



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan



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My first UNFCCC COP

Where was water in
climate policy in 2009?

**Climate policy is
completely desiccated!**



NDCs are becoming water-policy tools

Every country prepares an NDC, with national commitments for **mitigation** (carbon) & **adaptation** (resilience)

>80 percent of NDCs
“mention” water

Water as a **hazard**

Water as a **sector**

Water as a **connector**

NDC Generation 1: 2021–
2025

NDC Generation 2: 2026–
2030

Climate policy is becoming economic development policy

- More than clean, green energy; mitigation is about cheap, reliable energy
- Widespread recognition that infrastructure and governance need to be climate de-risked; many financial sources also moving to higher levels of resilience
- For multilateral and bilateral investment, NDCs and NAPs are now investment alignment tools
- “Climate narratives” are essential to those tools
- Businesses and investors are seeing that NDCs and NAPs are useful vehicles to align national development objectives with private sector financing



Water in the COP: Progress over time?

Cancun: COP16, 2010

- Water is 25 km outside the venue, unofficial venue

Paris: COP21, 2015

- Paris Agreement — water is removed from the final language, NDCs created

Marrakesh: COP22, 2016

- The first official “Water Day” (actually, about 90 minutes)
- Launch of the MPGCA: non-country actors have a voice

Madrid: COP25, 2019

- About 30 water events, scattered across the COP

Glasgow: COP26, 2021

- About 150 water events, mostly inside the Water Pavilion; some external facing, still much climate-socializing for the water community
- Assertion by middle and lower income countries to focus on adaptation over mitigation: *major* shift towards adaptation and resilience, leading to a stronger water focus

Sharm: COP27, 2022

- A “passing” COP - early but inconclusive discussions on the global goal on adaptation (GGA), loss and damage, climate finance

Dubai: COP28, 2023

- IPCC AR6: “water-based adaptation”
- Loss and damage: mixed results?
- Broad agreement on water resources as a critical component of the GGA
- Freshwater Challenge announcement

Baku: COP29, 2024

- Preparation for second-generation NDCs
- Active, heated negotiations on the GGA

Belém: COP30, 2025

- Brazil: a thematic approach to water?
- NDC 2.0 launches
- Active engagement of the private sector, alignment with climate policy and finance

Australia???

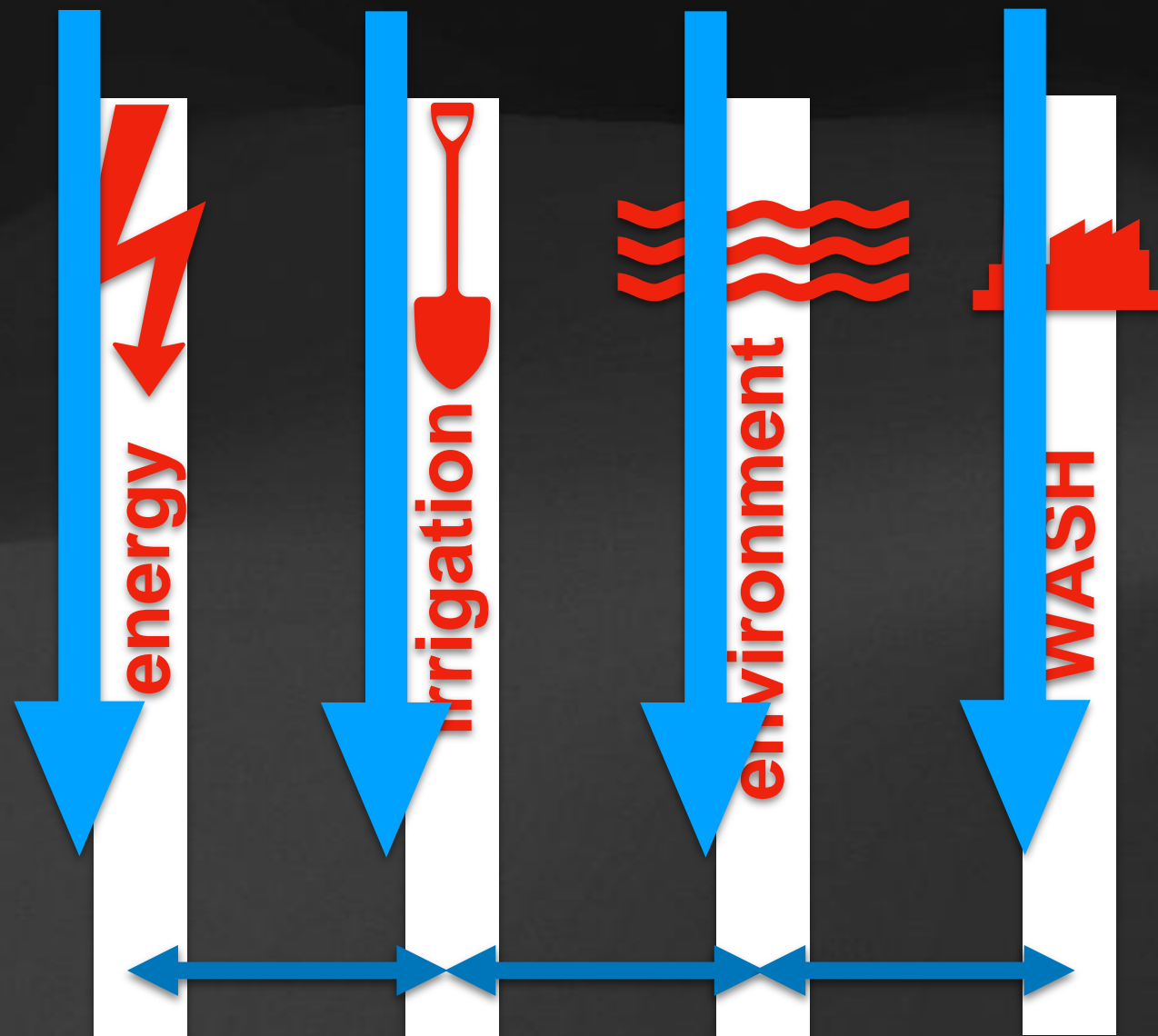
Stop whining, water people!

- The Water Pavilion has been good to socialize the water community into climate issues, but climate policy is still dominated by climate issues **(and should remain so)**
- The water community is correct that water should be a medium for resilience, but most “watery institutions” are very poor examples of demonstrating knowledge of resilience
- Integration of the water and climate communities still requires a lot of significant work on both sides
- Integration is not about “events”

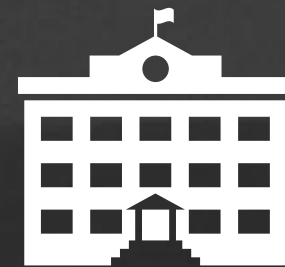


The Water Resilience Tracker for National Climate Planning

waterresiliencetracker.cc



finance



cities



business





thanks



John H. Matthews, PhD • johoma@alliance4water.org • @alliance4water
AGWA: Alliance for Global Water Adaptation • alliance4water.org