

UNECE SIDE EVENT

WATER DIALOGUES FOR RESULTS - TOWARDS BONN 2021:

ACCELERATING CROSS-SECTORAL SDG 6 IMPLEMENTATION

11 MARCH 2021
9:00 - 10:30 CET

LOCATION: ONLINE EVENT

DESCRIPTION

Under the slogan “Water Dialogues for Results Bonn 2021: Accelerating cross-sectoral SDG 6 implementation”, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), on behalf of the German Federal Government, initiated a dialogue series together with other UN Member States, participants from Major Groups and international organizations to ensure accelerated implementation of water-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The dialogue takes place between February and June and will culminate in a High-Level Meeting on July 1, 2021 in Bonn, to which all UN Member States are cordially invited. The Water Dialogues and related High-Level Meeting are part of the official preparatory process for the 2023 UN Conference on the Mid-Term Review of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028. As part of a series of regional and technical events, this side event aims to feed the Water Dialogues with insights on UNECE’s perspective on necessary action to ensure accelerated implementation of water-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

BACKGROUND

Water flows across border and sectors and thus plays a central role for the fulfilment of our global agendas from Paris to Sendai. Water is essential to eradicate poverty and hunger, combat inequalities within and among countries, build resilient and peaceful societies.

In 2018, the UN committed to focus on water for a decade, and many panels and institutions have identified challenges, formulated recommendations and recognized the need for action, however we are not on track to reach SDG 6 until 2030. The insufficient progress is particularly concerning given the highly cross-sectoral nature of SDG 6. Water demand and withdrawals are increasing; water sources and associated ecosystems are being degraded; lack of progress on safe water, sanitation and hygiene services undermine global health, women’s empowerment, gender equality and education. Climate change additionally affects access to water resources and for millions of people around the globe no water for drinking and farming, no toilets, polluted rivers and unreliable rains are everyday challenges.

The consequences are disproportionately felt by the poorest and most vulnerable. With business as usual it might lead to food and energy shortages, biodiversity loss, degradation of ecosystems, economic slowdown or political disputes.

In a time where our interconnectedness and the need for joint action is so evident, we need to push for an immediate, integrated and holistic response. Focusing on water alone will not bring us back on track. The Agenda 2030 calls for cross-sectoral ambition and water is ideally a key to bring sectors together and translate synergies into action. The Water Dialogues' process is part of the German government's efforts to help overcome global water challenges and accelerate the implementation of SDG 6 and in view of 2023 a unique opportunity to turn the tide on achieving SDG 6.



© WorldCC Bonn

OVERVIEW OF THE WATER DIALOGUES FOR RESULTS 2021



AGENDA

Time	Activity	
9:00	Opening and welcome by Germany and Slovenia	Germany & Slovenia
9:10	Presentation of current state of implementation of SDG 6 and the impacts of (non-)achievement for the other SDGs (tbc)	UN-Water (tbc)
	Presentation 'Water Dialogues for Results' initiative	Germany
	Presentation of draft policy paper, closely linking to the UN-Water Acceleration Framework	Germany
9:35	Questions & Answers	All
9:45	Discussion	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you plan for and what are your experiences in integrating ambitious and accelerated cross-sectoral action on water? What are the expectations of the UNECE region towards the Mid-Term Review Conference of the Water Action Decade 2023? 	
10:20	Closing	Slovenia & Germany
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlook to Slovenia's Presidency of the Council of the EU Slovenian and German expectations for Water Action Decade's MTR 2023 	

Water is required to deliver almost all other SDGs from global health to food security and it is essential for resilience to climate change.



Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, UN-Water Acceleration Framework Launch, 9th July 2020

WATER DIALOGUES FOR RESULTS

