



#WaterAction - UN 2023 Water Conference

Forty-six years after the last major UN water conference, the international community gathered in New York to make a difference not only for the future of water but for the future of the world. The **UN 2023 Water Conference** concluded, after three intense days, on 24 March 2023. Renewed political momentum led to the submission of more than **700 voluntary commitments and pledges to the Water Action Agenda**. The **Water Convention** and **Protocol on Water and Health** were active and visible at the conference.

Now, the Water Action Agenda needs to be implemented - water and transboundary cooperation should not disappear from the spotlight but need to have a prominent role in other processes (e.g. High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 2023 SDG Summit).

What are the UN Water Conference's **key outcomes** for the Water Convention & the Protocol on Water and Health?

- **2 new countries** acceded to the Water Convention during the UN Water Conference: **Nigeria** and **Iraq**
- **10 other countries** expressed their willingness to accede
- [UN Secretary-General urged countries to accede to the Water Convention](#), the [President of UN General Assembly](#) and the [UN-Water Chair](#) also referred to the Convention
- High **visibility for transboundary water cooperation** (more than 70 countries mentioned it in plenary statements) and the importance of the Water Convention (nearly 20 mentions)
- Numerous **commitments on transboundary cooperation** submitted to the Water Action Agenda, facilitated by the Transboundary water cooperation coalition, among others
- Joint statement by the **transboundary water cooperation coalition**, read out by the President of Slovenia



Iraq's accession to UN Water Convention opens new opportunities to strengthen transboundary water cooperation in the Middle East

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Nigeria joins the UN Water Convention, pushing forward water cooperation across borders

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How has the **Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health** contributed to the conference?

- The Water Convention secretariat supported the [interactive dialogue 4 "Water for Cooperation"](#) (e.g. by drafting, with UNESCO, the concept note); the UNECE Executive Secretary spoke at the dialogue as panelist
- Side event "[Speeding-up transboundary water cooperation: the value of the Water Convention](#)" (lead organizer: Estonia) with participation of 11 Ministers and a treaty ceremony for Nigeria
- Increased visibility for the Protocol on Water and Health through a side event on "[New momentum to make safe water and sanitation a reality for all: How to scale up globally practical tools and know-how gained under the Protocol on Water and Health?](#)" (lead organizer: Hungary)
- Side event "[Committing to advance transboundary water cooperation worldwide for sustainable development, climate action, stability and peace](#)" (lead organizer: Slovenia)
- Side event "[Regional Dialogue on Accelerating Implementation of the Water Agenda](#)" (lead organizer: ESCWA)
- Side event "Water and adaptation to the effects of climate change in a transboundary context" (lead organizer: Luxembourg)
- The Water Convention contributed to many other side events

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10 States in Africa, Middle East and Latin America commit to join UN Water Convention, as UN sets membership target for half of all countries by 2030

[Learn more](#)



Governments, UNECE and WHO/Europe scale up commitments for human rights to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health

[Learn more](#)



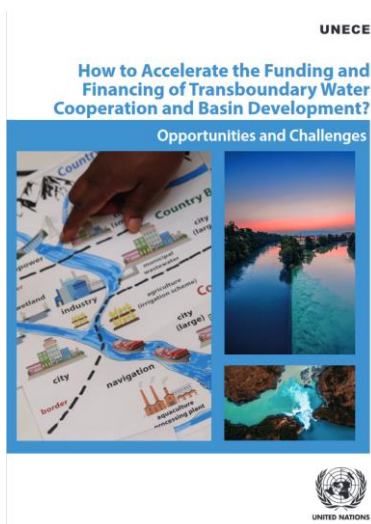
Call to submit national reports for the 3rd reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2

All States sharing transboundary waters worldwide are invited to submit their national reports for the 3rd reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2 by **30 June 2023** to UNECE and UNESCO as co-custodian agencies. Countries are encouraged to consider the [opportunities to coordinate with neighbouring countries when completing the SDG indicator 6.5.2 national report](#).

- 17 and 18 April 2023: [Global Webinars](#) to support countries in preparing national reports on SDG 6.5.2.
- 27 April and 4 May: [Webinars](#) for the Latin American Region

[Learn more](#)

New Brief: How to Accelerate the Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development?



This Brief provides an overview of the main issues related with the funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development. It features an overview of the existing financial needs for the establishment and operation of joint bodies and for the elaboration and implementation of basin management and development projects and explores the sources of funding and financing available to support transboundary water cooperation.

[Learn more](#)

What has happened?

- **National workshop related to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: Niger's accession process** (2-3 March 2023, Niamey): The workshop helped to inform relevant stakeholders about the Water Convention, exchange about the processes initiated by the Government of Niger to


become a Party to the Water Convention and discuss next steps in the accession process. [Learn more](#)

- **Workshop on international conventions for the integrated management of water resources and transboundary basins for Paraguay** (2 March 2023, Asunción): This national event highlighted the value and benefits of the UN 1997 Watercourses Convention and the UN 1992 Water Convention and their possible contributions to the improvement of transboundary water resources management. [Learn more](#)
- **15th meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Water Convention** (16-17 February 2023, Geneva): The Implementation Committee under the Water Convention held joint consultations with Montenegro and Albania, advising the countries on next steps in the implementation of the Committee's legal and technical advice. [Learn more](#)
- **16th meeting of the Steering Committee of the EU-funded National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of Tajikistan** (15 February 2023, Dushanbe): The 70+ participants discussed the national programme of reforms in the water sector, including state water supply and sanitation programme, economic and educational instruments related to water sector enhancement in the country as well as transboundary issues and international commitments. [Learn more](#)
- **18th Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Kyrgyzstan** (3 February 2023, Bishkek): More than 50 participants joined the important discussion on the national Water Strategy and Water Code developments, economic and financial instruments related to water sector enhancement, cooperation between national stakeholders as well as international partners, as well as the future directions of the NPD process in Kyrgyzstan. [Learn more](#)



Save the date - Upcoming events

- 18-19 April 2023 [Expert Meeting on Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data Sharing](#) (Geneva and virtual)
 - 25-26 May 2023 [7th meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation](#) (Geneva and virtual)
 - 5 June 2023 [24th meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health](#) (Geneva and virtual)
 - 19-21 June 2023 [18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management](#) (Geneva)
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António Guterres
UN Secretary-General

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This graphic features a large red '66' on a blue and purple gradient background. On the right, a photograph shows António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, speaking at a podium. Below the name and title, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter.



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and
International Lakes**

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