
UN 2023 Water Conference – Side Event

***The first United Nations Conference on Water in almost 50 years –
so what happens next?*****Public Dialogue on the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023**

*13:15-14:30, 24 March 2023,
Conference Room 2, UN Headquarters, New York*

Context

The [UN 2023 Water Conference](#) will be the first United Nations Conference on water issues since 1977. The Conference was established by the UN General Assembly to serve as a midterm comprehensive review of the [UN Water Action Decade 2018-2028](#), and also coincides with the midway point of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

The Conference co-hosts, the Republic of Tajikistan and Kingdom of the Netherlands, have framed the Conference as, “*Our watershed moment: uniting the world for water,*” in their [vision statement](#). Commitments, pledges and actions are being compiled in the Water Action Agenda, which will be a key outcome from the Conference to accelerate implementation and improved impact towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets.

Thousands of world leaders, leading voices from civil society, business, and youth, indigenous and women’s movements will converge in New York – physically and virtually- to contribute to the dialogue and vision for the future of the “world’s lifeblood”– *water*, as stated by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

The Conference will set forth a Presidential Summary report and the [Water Action Agenda](#) – *so what happens next? What will be needed to implement these commitments? How can the UN system help to support implementation and follow-up? How can water be further elevated as a priority in the UN’s political agenda?*

These are the questions that the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report will aim to answer.

The Report

The ***UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023*** aims to provide a strategic response to the UN 2023 Water Conference outcomes, including the Water Action Agenda, and contribute to the discussions of Member States and relevant stakeholders at the 2023 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in-depth review of SDG 6 in July 2023 and SDG Summit during the UNGA 78th Session.

The report will be forward-looking and include UN-Water’s vision for the second half of the 2030 Agenda. It will provide policy recommendations to Member States on how to achieve SDG 6 by 2030, and communicate a vision of how the UN system can support the implementation of the second half of the “Decade” and the Water Action Agenda.

This Report will be the second “SDG 6 synthesis report” prepared by UN-Water. The first “[SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation](#)” was prepared for the 2018 HLPF on Sustainable Development. Subsequently, in March 2021, the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative on SDG 6 produced the “[Summary Progress Update 2021: SDG 6 — water and sanitation for all](#)”.

The Agenda

The side event aims to present the approach of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023, to share some preliminary key messages, and to consult with Member States and other stakeholders attending the UN 2023 Water Conference.

<i>Master of Ceremonies: Joakim Harlin, Chair of UN-Water Expert Group 2030 Agenda, UNEP</i>	
13:15-13:20	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</p>
13:20-13:35	<p>Presentation of the Report Concept</p> <p>Ms. Sasha Koo-Oshima, Deputy Director, Land & Water Division, FAO</p> <p>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Director, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, Cluster Leader, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, UN ESCWA</p> <p>Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor, Lead Writer of the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023</p> <p>Mr. Joshua Newton, Technical Advisor of the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023</p>
13:35-13:50	<p>“Ignite” Speakers (4-5 interventions)</p> <p>Mr. David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</p> <p>Ms. Boluwatito Awe, President of the Nigerian Youth Parliament for Water</p> <p>H.E. Ms. Maria Espinosa, Former President of the UN General Assembly, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Commissioners of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water</p> <p>Ms. Claudia Sadoff, Executive Managing Director, CGIAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>From your perspective, how will the Water Action Agenda benefit your efforts?</i> • <i>What will be needed to support implementation of these commitments?</i> • <i>How can the UN system support the Water Action Agenda implementation and follow-up?</i> • <i>How can water be further elevated as a priority in the UN’s political agenda?</i>
13:50-14:25	<p>Public Dialogue and Q&A</p>

14:25-
14:30

Closing Remarks

Mr. Guy Bernard Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy

Contact Persons

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