



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023



water & sanitation
Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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UN 2023 Water Conference – Side Event

Focus on National Leadership for Inclusive Water Governance: Call for Renewed Water Action and Commitments

14:00-15:15 EDT, 23 March 2023,
ECOSOC Room, UN Headquarters, New York

Overview

The side event will have countries call for enhanced water action and renewed commitments and explain their visions, including investment plans and frameworks for transformative water action following the UN 2023 Water Conference, to be followed by a panel discussion on how the international community in collaboration with the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa (AIP)¹ and other global initiatives can support the realization of such visions. The event will focus on national leadership and provide an opportunity for countries like Senegal, South Africa, Germany, Tanzania, and Zambia which have been visionary in terms of progress in water governance and investments, to showcase their commitments, successes and lessons learned. The panel discussion will include presentations of the Water Policy Group's survey for national water leaders (ministers, heads of water agencies, etc.), the National Water Roadmaps led by FAO under the UN-Water umbrella, GWP's work in support of the AIP, OECD's work on water governance principles, the role of law makers in achieving water security and inclusive approaches in line with human rights perspectives. Finally, the Global Water Tenure Dialogue led by FAO will be launched during the event. The Dialogue will shape principles on responsible governance of water tenure based on country level engagement, as a commitment to equitable access to water for sustainable livelihoods, food security and climate resilience.

¹ Adopted by the African Union Heads of States in February 2021, the objective of the AIP is to close the water investment gap in Africa, estimated at US\$11-US\$20 billion/year. The Panel is developing a high-level report and investment plan with actionable pathways and recommendations for countries on how to mobilize US\$ 30 billion/ year to close the gap towards SDG 6 and other water related targets.

Agenda

14:00-14:05	Welcoming remarks and scene-setting by the host, Government of South Africa Hon. Senzo Mchunu, Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa
14:05-14:10	Keynote and moderation Former President of Republic of Tanzania, HE President Jakaya Kikwete
14:10-14:30	Commitments: National Leadership for Inclusive Water Governance: Call for Renewed Water Action presented by National government speakers – 5 minutes each <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hon. Mr Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senegal• H.E. Steffi Lemke, Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany• Hon. Mike Mposha, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Zambia• Hon. Jumaa Hamidu Aweso, Minister for Water, Tanzania
14:30-14:35	Floor contributors
14:35-14:55	Interactive dialogue: Commitments to support from the international community Moderation: Alex Simalabwi, CEO of GWPSA, GWP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launch of the Global Dialogue on Water Tenure: Sasha Koo-Oshima, Deputy Director Land & Water Division, FAO – 3 minutes• Olcay Ünver, Water Policy Group and Arizona State University – 3 minutes• Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Division Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD - 3 minutes• Lesha Witmer, Women for Water Partnership - 3 minutes• Mark Smith, Director General, IWMI– 3 minutes• Joint FAO, UNDP, UNICEF intervention as co-coordinators of the UN-Water Task Force on Country Level Engagement on behalf of the Task Force: Sanjay Wijesekera, Director of Programmes, UNICEF - 5 minutes
14:55-15:05	Reactions from Ministers, floor contributors and Q&A
15:05-15:15	Call for Action and closing remarks Ilze Brands Kehris, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Hon. Senzo Mchunu, Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa

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