

# UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

Newsletter # 7 July 2022

## Background & Related events



### Proposed themes for the interactive dialogues of the UN 2023 Water Conference

The United Nations General Assembly will convene in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023, the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028 (or the UN 2023 Water Conference).

The Co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, have circulated a letter proposing the following as themes of the five interactive dialogues that will be held as part of the Conference, building on consultations that have taken place over the last months with inputs from Member States, UN entities and relevant stakeholders:

1. **Water for Health:** Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation;
2. **Water for Development:** Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development;
3. **Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment:** Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction;
4. **Water for Cooperation:** Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation and Water Across the 2030 Agenda;
5. **Water Action Decade:** Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan.

The themes are supported by the five principles of the SDG6 Global Acceleration Framework (Financing, Data and Information, Capacity Development, Innovation, and Governance) and the three principles of the Conference (Inclusive, Cross Sectoral and Action Oriented).

The letter by the Co-hosts with more background information is available here.

To receive periodic updates on the preparatory process for the UN 2023 Water Conference, please sign up for the mailing list here. Contact [water2023@un.org](mailto:water2023@un.org) for specific inquiries.



## Dates of the preparatory meeting and stakeholder consultation announced

In his letter dated 27 July 2022, the President of the General Assembly has informed that the one-day preparatory meeting will be held on **25 October 2022**, at the UN headquarters in New York, to finalize the themes of the interactive dialogues and other outstanding organizational matters pertaining to the UN 2023 Water Conference. To ensure the meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, a stakeholder consultation will be held on **24 October 2022**. Additional information will be circulated in due course. The letter can be found [here](#).

## First round of Special Accreditation of Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Stakeholders

The Secretariat of the UN 2023 Water Conference has received over 500 applications from NGOs and other relevant organizations as part of the first round of the special accreditation process of the UN 2023 Water Conference. A list of the recommended organizations will be submitted through the Office of the President of the General Assembly for approval by Member States on a non-objection basis. For more information, please check [here](#).

Relevant NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, whose work is relevant to the Conference and that are not yet in consultative status with ECOSOC or that have not been accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, must apply for special accreditation to be able to register participants to the [UN 2023 Water Conference](#). A second round of special accreditation is expected to be held in late 2022.

## Water Events at the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

### The 2022 SDG 6 Special Event

The annual SDG 6 Special Event was held on 13 July 2022, during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), at the UN headquarters in New York. The event, which was co-chaired by Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, Chair of UN-Water, and Mr. Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, sought to keep up momentum on delivering fast results under the [SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework](#), as well as to share lessons learned and good practices. The President-elect of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, delivered a keynote speech.

Representatives of the Co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, presented their proposal on the themes of the interactive dialogues of the Conference. More information about the event is available here.



*SDG 6 Special Event, New York, 13 July 2022, photo credit: UN-Water*

### **SDG 6 Special Event Virtual Dialogue**

On 14 July 2022, a virtual SDG 6 Dialogue was organized with over 400 participants from around the world. The co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference briefed the participants on their vision on the Water Action Agenda. The members and partners of UN-Water discussed how they could contribute to the Water Action Agenda and showcased their acceleration actions at the country level. The recording of the event is available at the UN-Water website here.



*SDG 6 Special Event Virtual Dialogue, Virtual, 14 July 2022, photo credit: UN-Water*



## Regional preparatory meetings

**ECE** - During the fourth joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Water Convention held on 28-30 June 2022 in Tallinn, Estonia, participants from over 80 countries discussed the preparatory process for the UN 2023 Water Conference and shared their priorities.

Representatives of the Co-hosts of the Conference, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, presented the main milestones leading up to the Conference. Austria, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) briefed on the outcomes of regional preparatory meetings for Pan-European, Arab and African regions, respectively. In their decisions, the two Working Groups invited countries to promote transboundary water cooperation both in the preparatory process and during the UN 2023 Water Conference, and to highlight the role of the Water Convention as an essential intergovernmental platform and a forum within the UN system for dealing with transboundary water issues. The Working Groups also encouraged countries to submit voluntary commitments and concrete actions on transboundary water cooperation at the UN 2023 Water Conference.

**ECLAC** - The newly created Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group of Experts on Water Resources to advance SDG 6 acceleration efforts has issued its first newsletter highlighting recent key publications and events. The newsletter is available in Spanish [here](#).

## New report by WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) has released updated estimates on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in schools. According to the latest report, 29 per cent of schools globally still lack basic drinking water services, 28 per cent lack basic sanitation services, and 42 per cent do not have basic hygiene services. The report takes stock of progress towards the SDG target and highlights the need to accelerate progress on WASH in schools ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference. For updated multi-lingual country files for 182 countries, areas and territories, please visit the [JMP website](#).