

Water for Cooperation: Main Takeaways from the Interactive Dialogue

A panel of experts convened at the UN 2023 Water Conference for an interactive dialogue on "Water for Cooperation." The discussion focused on the importance of transboundary water cooperation, the challenges and opportunities of international cooperation, and the key role of water diplomacy in ensuring water security for all. Here are the main takeaways from the dialogue:

Transboundary Water Cooperation

The panel emphasized the importance of transboundary water cooperation in achieving mutual agreements on water matters and creating financial resources to fill the infrastructure gap. They highlighted the need for strategic planning and collaboration to ensure that water resources are used sustainably and equitably.

Challenges and Opportunities of International Cooperation

The panel acknowledged that cooperation can be fragile and that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to transboundary water issues. However, they emphasized the importance of international cooperation in sustaining development and achieving a balance of multiple uses from transboundary water resources. Sharing information and data is critical in this regard, as it enables all stakeholders to make informed decisions about water management.

Water Diplomacy

The panel also emphasized the importance of water diplomacy in ensuring water security for all. They highlighted the need for effective communication, trust-building, and conflict-resolution mechanisms to enable countries to work together towards a common goal of sustainable water management.

Cooperation at Different Levels

The discussion also touched on water issues in bilateral cooperation and multilateral cooperation, including at the subregional, regional, and international levels. The panel encouraged and supported organizations in their sustainable management of water, and emphasized that cooperation and partnership are mutually beneficial.

Dialogue and Knowledge Sharing

Finally, the panel emphasized the importance of dialogue and knowledge sharing in fostering multi-stakeholder cooperation. They called for continued efforts to engage all stakeholders in water management, including marginalized groups and indigenous peoples.

UN 2023 Water Conference Youth Rapporteurs

Rapporteurs: Charles Hine & Maysara Alyazji

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Overall, the "Water for Cooperation" interactive dialogue highlighted the critical role of cooperation, collaboration, and diplomacy in ensuring sustainable and equitable water management at all levels.