

# UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

Newsletter # 6 June 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 (or [the UN 2023 Water Conference](#)). For more background on the Conference, please visit [here](#).

The first round of special accreditation for relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations **is now open**. Eligible organizations that are not in consultative status with ECOSOC, or that have not been accredited to the [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#) can now [apply for special accreditation](#) to participate in the UN 2023 Water Conference. **Deadline: 15 July 2022.**

### [First Round of Special Accreditation for Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Stakeholders](#)

The banner features a background of water splashing. On the left, there is a vertical rainbow-colored bar. In the center, the UN 2023 Water Conference logo is displayed. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE' and 'NEW YORK 22-24 MARCH 2023'. Below the logo, the main text reads 'SPECIAL ACCREDITATION PROCESS'. At the bottom, a blue box contains the text 'Apply by 15 July 2022' and 'Learn more: [bit.ly/Water2023Accred](https://bit.ly/Water2023Accred)'. To the right of this box, the text reads 'FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS'.

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



## The Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference

The Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, took place from 6 to 9 June 2022, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, under the theme “Catalyzing water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels”. It was co-organized by the Government of Tajikistan and the United Nations, and co-chaired by Mr. Kokhir Rasulzoda, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Mr. Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Over 2,500 participants from 170 countries and 75 official delegations attended the Conference, which served as an important milestone towards the UN 2023 Water Conference. The principal outcome of the Conference is the Dushanbe Declaration titled “From Dushanbe 2022 to New York 2023”, which contains a set of urgent water protection actions and highlights key messages for the upcoming UN 2023 Water Conference.



### **DUSHANBE WATER PROCESS**

**2nd High-Level International Conference on International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028**

**6-9 June 2022**



## “Building Evidence for Water-related Policy Making: The SDG 6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS),” 7 June 2022, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

On 7 June 2022, in connection with the 2nd High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) of UN DESA, in partnership with the UNESCO International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (UNESCO i-WSSM), organized a side event titled "Building Evidence for Water-related Policy Making: The SDG 6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS)." The event served to showcase a web-based tool designed to support evidence-based policy towards the achievement of SDG 6. The hub-countries, Pakistan and Tunisia, shared their experiences in using SDG-PSS, and the Republic of Korea introduced its integrated water management system. Related materials and presentations from the event can be accessed [here](#).



Speakers at the UNOSD side event "Building Evidence for Water-related Policy Making: The SDG 6 Policy Support System," 7 June 2022, Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

## High-Level Symposium on Water - Bridging SDG 6 and SDG 14

The High-Level Symposium on Water – Bridging SDG 6 and SDG 14, was held on 27 June 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal, during the 2022 UN Ocean Conference. The symposium was organized by the Government of Portugal with the support of the United Nations and the Governments of Argentina, Mozambique, Singapore, Tajikistan and the Netherlands. Looking to bridge and explore the interlinkages SDG 6 (“Clean Water and Sanitation”) and SDG 14 (“Life below Water”), this Symposium brought together political leaders and high-level decision-makers dealing both with “fresh” and “salt” water to reflect on how to connect these two communities to guarantee an integrated vision of the water cycle.

## Water Events at the High-Level Political Forum 2022, 5-15 July 2022

A series of water-related events are hosted in connection with the 2022 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the banner *Making History: accelerating toward the UN 2023 Water Conference*:

- **The 2022 SDG 6 Special Event, 13 July, 8:00-9:30 a.m. EDT, Conference Room 8, UN Headquarters (UNHQ), New York**

*Co-hosted by Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, UN-Water Chair, and Mr. Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.*

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework aimed to enable stakeholders to keep up momentum on delivering fast results for SDG 6, as well as to share lessons and best practices. This HLPF Special Event shared preparatory activities and experiences at the country level. Statements from several speakers, including the key note address from the President-elect of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, are online now and the event recording can be found on UN Web TV.

- **SDG 6 Special Event Virtual Dialogue, 14 July, 8:30-10:30 a.m. EDT, virtual**  
*Moderated by the UN-Water Vice Chair Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor.*

Join us for an in-depth discussion among technical experts on the Water Action Agenda voluntary commitments and country level accelerations. Please register here.

- **Water and Climate Adaptation: Two sides of the same coin, 14 July 1-2:30 p.m. EDT, Conference Room 8, UNHQ, New York**

*Co-hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan.*

By showcasing best practices in the context of climate adaptation and water management, this side event aims to mobilize public and private actors to forge inclusive partnerships and come forward with concrete commitments to deliver on the SDGs. The event will seek to improve climate-resilient integrated water management worldwide in lead-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference. Please register here.

The concept notes and agendas of the SDG-6 related events at the 2022 HLPF are available on the UN-Water website here.



The 2022 SDG Special Event, 13 July at UNHQ, New York.



## Regional preparatory meetings

**ECA** - The African Regional Consultations on the Midterm Review of the “International Water Decade of Action 2018-2028 took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 13-14 June 2022. It was convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and co-chaired by the African Ministers' Council on Water and the African Development Bank. The meeting brought together Member States of the African Union, development partners, UN agencies, and representatives from academia and civil society to take stock and reaffirm commitments to solving Africa’s water, sanitation, and hygiene crisis and to collectively implement the actions designed to achieve the objectives of the Water Action Decade. The focus of the consultations was on the overarching needs related to water scarcity in Africa as they are postulated in the Africa Water Vision 2025 and Agenda 2063, as well as upon objectives of the Water Action Decade, 2018 – 2028. Specific themes reflecting the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development were elaborated upon.

**ECE** - The Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference took place in a hybrid format in Geneva on 12 and 13 April 2022. It was organized by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in collaboration with UN-Water and with input from the Regional Discussion Group on Water for the Pan-European region. The report, including the Chair’s Summary, is available [here](#).

The outcomes of the regional meeting were presented at the Special Session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy that took place in Geneva on 9-12 May 2022, and at the meeting of the UNECE Executive Committee on 3 May 2022.

Preparations for the UN 2023 Water Conference and the role of transboundary water cooperation were discussed at a Conference entitled “Lessons and Perspectives on Water Cooperation for Africa and Europe: From the 2022 Dakar Forum to the 2023 UN Water Conference”, which took place in Geneva on 10 June 2022.

It was co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office, UNECE and other international organizations in Geneva.



Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting,  
12 April 2022, Geneva. Photo: UNECE

## Regional preparatory meetings

**ECLAC** - The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) published a progress report on the regional preparatory process for the midterm review of the Water Action Decade and the UN 2023 Water Conference. The report contains information on the initiatives of the countries of the region, as well as ECLAC's proposal to promote the acceleration of the achievement of SDG 6. The report is available [here](#).

**ESCAP** - The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) facilitated a preparatory process, organizing two written consultations and an online meeting on 20 April 2022 to develop an input document from Asia and the Pacific for the global midterm review of the UN Water Action Decade. ESCAP members and associate member States, as well as member of the UN-Water regional discussion group for Asia and the Pacific, participated in the consultation. The input document is available [here](#).

**ESCWA** - Following the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade held by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut on 18 and 19 May 2022, ESCWA prepared an outcome document that comprises all the recommendations discussed during the meeting, as well as recommendations from other regional events organized in the context of the Water Action Decade. This document was shared with meeting participants for their comments and feedback and is currently being finalized. A draft of the main outcomes can be found [here](#).

In addition, on 27 May 2022, the Permanent Missions of Arab States to the United Nations were invited to participate in a Consultation on Key Messages for the Arab Region in preparation for the UN 2023 Water Conference. The meeting was held online and was co-hosted by ESCWA and the Permanent Missions of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Tunisia. Participants were briefed on global preparations by the Secretary-General of the UN 2023 Water Conference, Mr. Liu Zhenmin, and its co-hosts, the Netherlands and Tajikistan. ESCWA reported on Arab regional preparations for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade and presented the outcomes of the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting.



Consultation on Key Messages for the Arab Region in preparation for the UN 2023 Water Conference, 27 May, virtual.  
Photo: ESCWA



## Regional preparatory meetings

**UNDRR** - Efforts have been undertaken to foster alignment between the Midterm Reviews of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the UN 2023 Water Conference, both taking place in 2023.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is conducting a survey to seek inputs from the water community on behalf of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework (MTR SF). Respondents are invited to share their views, experiences and recommendations for potential policy adjustments, as well as new modalities, for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for the period between 2023 and 2030. The goal is to accelerate risk-informed regenerative and sustainable development. The survey was launched on 7 June 2022 at the 2nd High-Level International Water Conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Please participate in the survey here. Deadline: 20 July 2022.



## Sanitation and Water for All Sector Ministers' Meeting

The 2022 Sanitation and Water for All Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM), hosted by the Government of Indonesia and co-convened with UNICEF, took place on 18-19 May 2022, in Jakarta. Building on the outcomes of previous Sanitation and Water for All High-level Meetings (HLMs), the 2022 SMM was a critical opportunity to link with other sectors, with a view towards increasing the prioritization of water, sanitation, and hygiene across national policies. The meeting gathered over 350 participants from 57 countries. Among them, 50 were at the ministerial level, including ministers of water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as healthcare, the environment and the economy. Opening remarks were delivered by the Vice-President of Indonesia and the Vice-President of Zimbabwe. The meeting provided a global platform for exchange of commitments and progress, through a combination of plenary sessions and ministerial dialogues. The SMM Outcome Document is available here.