UN 2023 Water Conference
“Our watershed moment: uniting the world for water”

Co-hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan at UN Headquarters in New York and online from 22 to 24 March 2023.

Aimed to urgently scale up action to address the water crisis and ensure equitable access to water for all.

Brought together some 10,000 participants among world leaders, civil society, business leaders, young people, scientists, academics, the UN System and others from across sectors.

The Water Action Agenda, the key outcome of the Conference, captured over 700 voluntary commitments aimed at driving transformation from a global water crisis to a water-secure world.
To achieve this, the Secretary-General advocated for:

- **integrating the approach on water, ecosystems and climate** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen communities — from resilient infrastructure, water pipelines and wastewater treatment plans, to ensuring every person in the world is protected with early warning systems against natural disasters by 2027.

- **continuing to press for climate justice** and global action to limit global warming to a 1.5-degree rise.

- A **dramatic acceleration in resources and investment** into the ability of all countries to reach SDG 6.

“**The commitments at this Conference will propel humanity towards the water-secure future every person on the planet needs.**

António Guterres
Key messages:

• **Good water governance and management are essential**

• Internal fragmentation and external isolation of the current water management systems are key challenges to build climate-resilient water management. Thus, there is need to:
  
  1. Mainstream **integrated policy frameworks** which combine integrated water resources management (IWRM) with other holistic water-related approaches that link the interconnected ecosystems of the hydrological cycle with the associated socioeconomic processes.
  
  2. Developing and adopting **national mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination and mutually-agreed mutually-beneficial no harm-based policies** for cooperative water-related adaptation.

• Data and information support decision making in water-related sectors. **Monitoring and exchanging critical hydrological data** is key to supporting sustainable development.

• **Nature-based solutions and green-grey infrastructure** approaches can provide important contributions and co-benefits for climate, biodiversity and DRR.
Interactive Dialogue 3
Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and DRR

Transboundary cooperation:

A number of countries and organization underlined in their intervention during the ID3 the importance of transboundary water cooperation for climate action.

- **South Africa**: stressed that the initiatives taken are aligned with those of other riparian so that water resources are managed in a sustainable way for human and nature.
- **IUCN**: pointed the need to adopt all-basin approach from source-to-sea, from downstream to upstream, in order to build water resilience to CC.
- **Iraq**: recalled that CC does not recognize borders and more than 150 countries share basins with neighboring countries. Promoting international cooperation and partnership is therefore essential.
- **Slovenia**: highlighted the importance of knowledge exchange of CC adaptation and mitigation measures in international basins through platforms like Water Convention.
- **EU**: recalled its support to transboundary water cooperation as a valuable instruments to increase resilience to CC.
- **LAO**: underlined the urgency for the country to combine IWRM and CCA to reduce CC impacts on water cycle and avoid damage to human, economic and cross-border relation.
Interactive Dialogue 3
Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and DRR

The way forward:

Building also on COP27, as it brought water discussions to the centre of the climate discourse, the deliberations of ID3 should feed into future discussions of HLPF, SDG Summit, COP28 and Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework.

To do this it has been recognized the need to adopt an “Inter-COP” process in order to connect, integrate and fully implement water-related decisions at the global assemblies, conventions and frameworks, which are dedicated to climate, resilience and the environment.