

Terms of Reference

UN-Water Expert Group on Groundwater

Context:

Building on the work accomplished by the UN-Water Task Force established to prepare and contribute to the UN-Water Campaign on Groundwater making the invisible visible, including the UN World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2022, the UN World Water Development Report 2022, the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater (December 2022), the Groundwater Event at the UN 2023 Water Conference, and within the framework of the UN-Water 2030 Strategy and the UN-Water Work Programme 2022-2023 contributing to the 2030 Agenda and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, the UN-Water Expert Group on Groundwater aims to amplify the reach and the impact of UN-Water Members and Partners on groundwater through a continued collaboration, coordination and synergy.

Main purpose and functions:

1. Sharing information and avoiding duplication

The establishment of the Expert Group will increase cooperation and coherence within the United Nations system regarding groundwater, there for improving efficiency and impact of UN-Water Members and Partners. The Expert Group will provide a platform to cross-fertilize activities of individual agencies and to avoid duplication.

2. Raising awareness among all stakeholders

The Expert Group will ensure that groundwater is mainstreamed in all water issues, that it remains visible in high level events, and that it is taken into account in decision making at international and national level.

3. Filling knowledge gaps

The Expert Group will provide a platform to exchange information, knowledge and experience. It will contribute to informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues related to groundwater, building knowledge and inspiring people to take action.