

UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE



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NEW YORK
22-24 MARCH
2023

Newsletter # 4 April 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.

Information Session on the UN 2023 Water Conference, Geneva (7 April 2022)

On 7 April 2022, as part of [the 36th UN-Water Meeting](#), an information session on the upcoming UN 2023 Water Conference was held at the World Meteorological Organization for the Permanent Missions in Geneva as well as UN-Water Members and Partners. The Conference co-hosts, Tajikistan and the Netherlands, presented their visions for 2023 while providing updates on the Conference and its preparatory process. The Conference Secretary-General and UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu Zhenmin, gave an overview of the proposals for the themes of the interactive dialogues from Member States, stakeholders, and UN-Water. Representatives from UN Regional Commissions and UN DESA presented on the regional preparatory meetings and the involvement of stakeholders respectively.

The information session created an opportunity for dialogue among the Permanent Missions in Geneva to communicate and exchange insights on the preparations for the UN 2023 Water Conference.

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



MEMBER STATES BRIEFING ON UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE, UNHQ (12 APRIL 2022)

On 12 April 2022, the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as the co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference, and UN DESA co-organized an in-person Member States Briefing on the UN 2023 Water Conference at the UN Headquarters.

The Briefing featured opening remarks by the Permanent Representatives of the Netherlands and Tajikistan, followed by two sessions moderated by the Vice-Chair of UN-Water, Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor.

During the first session, the UN Under-Secretary-General of DESA, Mr. Liu Zhenmin and the UN-Water Chair, Gilbert F. Houngbo, delivered remarks, and the two Special Envoys of the co-hosts gave a presentation on the preparation for the UN 2023 Water Conference.

During the second session, 26 Member States, intergovernmental organizations, UN system, and other stakeholders made interventions. The Conference Secretariat is still accepting proposals on the themes of the interactive dialogues from United Nations Member States. The Briefing is available to watch on UN Web TV.



REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS

UNECE

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) organized a [regional preparatory meeting](#) on 12-13 April 2022 in Geneva and online. The hybrid meeting brought together more than 250 participants from governments, NGOs, academia, UN system and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as youth and the private sector. Regional priorities and good practices were identified such as addressing climate change and water-related disasters, pollution prevention, circular economy, transboundary water cooperation and innovative financing. The chair summary will be finalized in the coming weeks.

UN ESCAP

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has coordinated a written consultation involving experts nominated by governments and the UN-Water regional discussion group. A [virtual consultation meeting](#) was held on 20 April 2022 to refine the document entitled "Midterm review of the UN-Water Action Decade: input from Asia and the Pacific". This will be followed by a short additional written review.

UN ESCWA

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its fifth regional consultation meeting in preparation for the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting to be held in hybrid format on 18-19 May 2022 in Beirut, Lebanon. Invitations were sent to all ESCWA Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations, NGOs, regional organizations, AWARENET members and other stakeholders. The meeting will include eight sessions focusing on regional progress, access to water and sanitation for all, transboundary water cooperation and climate action, water across sectors, accelerating progress through finance, innovation, knowledge, networks and capacity building. The meeting will also host two side events on innovation for coping with water scarcity and groundwater regional dialogues.

UN ECLAC

The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) organized the "[Regional Water Dialogues 2022](#)" event on 28 April 2022. Over 1,500 participants registered for the event, which was livestreamed on CEPAL's [YouTube channel](#).

The [regional expert group on water resources](#) of LAC participated in the event and addressed topics including challenges related to drinking water and sanitation service provision; gender and water; circular economy opportunities; water governance; investment and financing; integrated water resources management; transboundary water resources management; groundwater; nature-based solutions and ecosystem services; resilience and adaptation to climate change. The aim of the regional expert group is to jointly contribute to accelerating the implementation of SDG 6 in the region.

ECLAC has also created an open public consultation to identify water priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean. This [survey](#) will be active until the end of May 2022. Over 1,300 individual responses from all countries of the LAC region have been recorded so far.

UNECA

For the Africa region, the regional meeting is postponed to the first week of June 2022. In the interim, online consultations are taking place with all key stakeholders including: the five Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), River & Lake Basin Organizations (RLBOs) and other continent stakeholders to gather information on the progress to date, challenges and options for accelerated implementation to achieve the objective of the Water Action Decade by 2028. The compiled information will form the basis for deliberations during the workshop in June 2022.

Global Online Stakeholder Consultation: Themes for Interactive Dialogues

SUMMARY REPORT

Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders were invited to contribute proposals for the themes of the Interactive Dialogues through a global online consultation.

Read the summary report: bit.ly/WaterEConsultation2022info

Conference website: bit.ly/2023WaterConference



UN DESA, through its Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), organized an [online global stakeholder consultation](#) to compile views, experiences and proposals from non-governmental organizations and all interested stakeholders on the potential themes for the interactive dialogues of [the United Nations 2023 Water Conference](#). The online consultation was open between 10 February and 10 March 2022 and a total of 146 inputs from stakeholders based in 46 countries were received. The key messages and takeaways from the consultation are available in the summary report [here](#). In addition, all submitted responses and more information on the global consultation can be found [here](#).



The [4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit \(APWS\)](#) on the theme “Water for Sustainable Development - Best Practices and the Next Generation” took place on 23-24 April 2022 in Kumamoto, Japan. The Summit was attended by 30 countries and 17 Heads of State and Government participants.

The Summit programme included high level statement sessions, nine thematic sessions, four integration sessions, symposiums, and exhibitions. As the outcome of the Summit, the [Kumamoto Declaration](#) and a [Chair's Summary](#) were adopted. The Kumamoto Declaration aims to strengthen the development of quality infrastructure for the water sector, including knowledge, information and data management. During the Summit, the UN 2023 Water Conference was introduced by the Conference co-hosts, Tajikistan and the Netherlands, as well as by the UN Secretary-General.