

WATER MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE FUNDACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO SOCIAL (FUDESO) VIDEOCLIP ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Speakers:

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Key messages:

- Welcoming remarks and special thanks given to the organizers of the UNFCCC CoP25 and the CLGI Secretariat.
- In Chile most efforts are focused on preserving the status quo and the “water market” created by the Water Code in 1981 to preserve the private ownership of the water as a mean to achieve economic growth.
- Chile should move away from this scheme and adopt an integrated or alternative management of water resources based on the following principles:
 - Efficient and sustainable management
 - Institutional capacity improvement
 - Reduction of social inequalities
 - Participation and communication with civil society
- The new requirements of the integrated management of water implies changing the paradigm and start using new terms such as “water security” and “water governance”. These concepts can be defined broadly as the plethora of formal and informal, political and institutional rules, practices and processes through which decisions are made with the participation of all relevant stakeholders and according to principles of accountability. This model and its guidelines for implementation has been thoroughly developed by the OECD Water Governance Programme.
- Reflecting on water governance and water security also implies considering means to address the structural problems that are still pervasive in Chile regarding the use and the effectiveness of the right to water. Most importantly, water scarcity and the lack of meaningful political participation from civil society and other stakeholders.
- Considering that water security is multidimensional—it not only relates to the effective access to water for all, but also seeks to mitigate and adapt societies permanently to food shortages, droughts and pollution avoiding further social conflicts concerning shared water resources—it is necessary to organize civil society around water and environmental policy. It is crucial that civil society associations, neighbours’ organizations and social movements actively discuss and contribute to the development of new legislation and legal frameworks on three key dimensions: economic, social and environmental.
 - Economic: increasing the productivity of water and sharing the co-benefits of adequate management of rivers, lakes and aquifers.
 - Social: ensuring equal access to water for all within the legal and political framework at all institutional levels and develop resilience systems to address the most crucial challenges that affect the most vulnerable, such as water scarcity.

- Environmental: water management as part of the general transitional scheme to a green economy and to further develop the ecoservices provided by the valleys and rivers of the country.
- It is essential to innovate and develop new plans to avoid future water scarcity scenarios, and finally consider water not as a commodity but as a vital element necessary to keep the ecological equilibrium.
- In this light, we emphasise three main points for the effective management of water resources in Chile:
 - Efficiency of water use and management
 - Integrated and comprehensive institutional capacity to have an accountable, democratic and effective systems of water governance. Study the possibilities of establishing a specialized water ministry in Chile.
 - Discuss and evaluate the possibility of nationalizing water resources as a topic for the constituent assembly currently analysing proposals for the enactment of a new constitution for Chile.