programme for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi
- Project Director for pre-construction marine monitoring of various developments in the UAE
- Working with the Wastewater Committee in Abu Dhabi to explore the re-use of wastewater for the industrial sector
- Project Director for a project with the Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company looking at optimizing wastewater collection network in Abu Dhabi

With over 15 years' experience in the UAE and the Gulf, Salma has completed a decade with GHD, where she worked as Senior Environmental Scientist and led the environment team for nine years before taking on the role of Business Group Leader for Advisory. She conducted numerous projects on waste management, water treatment, and socio-economic impact. She also introduced and expanded marine services.

Her most recent accomplishment is being elected Board Member of the Board of Directors for GHD Middle East.



**Fariel Salahuddin**  
**Founder and Chief Executive Officer, UpTrade, Pakistan**

Fariel Salahuddin is the founder and CEO of Goats for Water (UpTrade), a company that is creating livestock as currency for smallholder farmers in developing economies and streamlining the livestock value chain in Pakistan.

Fariel is a TED Fellow, a TED Speaker, a Summit Young Global Leader and a Fulbright Fellow. Fariel has worked in Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, and the Middle East North Africa region advising Governments and private sector on energy policy reforms and renewable energy project development.

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