

SUMMIT NO WATER NO US – 2026 OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE – Geneva, march 26, 2026

Set between lake and mountains, the international NGO No Water No Us has chosen the global city of Geneva to host the 2026 edition of its Annual Summit. Switzerland—an obvious bridge between nations and a historic center of diplomacy—meets America at a pivotal crossroads as it celebrates its 250th anniversary. The Founder and President of No Water No Us, Malek Semar, brought together experts from diverse backgrounds to engage in discussions on the metropolis of tomorrow—an urban model capable of managing the water cycle and its footprint in the face of accelerating climatic, economic, health, geopolitical, and cultural challenges.

As Guest of Honor, the Mayor of West Palm Beach, Florida, Mr. Keith A. James, shared best practices and highlighted the success of his model city at the national level in the United States. Scientists, CEOs, investment funds, philanthropists, institutional leaders, media representatives, world-class athletes, and artists answered the NGO’s call at La Réserve Genève Resort, partner of this high-impact event. The Summit also marked a moment of collective mobilization with the announcement of No Water No Us’ most ambitious initiative to date: the global campaign “CHILDREN FOR WATER.”



Malek Semar, Keith James, Massimiliano Mayrhofer

On March 26, 2026, in Geneva, the Founder and President of **No Water No Us** did more than present an assessment—he set a direction: to make water a cross-cutting issue at the intersection of politics, economics, and humanity. Beyond words and diagnoses, the focus was on action. Before opening the discussions with a keynote and welcoming the panelists to the stage, **Malek Semar** immersed attendees in the daily reality experienced by billions of people without access to safe running water. The short film “**Cycle For Water**” retraced the journey of four French engineering students, **No Water No Us ambassadors**, who traveled across the globe to raise awareness and equip schools and villages without access to drinking water—from New Zealand to Cambodia, via Georgia. In less than five minutes, the audience was confronted with little-known but critical facts: 80% of wastewater is discharged into the natural environment without treatment; **30% of the global population lacks access to drinking water and 60% lives without safely managed sanitation**; 40% of marine ecosystems are already severely degraded; and 38% of the world’s population is exposed to water stress.

In the face of this ocean of challenges, political and economic leaders, scientists, athletes, media figures, and cultural influencers gathered at **La Réserve Genève Resort** at the call of **“The Voice of Water,” Malek Semar**. More than one hundred participants traveled from the United States, the Maldives, the Netherlands, Algeria, Monaco, Italy, France, the United Arab Emirates, Senegal, Switzerland, and beyond to contribute to discussions, benefit from expert insights, and support the mission tirelessly championed by **No Water No Us**.



“By bringing spheres of influence together, real transformation becomes possible”. **Malek Semar** is a great pragmatist who understands the **urgency of raising awareness among opinion leaders and decision-makers** of all stripes. His vision is shared by all speakers, starting with **West Palm Beach Mayor Keith A. James**.

“As Mayor and CEO of my city, my greatest responsibility is to create a community where every resident has the opportunity to thrive. A systemic approach to water management is a priority. Even in the world’s leading economy, these challenges persist. Florida is particularly vulnerable to climate change and sea-level rise, and effective public policy requires strong private-sector partnerships. Education, security, employment, health, environment, and leisure, each action must integrate these constants.” - **Mayor Keith A. James**.



Stefano Plotegher, Keith James, Massimiliano Mayrhofer

Scientific insight was provided by **Dr. Massimiliano Mayrhofer, Medical Director and Head of Research at Palace Merano**, who highlighted the foundational role of water in preventive medicine and long-term health. This elite medical spa located in the thermal resort of South Tyrol is known for its program that places water at the center and attracts heads of state, athletes, and captains of industry.

“My region is aware of the health benefits of water, and the Alpine-Mediterranean climate contributes to making Palace Merano a unique place. Merano water is an elixir due to its fixed residue of only 42 mg/l. It purifies the body, facilitates the elimination of toxins, soothes stress and anxiety, and brings a deep sense of well-being to each sip. I advocate for the well-known water therapy of ancient wisdom and fully agree with the mayor of West Palm Beach when he talks about working as a team to preserve it.”

International Footballer and No Water No Us ambassador Bafétimbi Gomis reaffirmed his commitment, declaring water a fundamental human right and calling for collective mobilization: “Water is a human right, and each of us should reflect on the deeper meaning of this concept of law and act accordingly at our own level. President **Malek Semar and I, along with other football champions, are unable to achieve more equality and water access without awakening the majority.** Join us at No Water No Us! My belief is that the global influence of football should unite around just causes, and I plan to make my own contribution with **No Water No Us.**”

Bafétimbi GOMIS



Gaël Ondoua, Florian Ayé, Malek Semar, Mouhamadou Dabo, Jérémy Frick

Everyone's business! The master of ceremonies, **journalist, and vice-president of No Water No Us, Sabah Kaddouri**, insisted on this point while addressing the audience and her peers from the press. "To my colleagues, you have the power to amplify this message, this call to action. Don't wait for World Water Day on March 22nd to address the issue. Our most valuable asset is at the heart of all our human and economic activities, and it is also a pressing issue in both northern and southern countries."

In line with his statements, **Peter Greenberg, the great American reporter from CBS News**, meaningfully intervened to ask the profession about the silent crisis of water. "Do not forget that what is not told is made invisible. In our most advanced economies, children think that what they have at the table comes only from the store. They have insufficient knowledge of the water cycle, its origin and destination. Same pattern, when you open a tap. We, the media, have a responsibility to educate the public. We should stop flying over it or only talking about it when there are floods or climatic droughts", exposed the multi-award-winning journalist.



Top: Sabah Kaddouri, Peter Greenberg

From one continent to another, Malek Semar introduces **Frédérique Nanan**, the editor-in-chief of **ELLE Afrique Francophone** magazine, who is also a powerful voice. She delivered a powerful humanist plea on the trials that secretly shake the path of many people and become life lessons. Among the convictions of this CEO: "The difference between surviving and living does not always lie in strength or courage. It lies in access to care, dignity, and water. Deep human realities exist beyond the figures and public policies. **Women walk for hours to get water that is sometimes unsanitary**. Exhausted bodies! The lives of people are being weakened".

Intensity, emotions, and truth. The audience was captivated by the conference, as well as by the presence of leaders in the NGO's unifying struggle and opinion leaders who expressed their support. While time seemed to be suspended, Malek Semar called **the president delegate of the French Federation of Swimming (FFN), Lazreg Benelhadj**, to present the newly signed partnership between No Water No Us and the French institution: "The Federation knows the power of water and No Water No Us reminds us of its price. It is important to avoid allowing water to become a commonplace for those who possess it or inaccessible for those who lack it. No Water No Us is more than just a powerful name. It is a simple truth: water existed before us, it will exist after us, but without it, we are nothing. Let's keep that in mind. **The alliance between the French Swimming Federation and No Water No Us is obvious because it connects two truths, not just two names**", as said this protector of water.



Lazreg Benelhadj



CHILDREN FOR WATER
2026 - 2030

Children are the first victims of lack of water or its poor quality. We need to keep our humanity alive!

Support No Water No Us and their project to equip 10,000 schools globally.

10,000 Schools = 1,000,000 Students = 5,000,000 People

DONATE
NO WATER NO US
NWNU.ORG

At the conclusion of discussions and before the cocktail dinner with an exclusive networking evening, the president and vice-president revealed the next significant action of the NGO: **Children for Water.**

This campaign aims to equip 10,000 schools across continents by 2030, improving the daily lives of more than 1 million students and impacting 5 million people.

For this global campaign, No Water No Us prioritizes youth because education is the catalyst for change and children are the first victims of lack of water or its insanity.

If we stop thinking about children, we lose our humanity.

Globally, 1 in 3 children live in areas exposed to water shortages, and climate change is exacerbating the situation. How can we expect 739 million children to grow up normally when their bodies and minds are strongly affected by the lack of water or its insalubrity? In developing nations, half of primary schools lack access to safe drinking water and 2/3 lack sanitation.

“Since 2018, we have conducted numerous actions around the world and met with world leaders to take concrete action to protect the most vulnerable. In 2025, **No Water No Us** was selected by **His Majesty King Charles III** and invited by the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance to hold a workshop at Buckingham Palace. Our objective today is to boost support on the ground. Patrons, impact funds, CSR departments, foundations, and private operators are all involved. It is up to everyone to play a role in achieving the goal of 10,000 schools. The Geneva Summit is the starting point for a wonderful cross-border human journey.”, Has formalized **Malek Semar**, who was this year awarded the **Gold Medal of the Universal Public Good League**, one of the highest civilian distinctions in France and attached to the UN, for his commitment to raising awareness and taking action for water, especially with schools, in order to leave a better world for future generations.

Zohra Kehli, a fencer at the Olympics, is the first female high-level athlete to join No Water No Us as an ambassador. She is one of the voices for **Children for Water**. Her commitment to water since 2022 adds a social and environmental dimension to his sporting achievements and allows her to have a positive impact through sport, particularly among children.

Clément Hernandez



Frédérique Nanan

Founé Diara

Zohra Kehli

The evening in Geneva became lyrical in the moonlight, and **the singer Founé Diarra's** hopeful notes were reserved for the end. Alongside some of the most beautiful opera arias, the artist composed and sang a **hymn in tribute to No Water No Us**, which symbolized fraternity, fairness, and protection of our humanity.

There are places where we come to observe, and others, such as the **No Water No Us Summits**, where we come to comprehend. Behind this meaning of **“No Water, No Us”** derives all other slogans: no water no school, no water no work, no water no equality, no water no justice.

No Water No Us extends its sincere thanks to its partners and media supporters who made this 2026 edition possible.

Our major partners deserve special recognition: **La Réserve Hotel and Spa Genève, West Palm Beach, Palace Merano, World Luxury Chamber of Commerce, NH Water, Bombardier, Azalink Event Agency, Société des Hôtels Littéraires.**

We want to thank both the press and our media partners for their continuous support during this summit: **ELLE Afrique Francophone, ELLE Suisse, CBS News, Luxury People Magazine, Monde Économique, GETTY Images, Afrive Magazine.**



Photocall with all the partners



About US

No Water No Us (NWNU) is a French non-profit association governed by the 1901 Law and founded by Malek Semar. The organization works daily to raise awareness about the critical importance of water and to deliver sustainable solutions. Through the unifying power of art and sport, **NWNU** mobilizes communities while leading international solidarity initiatives focused on improving access to clean water and sanitation—particularly for primary schools and Indigenous communities around the world. Learn more: <https://nwnu.org>

Contact Media: media@nwnu.org / +33(0)6 61 41 88 71

Website: <https://nowaternous.com/> - <https://nwnu.org/>