

CONNECT AND ACT TO MAKE WATER WORK

IWW
AMSTERDAM
INTERNATIONAL
WATER WEEK

Mayors for Drinkable Rivers

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION

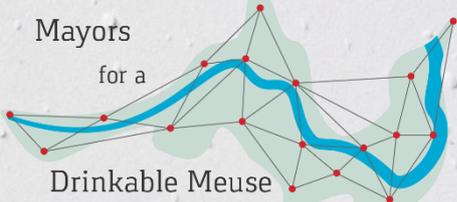


13 CLIMATE
ACTION



**AMSTERDAM
AGREEMENTS**


Drinkable Rivers

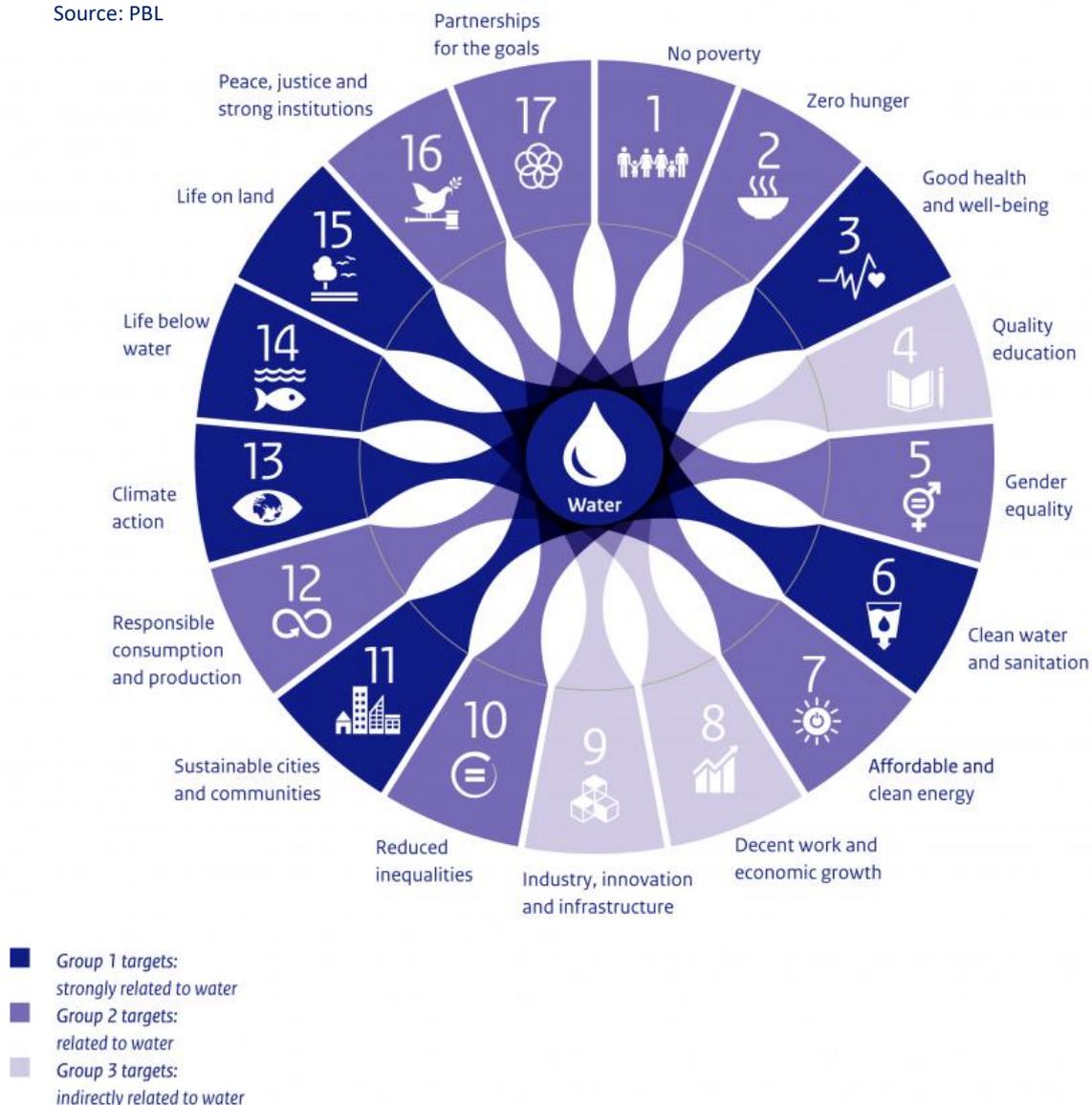
Mayors
for a

Drinkable Meuse

Abstract

An Amsterdam Agreement (AA) is a formal commitment created between multiple parties within the water sectors during the Amsterdam International Water Week (AIWW). The AIWW global movement brings together international experts from cities, industries and utilities worldwide with connected sectors to find integrated solutions. The aim of an AA is to tackle water-related issues through collaboration, cooperation and knowledge-sharing beyond the AIWW. In other words, an AA is a tool to help implement policy into practice that stimulates and supports turning words into concrete actions. These actions should be integrated, demonstrable, concrete and measurable, generating breakthroughs in current water issues. Lastly, each Amsterdam Agreement needs to align with at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to foster the progress towards the 2030 Global Agenda. All SDG's can directly or indirectly relate to water.

Sustainable Development Goals related to water

Source: PBL



Title Agreement

Mayors for Drinkable Rivers

is dated 1 October 2020 as a proposed Amsterdam Agreement

Membership

The Amsterdam Agreement will comprise:

- (1) Drinkable Rivers represented by Li An Phoa (lead partner)
- (2) Covenant of Mayors represented by Boris Ravignon; Mayor of Charleville-Mézières, Wim Hillenaar; Mayor of Cuijk, Maxime Prévot; Mayor of Namur
- (3) Supporting structures of 'Mayors for Drinkable Rivers'
 - a. Ministries of Water e.g. Ministry of Infrastructure & Water, e.g. Marc de Rooy, Monique Berendsen
 - b. IHP Committee, Remko Uijlenhoet, Martien Beek
 - c. Drinking water utilities e.g. RIWA Maas/ Rijn, Gerard Stroomberg, Maarten van der Ploeg
 - d. Cities networks e.g. Cities 40, Mark Watts; Vereniging Nederlandse Riviergemeenten
 - e. Netherlands Water Partnership, Bianca Nijhof; Unie van Waterschappen
 - f. Water authorities e.g. waterschap AGV, Gerhard van den Top; Waterschap Limburg, Patrick van der Broek; Waterschap Vallei & Veluwe, Tanja Klip-Martin)

Type of Agreement

Public-Public Agreement

Background Agreement

In 2018 Li An Phoa spent sixty days walking the length of the Meuse/Maas from France to the North Sea. On this 1000 kilometer long journey, Li An spoke with children, entrepreneurs, administrators, journalists, teachers and directors about the potential for a new societal compass: a world with drinkable rivers. Indeed, when rivers are drinkable, our watersheds are healthy and in balance. Together with the mayors of Charleville-Mézières, Namur and Cuijk, Li An initiated the 'Mayors for a Drinkable Meuse' network in 2019. All mayors who have joined the network signed a declaration in which they express their intention to learn and work towards a drinkable Meuse.

With the Amsterdam Agreement Mayors for Drinkable Rivers we establish a worldwide network of Mayors for Drinkable Rivers and support them in taking action towards drinkable rivers.



Commitment

The signatories of the Amsterdam Agreement Mayors for Drinkable Rivers:

- a) Acknowledge that we are not only mayors of our cities or villages, but also responsible for the watershed to which we belong.
- b) Acknowledge that we all depend on and share the availability of healthy ground and surface water.
- c) Recognise the importance of the amount and quality of water in our watershed and all the life it nourishes.
- d) Realise that all life and activities along river banks impacts the health of the river, thus a healthy river reflects healthy relationships within the entire watershed.
- e) Realise that we can learn from each other, share our concerns and take step-by-step action to contribute to the health of the river in my city.
- f) Adopt the vision of Drinkable Rivers as a compass that will enable us to navigate towards healthy cities in a thriving watershed.
- g) Act and collaborate towards a world with drinkable rivers.

Impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) – Goal(s) and Targets

The Amsterdam Agreement Mayors for Drinkable Rivers contributes to:

- **SDG 6** Clean Water and Sanitation
 - **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
 - **6.6** By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
 - **6.b** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management
- **SDG 11** Sustainable Cities and Communities
 - **11.6** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
 - **11.a** Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning



- **SDG 12** Responsible Consumption and Production
 - **12.4** By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
 - **12.6** Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
 - **12.8** By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
 - **12.b** Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- **SDG 13** Climate Action
 - **13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
 - **13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
 - **13.3** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Process and timeline

A drinkable river takes generations to realise and needs constant attention. As the first steps, we aim to:

- (1) Present the plans for the new agreement to the core community of the AIWW during the focus event, 1 October 2020
- (2) Reach out to mayors and supporting structures, from 1 October 2020 onwards
- (3) Introduce the Amsterdam Agreement to Mayors for a Drinkable Meuse in Namur Belgium, 20 November 2020
- (4) Draft the course for the coming years.
- (5) Sign agreement during AIWW 2021.



Contact details

- (1) Drinkable Rivers
 - a. Li An Phoa
 - b. Founder
 - c. Lian@drinkablerivers.org
 - d. +31 618527940
- (2) Team AIWW
 - a. Kees van der Lugt
 - b. Program Director
 - c. Kees.van.der.lugt@waternet.nl
 - d. +31 652534412

Signatures

By signing this agreement, the party agrees with the terms listed in the appendix.

**Drinkable Rivers
Li An Phoa**

**Covenant of Mayors
Boris Ravignon**

**Covenant of Mayors
Wim Hillenaar**

Managing Board AIWW
PERSON SIGNING



Annex - Terms of Agreement

Title Agreement

The title of the agreement should include the theme on which the agreement is based in order to make the agreement's themes and goals as clear as possible for the audience. Additionally, the themes, on which the Amsterdam Agreement is based upon, must revolve around the context of climate change and/or circular economy. This is believed to increase interest and attract other organisations in joining the agreement. In other words, the new title of an Amsterdam Agreement now needs to explain the theme that the partnership is tackling.

Type of agreement

The Amsterdam Agreement forms partnerships that are expected to focus on one of the following three areas: (i) a research partnership, (ii) a public - private partnership, and /or (iii) a public - public partnership. The different parties involved must align their goal(s) and objectives. This in turn depends on the type of agreement. See below for a short description for each one of the agreement types:

- 1) **A research agreement** focuses on conducting thorough and extensive research to find innovative and efficient solutions to tackle current water challenges. Partners (universities, independent knowledge organisations and public research institutions, etc.) join forces to work on different research subjects and produce viable solutions for water challenges.
- 2) **A public-private agreement** encompasses the cooperation between public organisations and the private sector. To ensure the wider success of innovations developed by public organisations, there are possibilities to cooperate with private companies that have more expertise in selling such innovations in the market. These agreements combine the reliability of the public partner with the market experience of private companies.
- 3) **A public-public agreement** brings together actors of the public sphere in order to accelerate innovation, share knowledge, experience, best practices as well as cooperate to upscale promising solutions. What can be reached alone has an even a wider impact together. Other aspects to share are public awareness, social change, new customer concepts, climate change and a circular design of assets.
- 4) **A private-private agreement** is a collaboration between private organisations that have common ambitions to tackle water-related issues. Private organisations form a large segment of the water sector. Thus, to create the most impact, this type of agreement cannot be excluded from the different possibilities of cooperation. However, the agreement must have a primary focus of contributing to the sustainable impacts that form the core of the Amsterdam Agreements.



Background Agreement

It is expected from the parties involved to clearly state and problematise which issue(s) that their coalition aims to tackle. Parties explain the water-related issues, putting it into context and clearly stating the problematic and necessity and urgency of intervention. This is done by providing facts and statistics. The parties also highlight the issue's relevance and, thus, the motivation/incentive of the different parties involved to create a coalition. Furthermore, it is of importance to provide an insight on the strengths of each of the parties and a brief overview of the role that each of the parties aims at adopting within the partnership. Overall, the goal of this section is to give an understanding of why the parties have joined forces and how each one of the parties involved can play an important role in the coalition.

The next two questions should be answered in the background section of the agreement:

- What water related issue do the parties want to tackle in this agreement?
- What implications does this agreement have for overall resilience?
- What are the strengths and roles of the parties that have joined this agreement?

Agreement's Goal

In order to ensure that the agreements' goals and sub-goals are concrete and turned into actionable deliverables with clear results and impact, these goals and sub-goals follow a SMART Framework. The goals chosen by the different parties must be *specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound*. It is key for an agreement's success to follow this framework and to take it into consideration when deciding upon the various goals and sub-goals that the agreement aims at. Simply put, the goals and sub-goals should adopt the aforementioned framework. Only in this manner can we ensure that the goals and sub-goals are achieved.

Responsibilities from the Agreement Holders

By signing the Amsterdam Agreement, the Agreement Holders agree to invest time and effort into fulfilling the agreement's goals. Hence, the agreement must:

- Be as clear and concrete as possible so that it can produce actionable results which can also be reported on according to the abovementioned SMART framework.
- Provide clarity about the involvement of different parties in the agreement (membership, role of the different organisations, lead organisation, contact details...).
- Clearly problematise the issue that the agreement aims at tackling - main goal and sub goals of the agreement.
- State how the agreement aims at overcoming the issue (e.g. actions, interventions).
- Provide a clear and realistic time plan (the agreement's start and end date; agreement's goals and sub-goals, etc.) and adhere to that time plan.
- Link the agreement's goals, objectives and themes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Participate in the AIWW in order to present the benefits of the collaboration, results and achievements, lessons learned and best practices, challenges faced, etc.
- Provide information to the AIWW Team for publishing purposes (communication).
- Share the Amsterdam Agreement on your own platforms (Website, Twitter, LinkedIn).



Responsibilities from the AIWW Team

In turn, the team of the Amsterdam International Water Week provides the agreement holders with services that benefit the Amsterdam Agreement's goals. The Agreements' Holders can hold the AIWW team accountable for fulfilling these benefits. These benefits include the following:

- Formalise and support knowledge exchange between the different organisations involved.
- An opportunity to present the agreement at the focus event in October 2020.
- A possibility to collaborate on the brainstorming / providing input on the possibility of themes for AIWW 2021.
- An opportunity to participate in the Leaders Forum discussions.
- A podium to present as well as share and exchange knowledge and experiences during the AIWW 2021 Conference.
- A podium on other global water events to present and share knowledge and experiences as well as an opportunity to expand networks.
- Opportunity to broaden and deepen the network (community building), within the *mix-meet-match* approach of the AIWW.
- Following up on the provided time plan of the Agreement holders and updating the status of the Agreement accordingly.
- Increase visibility of the organisation through means of the AIWW website, press, newsletter releases and other channels of information.
- Support, when and where required, through the community of the AIWW.

SDG and targets

The United Nations (UN) created the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 as a follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Global 2030 Agenda is composed by 17 goals (known as the 17 SDGs). In addition, there is a total of 169 targets these 17 goals. These targets have been created in order to specify each one of them in a more concrete and detailed manner. You may access one of the following links in order to gain an overview of the 17 goals as well as by which targets each one of the 17 goals are composed:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

or

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Additionally, in order to monitor the 17 goals and 169 targets, indicators have been created. These represent the metrics by which the world aims at tracking the targets and goals as a whole. For more information on the indicators for each goal and targets please refer to the following site:

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

To ensure that the agreement adopts a holistic approach and is in line with 2030 Agenda (SDGs), the agreement must highlight the main goals as well as targets (besides SDG6: Water and Sanitation) that the agreement aims at tackling.



Deadlines

In line with the SMART Framework, all agreements must be *time-bound*. Agreements must decide upon concrete and realistic time frames in order to achieve its results. It is important to note that although these agreements are non-binding, it is expected that all parties fully commit to the agreement's goals and sub-goals, that all (planned) actions and activities are met under the set deadlines, among others. These deadlines are the large time indicators within which the Agreement holder expects to get results. Additionally, a detailed time plan will be created after the signing of the agreement, indicating all the specific and smaller goals. The Agreement holder communicates the time plan with the AIWW team.

Contact details

By signing this agreement, the different parties agree upon a main/general contact person for the agreement in its entirety as well as on one main contact person per partner signing the agreement. All contact details provided ensure to stay in contact with the AIWW team as well as with the partners that are part of the coalition.

