

Outcomes of the Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference (12-13 April 2022)

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United Nations 2023 Water Conference

New York, 22-24 March 2023

- UN General Assembly resolution 73/226 => midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028
- UN General Assembly resolution 75/212 => modalities for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference (New York, 22-24 March 2023)
 - Co-hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan
 - UNSG report to be prepared by the 77th GA session
 - Preceded by global and regional preparatory meetings such as the Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting 12-13 April 2022

Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting Geneva and online, 12-13 April 2022

- Organized by UNECE and UN-Water in consultation with the UN-Water Regional Discussion Group on Water
- Chaired by Austria as Chair of UNECE
- Multistakeholder meeting with over 250 participants
- Objectives:
 - Assess the progress in the implementation of the Decade and water-related goals and targets of the SDGs
 - Share best practices and experiences;
 - Inspire new actions, initiatives and partnerships, needed for accelerating progress



Topics of discussion

- Access to drinking water and sanitation for all
- Water pollution, ecosystems and biodiversity, circular economy policies
- Water governance at national and transboundary levels
- Climate resilience and strengthening cooperation among water using sectors
- Groundwater
- Accelerating progress through partnerships, financing, data, research and innovation

Examples of best practices from the region

- Equitable access to water and sanitation score card in Serbia
- Water safety planning in rural communities in the Western Balkans
- Ecosystem restoration in the Aral Sea
- Water policies in the framework of the European Green Deal
- Circular schemes for wastewater treatment in the EU
- Application of nexus approach in Sava and Drin basins
- Transboundary cooperation through joint bodies in Danube and Sava
- Climate change adaptation in Chu-Talas
- Jointly monitoring of groundwater (Albania, Montenegro)
- Communication of groundwater data by European Geological Surveys
- Innovation through Water-Oriented Living Labs in the EU
- Partnership to support water supply & sanitation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ... and many others!!!

Key priorities for the UNECE region

- Ensuring access to water, and in particular sanitation, for all
- Transboundary water cooperation
- Climate change and water-related disasters
- Circular economy
- Intersectoral cooperation
- Pollution prevention
- Innovative financing
- Groundwater



Other messages

- Water Convention and the UNECE/ WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health recognized as key catalysts of progress in UNECE region which have already accelerated achievement of the water-related goals
- Strong support to Key Messages of the Bonn Water Dialogues for Results 2021
- Strong support to the proposal for establishment of Special Envoy on Water

Outcomes and follow-up

- Report and Chair's Summary of the Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting to be finalized
- Member States encouraged to communicate regional priorities in further preparatory process

Further process in connection to 2023 Water Conference:

- Topics of 5 interactive dialogues under discussion to be agreed by PGA event on water in October-November 2022
- 2nd Dushanbe Water Decade Conference (Dushanbe, 6–9 June 2022)
- UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, 27 June – 1 July 2022)
- UN-Water Groundwater Summit (Paris, 7–8 December 2022)
- SDG 6 under review at HLPF 2023

Thank you

Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference:

<https://unece.org/prep-meeting-2023-water-conference>

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