

Biography – Vice-Chair of UN-Water

Mr. Joakim Harlin, Chief, Freshwater Ecosystem Unit, UN Environment



Dr Joakim Harlin is a water resources and international development professional. A 54 year old citizen of Sweden, raised in Zimbabwe, and throughout his professional career involved with water resources management and international development. His employment record includes periods with the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) - the largest, oldest and most international technical university in Sweden, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) - a parastatal organization; SWECO - one of Europe's largest environment and engineering companies and since 2004 the United Nations Development Programme where he held a position as Senior Water Advisor.

At UNDP he was responsible for freshwater policy work and coordinating and developing UNDP's freshwater and sanitation project portfolio worldwide including oversight of global freshwater programmes/offices; notably all collaboration with the Stockholm International Water Institute and the Water Governance Facility, Cap-Net - UNDP's international network for capacity development in sustainable water management and Every Drop Matters - a private sector partnership programme which provided small to medium sized grants in over 20 countries.

As UNDP's representative in UN-Water he had key roles the past years in relation to monitoring and reporting national progress on water resources management, developing recommendations for UN-Water on how to support water actions at the country level, and most recently to lead joint UN-Water input in support of the Agenda 2030 process - currently mainly related to the development of an indicator and reporting framework for SDG 6 led by the IAEG-SDG group.