



2015 UN-Water Annual International Zaragoza Conference

Water and sustainable development: From vision to action

Zaragoza, Spain, 15-17 January 2015

About the Zaragoza Conference

The post-2015 international agenda for water will be decided in 2015. The UN-Water International Zaragoza Conference will start the year focusing on how to bring the agenda into action. A practical event on tools for implementation.

The UN-Water Conferences serve to prepare for World Water Day, focusing in 2015 on “water and sustainable development”. More than 300 participants from United Nations Agencies and programmes, experts, representatives of the business community, governmental and non-governmental organizations will meet from 15 to 17 January 2015 in Zaragoza, Spain, to discuss the tools for implementing the post-2015 agenda for water. This is also the last year of the International Water for Life Decade so it is especially important for taking stock of and learning from achievements as well as planning the next steps.

The water goal and targets directly address the development aims and societies, promote human dignity and ensure achievements are sustainable over the long term leading to the following development outcomes, amongst others:

Healty people
Increased prosperity
Equitable societies
Protected ecosystems
Resilient communities

through

- Universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, improving water quality and raising service standards
- The sustainable use and development of water resources, increasing and sharing the available benefits
- Robust and effective water governance with more effective institutions and administrative systems
- Improved water quality and wastewater management taking account of environmental limits
- Reduced risk of water-related disasters to protect vulnerable groups and minimize economic losses

The Focus on action/implementation

The Zaragoza Conference will provide a space for dialogue around some selected topics relevant to the implementation of the international agenda on water. The Conference will focus on a practical examination of what the necessary transformations are and how institutional change, technology, capacity development and financing can help develop appropriate joint responses. It will look at the essential similarities –learning from each other– and critical differences e.g. regional and country differences.

From Sustainable Development to a Sustainable Development Agenda for Water

The Conference will deal with some of the main implementation challenges related to four main themes (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Water Resources Management, Water Quality and Risks) in relation to the targets recommended by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and UN-Water. These are:

“I urge people from all nations, faiths, cultures and traditions to work together in common cause to keep the promise made at the turn of the Millennium and leave a legacy of peace, prosperity and sustainable progress for generations to come.”

**UN Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon**

Organized by:

UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)

In collaboration with:

Cap-Net

CEO Water Mandate

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

United Nations University (UNU)

Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

The World Bank

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)

Other organizations



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15.01.15

Morning	Arrivals Regional side events UNECLAC UNECE UNESCO UNESCAP (tbc)
Lunch	
Afternoon	Opening Setting the scene The post-2015 agenda and implementation challenges for water and sanitation (UNDP) Tools for implementation - Governance (OECD) - Economic instruments (OECD) - Technology (UNEP) - Capacity development (UNICEF/WHO) Lessons from the Water for Life Decade - Views of stakeholders - Higher attention - Water cooperation - Women engagement (WfWP)
Evening	Official reception

16.01.15 Parallel Stakeholders Sessions

Plenary recap of day 1 and /or keynote				
Business Parallel Sessions Coordinated by CEO Water Mandate	Civil Society Parallel Sessions Coordinated by WfWP and WYPW	Governments Parallel Sessions Coordinated by UN-DESA	Academia Parallel Sessions Coordinated by UNESCO	Media UNW-DPAC
Tools for implementation for WASH Convened by CEO Water Mandate	Tools for implementation for WASH Convened by WaterAid (tbc)	Tools for implementation for WASH Convened by UN-Habitat	Tools for implementation for WASH	Media round table
Tools for implementation to deal with WRM - focus on water scarcity Convened by WRI	Tools for implementation to deal with WRM - focus on water scarcity Convened by IWMI	Tools for implementation to deal with WRM - focus on water scarcity Convened by WCCE	Tools for implementation to deal with WRM - focus on water scarcity Convened by University of Middlesex	
Tools for implementation to deal with Water Quality Convened by Aquafed	Tools for implementation to deal with Water Quality Convened by IUCN (tbc)	Tools for implementation to deal with Water Quality	Tools for implementation to deal with Water Quality Convened by Michigan State University with contributions from the University of South Florida	
Tools for implementation to deal with Risks Convened by WRI	Tools for implementation to deal with Risks Convened by SIWI (tbc)	Tools for implementation to deal with Risks Convened by Dutch Government (tbc)	Tools for implementation to deal with Risks Convened by University of Osnabruck	
Wrap up and closing Reporters on - Technology - Financing & economic instruments - Capacity development - Governance	Wrap up and closing Reporters on - Technology - Financing & economic instruments - Capacity development - Governance	Wrap up and closing Reporters on - Technology - Financing & economic instruments - Capacity development - Governance	Wrap up and closing Reporters on - Technology - Financing & economic instruments - Capacity development - Governance	
Official reception				

17.01.15 Multistakeholders tables. Plenary

Keynote
Panel of theme coordinators: Key questions and reflections on the discussions for the themes WHO, GWP, UNEP/CBD, UNISDR
Financing and economic instruments WB (tbc) and University of Alcala with the collaboration of OECD Moderated by Diego Rodriguez (tbc)
Institutional and legal frameworks/governance OECD Moderated by Aziza Akhmouch
Technology UNEP with UNIDO Moderated by Elisa Tonda
Capacity development UNU with Cap-Net Moderated by Zafar Adeel
UNDP and theme coordinators wrap up and closing Moderated by Joakim Harlim

Theme coordinators: WASH: WHO with support from UNICEF; Water Resources Management: GWP and FAO; Water Quality: UNEP with the support of CBD, Risks: UNISDR (tbc)

The Conference is by invitation only. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the registration form: www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/waterandsustainabledevelopment2015/form.shtml