

Being at UNHQ for the UN Water Conference 2023 (held 22-24 March 2023)—the first since 1977, was important to us and empowering. Dr. Max Weidmann, MD, PhD, MPH Candidate; Dr. Ellen Ferranti, MD; and Dr. Cathey Falvo, MD, MPH, attended the Water Conference as representatives of ISDE. We are all activists/advocates, especially Dr. Max, whose expertise and knowledge concerning water issues in NY, resulted in a Water Conference side event entitled: The Water We're Made Of: Global Impacts of Water Scarcity, Flooding, and Water-Borne Illness on a Warming Planet. We were grateful to the panel who participated: Dr. Upmanu Lall, PhD, Director, Columbia Water Center; Dr. Shao Lin, MD, MPH, PhD, Professor, SUNY Albany SPH, Associate Director, Global Health Research; and Dr. Xiaobo Xue Romeiko, PhD, Associate Professor, SUNY Albany SPH, for such a lively, robust discussion. (see video of side event).

The 2023 UN Water Conference itself was charged by Secretary General Antonio Guterres with forming a “bold Water Action Agenda that gives our world’s life blood the commitment it deserves.” The Water Conference was co-hosted by the governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands. It saw the adoption of the Water Action Agenda, representing voluntary commitments of nations and stakeholders to achieve the (SDGs) Sustainable Development Goals and their connections to water. The commitments are needed to “ensure the well-being and prosperity of both people and the planet to achieve the SDGs and to meet biodiversity and climate targets.”

We, as ISDE representatives at the UN, will continue to engage, educate and empower and remain grateful to be in this space. Look for additional activity/efforts. Thank you.