



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS




Dr. Olcay Unver

Professor of Practice, Arizona State University, USA

Keynote Presentation Title

“Water for Food, Energy, Environment and Livelihoods—Can we have them all?”

 **15 March 2022**

 **18:00 - 18:45**
(GMT+3)

Abstract

Governments and non-state actors will come together at the United Nations headquarters in New York in March 2023, for the first time in 46 years since the first United Nations Conference on Water in Mar del Plata, Argentina, to discuss water. The linkages and interdependencies between water and the socioeconomic sectors have been well established since then and the global community has set targets and milestones that will allow a stock take of the progress, identify the risks and challenges to achieving them, and seek (and perhaps commit) to significantly accelerating the current efforts, without compromising development or environment. The keynote will establish the background to these discussions, review the outlook, and make an attempt to anticipate the likely response options.



Dr. Olcay Ünver

Professor of Practice, Arizona State University, USA

Biography

Olcay Ünver is currently Professor of Practice at Environmental and Resource Management Program at Arizona State University, member of Water Policy Group and Industry Fellow at Australian Rivers Institute. He serves as a senior advisor to Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNESCO.

In his public service career spanning three decades, Dr. Ünver led FAO's water programs and activities, UN-Water's World Water Assessment Programme and UNESCO's Program Office on Global Water Assessment. He served as Vice-Chair of UN-Water from 2018 to 2020.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Dr. Ünver was a distinguished professor of water resources at Kent State University, Ohio and President of the Southeastern Anatolia Project in Turkey, where he transformed a large infrastructure project into a sustainable socioeconomic development program. In 1999, he was listed among the 19 "European Visionaries" by Time Magazine and was featured in New York Times for his efforts towards sustainable, human-centered development. He was awarded World Water Council Medal of Service.

Dr. Ünver served as Secretary General and Vice President of IWRA, and Governor and Treasurer of World Water Council. He has served on boards and committees involving water and land resources, sustainable development, sustainable food and agriculture systems, water cooperation and policy. He is a NATO Science Fellow, TÜBİTAK Honor Fellow and IWRA Fellow.

