



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 December 2022

Excellency/Your Majesty,

I have the honour to invite you to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action on “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 (“the United Nations 2023 Water Conference”) scheduled to take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions 73/226 and 75/212.

The Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs serving as the Conference Secretariat, with the support of UN-Water, aims to accelerate action on the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The United Nations 2023 Water Conference convenes at a pivotal moment, to heighten global attention on water as a defining challenge of the twenty-first century with active cross-sectoral cooperation, since the first United Nations Conference on Water was held in 1977, in Mar Del Plata, Argentina. As the international community addresses a cascading set of global challenges, the United Nations 2023 Water Conference offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to galvanize commitments and accelerate actions on water across multiple sectors, including health, energy, food security, development cooperation, infrastructure, urbanization, biodiversity, climate, the environment, disaster risk reduction, oceans, education, gender equality, peace and decent work.

As I said in my report on “Our Common Agenda”, water is a global common good and a key catalyst for a green, just, inclusive and resilient economic transition for people and our planet. Member States can elevate the urgency of action, leveraging existing tools and effective coordination to advance on all targets under Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) and other water-related SDGs by 2030, through the International Decade for Action on “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, and the Water Action Agenda.

Given the constructive input and momentum generated by the preparatory meeting for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, organized by the President of the General Assembly in October, and other events throughout the year, the Conference co-hosts are determined to ensure that the Conference remains inclusive, action-oriented and cross-sectoral to secure and amplify coordinated solutions across the water agenda. Additional information regarding the Conference will be provided at <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>.

As we journey forward, I count on your participation and encourage you to elevate the ambition on water as a vital resource for present and future generations. Your leadership will be critical to drive forward-looking solutions that springboard collective and transformative actions on water into the 2023 SDG Summit and the 2024 Summit of the Future.

Please accept, Excellency,/Your Majesty, the assurances of my highest consideration.

António Guterres