

7 February 2013

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I will convene a high-level interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on World Water Day, 22 March 2013, as mandated by GA resolution 67/204 of 21 December 2012 on the "Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013". This event marks two important anniversaries: the 2013 International Year of Water cooperation and the twentieth anniversary of World Water Day.

Water is essential for human health and well-being, food and energy production, social and economic stability, and for protecting and maintaining healthy ecosystems. It is also a finite and vulnerable resource under mounting pressure.

Building on previous events, this high-level interactive dialogue will discuss in particular the fundamental role of water cooperation in achieving water security. One of the main objectives of the event is to raise awareness and carry out advocacy at the highest level on the importance of water cooperation. There will also be opportunity to share experiences and highlight the lessons learnt over the last 20 years in water cooperation.

The interactive dialogue will start with an opening segment, followed by keynote addresses and two expert panel sessions as well as a closing segment in the afternoon. High level officials from Member States, the United Nations, members of academia, and representatives of non-governmental organizations are invited to the meeting.

A note explaining the concept of the debate and the envisaged program will be circulated in due time.

I would highly appreciate high-level participation in this event and would be grateful if you kindly could confirm your country's participation by Friday, 8 March 2013.

Should you require further information about this event, please do not hesitate to contact my Office.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

To All Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations