



Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 | 8:15 to 9:30 am | Room 7, United Nations Headquarters, New York | [wsscc.org/events](http://wsscc.org/events)

## Women's Access to Sanitation and Hygiene in the informal sector Case studies from Africa and Asia

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are increasingly recognized as critical determinants of poverty reduction. Targets 6.1 and 6.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals are explicitly devoted to access to safe and affordable water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all. The WASH targets are inextricably linked to many of the other Goals and targets, including Target 4.A on access to WASH facilities in schools and Goal 5 on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

While there is increasing recognition of the importance of WASH, this is to a large extent focused on facilities and services at home. However, many people spend a large proportion of their time at school, work, in marketplaces, healthcare facilities, administrative buildings, and in public spaces. The importance of WASH in public spaces is slowly but surely making its way into policies, programming and monitoring initiatives.

This side event will shed light on two deeply neglected issues and the links between them: sanitation and hygiene in the context of WASH, and the informal sector in the context of the world of work. By focusing on the lived realities of millions of women across the world, whether a market vendor in Cameroon, a waste picker in Sri Lanka, or a sanitation worker in Bangladesh, the unique sanitation and hygiene challenges of women working in the informal sector will be highlighted and addressed.

### The session will explore:

- how the lack of adequate sanitation facilities impacts women in the informal sector; and
- seek solutions for addressing their WASH needs.

### Partners

This event is hosted by the Permanent Missions of Niger and Singapore to the United Nations in New York and organized by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and UN Women.

### Key speakers

- His Excellency Mr Barmou Salifou, Minister of Water and Sanitation of Niger
- His Excellency Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations in New York
- Dr Blaise Ngendo Yongi, Lead Researcher at the African Demographic Research Institute IFORD
- Ms Diana Ofwona, Regional Director of UN Women for West and Central Africa
- Dr Chris Williams, WSSCC Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> Zachary Burt, Kara Nelson and Isha Ray, Towards Gender Equality through Sanitation Access, UN Women Discussion Paper, 2016, p. 12.



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### Programme

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TIME	SESSION
07:30	<b>Breakfast</b>
08:15 – 08:20	<b>Opening remarks</b> His Excellency Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN
08:20 – 08:25	<b>Keynote speech</b> His Excellency Barmou Salifou, Minister of Water and Sanitation of Niger
08:25 – 08:40	<b>WASH and jobs</b> Moderator: Archana Patkar, Programme Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research findings from West and Central Africa, by Dr Blaise Ngendo Yongi, Lead Researcher at the African Demographic Research Institute IFORD</li> <li>• Video testimony of women working in markets</li> </ul>
08:40 – 08:55	<b>Sanitation changes lives</b> Moderator: Archana Patkar, Programme Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experiences from South Asia</li> <li>• Sanitation Action Summit Video</li> </ul>
08:55 – 09:20	<b>Moderated Discussion</b> Key interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Diana Ofwona, Regional Director of UN Women for West and Central Africa</li> <li>• Dr Chris Williams, WSSCC Executive Director</li> </ul>
09:20 – 09:30	<b>Closing remarks</b> His Excellency Barmou Salifou, Minister of Water and Sanitation of Niger