UN 2023 Water Conference

Briefing
UN 2023 Water Conference
“Water is a fundamental part of all aspects of life”

• Water is crosscutting and supports the achievement of many SDGs through close linkages with climate, energy, cities, the environment, food security, poverty, gender equality and health, amongst others.

• With climate change profoundly affecting our economies, societies and environment, water is indeed the **biggest dealbreaker** to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

• However, water does not only present us with challenges. It also presents us with a great opportunity.

• Water can be **the dealmaker**, the leverage point for a green economy, climate resilience and a more sustainable and inclusive world.
UN 2023 Water Conference
“Our watershed moment: uniting the world for water”

• 2016: the UNGA proclaimed the period from 2018 to 2028 as the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”


• 2020: the UNGA adopted Resolution 75/212 regarding the modalities for this Conference
Vision statement UN 2023 Water Conference
“Our watershed moment: uniting the world for water”

The Netherlands and Tajikistan, as co-hosts, and UNDESA with the support of UN-Water as Secretariat of the Conference will strive to make the Conference a watershed moment for the world.

• Three Principles:
  
  • **Inclusive**: both in terms of (a) the Conference process (ensure vertical and horizontal inclusiveness) and in terms of (b) the results (leaving no-one behind).
  
  • **Action-oriented**: the Conference aims to lead to concrete results through concrete actions and plans on the ground.
  
  • **Cross-sectoral**: the Conference should mobilise all other sectors to improve the way they manage and utilize water resources. These sectors need to bring their plans and actions to the Conference.
VISION STATEMENT UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

OUR WATERSHED MOMENT: UNITING THE WORLD FOR WATER

WE SEE OPPORTUNITIES!

WE MUST WORK 4 TIMES FASTER TO GET ON TRACK

WATER IS CROSS-SECTORAL

INCLUSIVE

LONG TERM APPROACH

WE ALL UNDERSTAND VALUE & MANAGE WATER BETTER AND TAKE CONCERTED ACTION

ENSURING A WATER SECURE WORLD, FOR ALL, BY ALL 2030

ACTION-ORIENTED

PRIORITY THEME: WATER SECURITY

WATER SECURITY DECADE

SYSTEM WIDE APPROACH

UN SYSTEM WIDE APPROACH

WATER CONSERVATION SGs

CLIMATE RESILIENT

WEATHER CONNECTED SGS

WATER CONNECTIONS

WATER ACTION AGREEMENT

METALLIC APPROACH

PARTNERSHIPS

CONNECTOR

WATER IS A NEW BALANCE

NEW BALANCE

CO-HOSTS OF CONFERENCE: GOVERNMENTS OF TAJIKISTAN & THE NETHERLANDS

DATE & VENUE: 22-24 MARCH 2023 NEW YORK, UN HQ

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
Space for all relevant stakeholders

The Conference:

- **Plenaries**
  - 6 Plenaries
  - Member States have a space to announce their commitments, plans, actions and best practices
  - Relevant stakeholders can be accredited to be observers (through special accreditation process to be started soon)

- **Interactive Dialogues**
  - 5 Dialogues
  - Member States and stakeholders are consulted on the Themes for the Interactive Dialogues
  - [United Nations 2023 Water Conference | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](https://www.unwater.org/2023-conference/)

- **Special Events**
  - Co-hosts decided to strive to organize 3-5 Special Events, scope: 50-200 people

- **Side Events**
  - Member States and other stakeholders will organize many side events that are cross-cutting and aim for action

- **Cultural elements and more**
  - Marathons, exhibitions, action zones; the sky is the limit
Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda

1. UN1FY for Water & Climate as inclusive community for long-term and sustainable youth participation

2. UN1FY for Water & Climate endorsed by SG Envoy on Youth to coordinate inputs for the UN 2023 Water Conference

3. Call for support from UN-Member States, the private sector and other stakeholders

Currently over 5000 Youth Organizations engaged

Contact: info@un1fy.org
Progress to date...

- Resolution on the Conference (Dec 2020)
- Bonn Conference (July 2021)
- Group of Friends on Water Meeting (Oct 2021)
- COP26 Water Pavilion (Nov 2021)
- Vision Statement and Visual
- Dushanbe Workshop (Feb 2022)
- World Water Forum Senegal (March 2022)
- UN Water Briefing (April 2022)
- Member State Briefing (April 2022)
- IAC meetings for the Dushanbe Conference (2020, 2021, 2022)
- APWS in Kumamoto (April 2022)
- Tajikistan, the Netherlands, UN DESA and UN-Water joint collaboration
- Input for the themes from MS, UN Agencies, other stakeholders
- Water Action Agenda concept note online
- Dushanbe Conference (June 2022)
- And more to come (Oceans, HLPF, UNGA, SWWW, IWA WWC, Cairo Water Week, PGA event, COP27...)
2nd Dushanbe Water Conference

Date and venue: 6-9 June 2022, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Key objectives: Sharing progress and constraints in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Water Action Decade, to catalase, galvanize and accelerate new pledges, actions and partnerships

Co-Chairs: Prime-minister of Tajikistan and Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations

IAC members: 30 eminent experts from different regions representing different stakeholders

Program: Opening and Closing, Plenary, Thematic Panels, Forums, Exhibition, Festival, etc.

Participants: 2500 offline and 500 online participants, official delegations from 75 countries and around 100 international and regional organizations including UN entities and financial institutions

Outcome document: Dushanbe Declaration (including Key messages to New York), Co-Chairs Summary, Call for Action and Partnership

Website: https://dushanbewaterprocess.org/
From Dushanbe 2022 to New York 2023

• The UN GA Resolution on modalities of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Review of the Water Action Decade in March 2023 highlighted the importance of the Dushanbe Conference to support an effective preparation for this historical gathering in 2023;

• Dushanbe Conference has been prepared through inclusive process by National Organizing Committee, members of the International Advisory Committee (30 eminent experts representing different regions, sectors, and stakeholders) and Steering Committee of Group of Friends of Water;

• Dushanbe Conference gathering more than 2500 offline and 500 online participants, official delegations from 75 countries and around 100 international and regional organizations including UN entities and financial institutions, has shown the great interest of the world community to the UN 2023 Water Conference;

• Conference Final Declaration “From Dushanbe 2022 to New York 2023” has been prepared through comprehensive consultation with UN member-states, international and regional organizations and other stakeholders including women and youth;

• Dushanbe Declaration identified concrete actions to achieve the goals of the Water Action Decade, as well as Key Messages to the UN 2023 Water Conference;

• Development of the Water Action Agenda, the Global Water and Climate Information Services, National Water Roadmaps towards 2030, as well as the proposal of an International Year of Glaciers Preservation, 2025 are among many new initiatives and actions to support achieving SDG6 and other water related goals and targets included in the Dushanbe Declaration.
Global Marathon

Mina Guli – a leading water advocate, Eco activist, Australian runner – with the support of Tajikistan and the Netherlands plan to organize a one-year Global Water Marathon to attract more attention and promote stakeholder’s engagement in the preparatory process and the Conference itself.

The marathon was start on World Water Day, March 22, 2022, and will end 1 year later at the opening of the UN Water Conference in 2023.

**Main objectives:**

- to run 200 marathons in the most extreme places on the planet in 12 months;
- to involve more than 200 million people;
- to get 200 companies to commit to taking individual action on water in the framework of the UN Water Conference.
Tajikistan and the Netherlands’ Cooperation, Partnership and Friendship ‘From Source to Sea’
What will the UN 2023 Water Conference deliver?

The Conference will help set the agenda until 2030 in many ways:

1. Deliver the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development'

2. Deliver a summary of the Conference proceedings

3. Present a set of voluntary commitments - in a Water Action Agenda - to get the world back on track:
   - Scale up and replicate what works
   - Discontinue or change what does not work
   - Innovate what needs to be improved
   - Fund what merits funding

4. Present a roadmap towards 2028 (End of the Decade) and 2030 (SDGs)
Conference summary of the proceedings

- Summary of the proceedings
- Thematic Interactive Dialogues outcomes
- Special Events outcomes
- Side Events outcomes
- Recommendations from the above feeding into the Roadmap
- Commitments from the above feeding into the Water Action Agenda
What commitments?

• Commitments can be presented in many forms...
  • Advocacy
  • Awareness-raising
  • Capacity-building
  • Investment in research and science
  • Data-sharing
  • Partnerships
  • Develop, maintain, scale up pipelines of blue investments

• ... and through many coalitions

• All commitments will be assembled in a Water Action Agenda
Water Action Agenda

• Combined commitments will be presented in March 2023

• Assessed on their scalability and replicability, with a view to spur change and create sustainable, long-term impact

• Review and follow-up progress on commitments, support implementation

• Designated moments to take stock and evaluate

The platform to register commitments is online now!  
https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023
WATER ACTION AGENDA
UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

- ACTION ORIENTED
- ACTIONS THAT CAN BE SCALABLE
- WE'RE INNOVATING WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED
- ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION
- 2030

Coordinated implementation

Commitments

- Academics
- Local Governments
- Indigenous
- Civic Society
- Youth
- Private Sector

UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

Supported by:
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Water

Co-hosted by:
Country of Implementation

UN Water
Timeline Water Action Agenda

- June 2022: (Soft) launch Water Action Agenda at the 2nd High-Level International Conference on International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 in Dushanbe
- July 2022: Official launch of the W.A.A. during HLPF
- September 2022: Update on the commitments made at the UN General Assembly high level event on the UN 2023 Water Conference
- November 2022: Review of the Water Action Agenda during the one-day Prep-conference UN 2023 Water Conference
- March 2023: Presentation of the Water Action Agenda including support and review mechanisms during the UN 2023 Water Conference (22-24 March)
- July 2023: Incorporation of the Water Action Agenda in the global review of SDG6 during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) follow-up on the UN 2023 Water Conference
- September 2023: Presentation of an updated Water Action Agenda during the UN General Assembly ministerial week the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future will take place
- 2024-2030: Annual review of the Water Action Agenda during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)
- 2030: Final review of the Water Action Agenda
Roadmap and Agenda

• Roadmap towards end of the Water Action Decade 2028

• Roadmap towards end of the SDGs 2030

• Agenda linking to SDG, Paris, and beyond