

# UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

Newsletter # 3 March 2022

## Background & related events

In its [resolution 73/226](#), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023, the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028.

The modalities for the UN 2023 Water Conference are set in General Assembly [resolution 75/212](#). The Conference will be co-hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Tajikistan, and it will comprise six plenary meetings and five interactive dialogues. It will be preceded by regional and global preparatory meetings and informed by other water-related events.

The same resolution requests the President of the General Assembly to hold a one-day preparatory meeting - by November 2022 - in New York, to finalize the themes of the interactive dialogues and other outstanding organizational matters of the Conference, ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

The Conference will result in a summary of the proceedings - to be prepared by the President of the General Assembly - as its outcome document.

### The 9th World Water Forum

The [9th World Water Forum](#) took place from 21 to 26 March 2022 in Dakar, Senegal, under the theme "Water Security for Peace and Development". On 22 March, co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Netherlands and Tajikistan, jointly with Senegal, organized a High-Level Session entitled "The Road to New York 2023". Its purpose was to provide a platform for exchanging ideas and progress and to further inform the preparations of the 2023 UN Water Conference. The session included a high-level panel of officials and experts, who shared their successful experiences and covered the guiding questions on the Water Action Decade, as well as the UN 2023 Water Conference. In his capacity as the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, delivered a video message with updates on the Conference preparations, while highlighting the importance of transboundary cooperation.

To receive periodic updates on the preparatory process for the UN 2023 Water Conference, please sign up for the Information mailing list [here](#).



## REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has invited members of the Regional Discussion Group for Arab States and of other regional coordination mechanisms on water serving Arab States to participate in consultations to prepare for the 2023 Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade. ESCWA has so far organized four online consultations with regional partners to set the format for the regional preparatory meeting, to be held in-person on 18-19 May 2022, in Beirut, Lebanon, and to exchange information on regional forums on sustainable development and water that will contribute to the 2023 Midterm Comprehensive Review.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) organized a virtual consultation in March 2022. It will be followed by a [consultation meeting](#) on 5 April. Participants will include ESCAP Member States and the members of the UN-Water regional discussion group.

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has so far organized two meetings of the

regional discussion group and will hold a regional preparatory meeting in hybrid format on 12-13 April 2022 in Geneva. Invitations were sent to all ECE Member States, IGOs, NGOs and other stakeholders. The meeting will include [six sessions](#), focusing on access to water and sanitation, pollution prevention, the circular economy, transboundary and intersectoral water cooperation, floods and droughts, groundwater and financing.

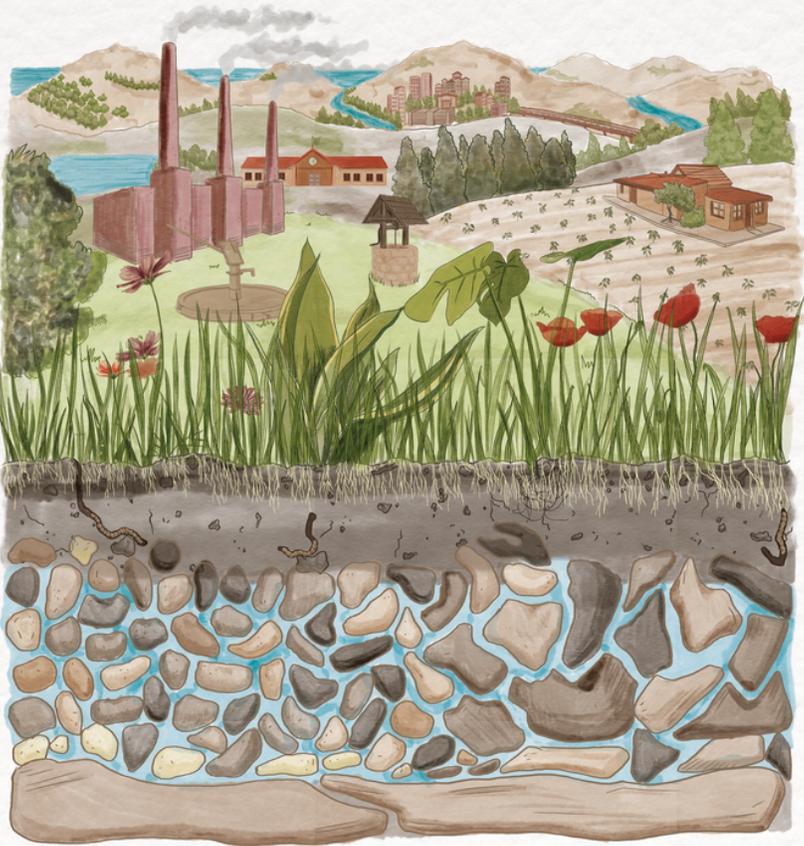
The Economic and Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) will hold its regional preparatory meeting on 28 April 2022. It will include up to seven presentations from national authorities regarding commitments to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6 in the Latin American and Caribbean region. In addition, ECLAC organized a consultation with experts and regional partners on 16 March, with participation of representatives from key agencies and think tanks in the region.

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will organize its regional meetings in May 2022. The date will be decided in consultation with the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW).

# Groundwater: making the invisible visible



Out of sight, under our feet, groundwater is a hidden treasure that enriches our lives. Our drinking water and sanitation, our food supply and natural environment – all these rely on groundwater.



## WORLD WATER DAY

The theme of [World Water Day 2022](#) is ‘Groundwater – making the invisible visible’. On 22 March 2022, a ‘pivot’ event was held in commemoration of the World Water Day. Hosted at the [9th World Water Forum](#) in Dakar, Senegal, the event was attended by Heads of State and prominent water sector leaders. The [UN World Water Development Report 2022](#) “Groundwater – making the invisible visible” was launched on 21 March at the opening ceremony of the 9th World Water Forum.

## WORLD WATER DAY EVENT “TOWARDS THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE: THE ONE YEAR MARK”

On 22 March 2022, the Permanent Missions of Egypt, Finland and 16 other countries organized a virtual event to celebrate World Water Day 2022 titled “Towards the UN 2023 Water Conference: The One Year Mark”. The event aimed to assess progress on global water actions and to discuss contributions to the preparation of the Conference, with emphasis on the themes of the five interactive dialogues. The meeting was attended by over 90 participants. Remarks were delivered by the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, the Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of Finland, the Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan, the Vice Minister for International Cooperation of the Netherlands, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the Secretary-General of the Conference, and the UN-Water Chair and Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization WMO. During the ensuing discussion, a total of 16 Member States made interventions, stressing the Cross Regional Statement on Water, transboundary cooperation, water scarcity issues, water security, and the special envoy on water, among other issues. More information and recording of the event can be found [here](#).



# Keep informed!



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## MEMBER STATES BRIEFING ON UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE, 12 APRIL 2022, NEW YORK

The Permanent Missions of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as the co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference, are organizing an in-person briefing to Member States on Tuesday, 12 April 2022, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (EDT), in Conference Room 2 at the UN Headquarters. The briefing will be held by Mr. Sulton Rahimzoda, Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on Water Affairs, Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr. Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretary-General of the UN 2023 Water Conference, and Mr. Gilbert F. Hounbo, Chair of UN-Water and President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). They will update Member States and other stakeholders on the current state of the preparatory process for the Conference and welcome participants' engagement, as well as thematic inputs. The Briefing will be available live via webcast on [UN Web TV](http://UNWebTV) ([webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)).



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## 4TH ASIA-PACIFIC WATER SUMMIT

The [4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit \(APWS\)](#) is scheduled to be held on 23-24 April 2022 in Kumamoto City, Japan, on the theme of "Water for Sustainable Development - Best Practices and the Next Generation". The Summit will seek to share forward-looking solutions and practices with participating national and international authorities to support their policy decisions to accelerate quality growth towards a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable society by resolving various water-related issues, while recovering from COVID-19.

Among the participants will be Heads of State and Government, Ministers, high-level government officials from Asia and the Pacific, high-level officials from the United Nations and other international organizations, research institutions and NGOs, as well as experts and practitioners.

Nine parallel thematic sessions and four integrated sessions, focusing on (1) Governance, (2) Finance, (3) Science & Technology, and (4) Water-related SDGs and Post-Covid-19, will stimulate discussions on further promotion of quality growth in Asia and the Pacific that is critical for the achievement of water-related SDG targets, as well as compliance with the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The outcome document of the event is expected to be a non-binding declaration document. The Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) and the City of Kumamoto are co-organizers of the Summit.

**For further information, please contact:  
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<https://sdgs.un.org/contact>**