



== UN ==
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

Day 1 | “This is more than a conference on water”

As United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres opened the Conference, he said “**This is more than a conference on water. It is a conference on today’s world seen from the perspective of its most important resource.**” This sense of magnitude and urgency ran through the opening and into the plenary sessions.



President Rahmon of Tajikistan proposed that the Third Dushanbe Water Decade Conference be held in 2028 to mark the end of the 2018-2028 International Decade for Action, offering delegates insights into how the next steps for water action might look. He ended by emphasising the potential of “**our collective efforts.**”

The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands spoke of the common ground the Netherlands and Tajikistan have found with one another, through water. “**Water is our common denominator**” he continued, urging participants to remove all the barriers that separate water-related issues.



President of the 77th General Assembly, Csaba Kőrösi, called for transformative solutions to take water action from reactive to proactive. He invited delegates to deliberate solutions that are science based, pragmatic and in solidarity. **"Our chance is here and now. We may not have another"**

President of ECOSOC, Lachezara Stoeva told distinguished delegates: let us join forces now to ensure water is well managed and that clean water is available and accessible to all, now and in the future, **"We simply cannot afford to wait."**

UN DESA's USG and Secretary-General of the Conference, Li Junhua, welcomed delegates & participants to the General Assembly this morning, urging everyone to bring forward their commitments to water action and secure a water-sustainable future for all: **"this Conference will only be as successful as your willingness to engage."**

The General Assembly hall was at full capacity as were many of the Conference Rooms around UN Headquarters as interactive dialogues, special events, side events and exhibitions took place.





Water Action Agenda, be part of the action

We heard a huge range of commitments today in both official and side events. From world leaders to business leaders to civil society, the mobilisation of both funding and planning is tangible. The Water Action Agenda does not reflect where we are, but where the world wants to be in terms of achieving SDG 6 and in turn the entire sustainable development agenda.

Have you made your commitment? Here are some examples to inspire you:

[Youth Involvement in Water Action >](#)

[Water for Women Fund Extension >](#)

[Better global water information through the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System \(HydroSOS\) & Reporting >](#)

[Fair Water Footprints: Ambition, Accountability and Action for SDG6 >](#)



Daily summary of the Conference by ENB

The Earth Negotiations Bulletin are following the Conference's official proceedings and sharing daily overviews and in-depth coverage along with photos that are free to use.

[Read today's summary >](#)



Water.org co-founders Matt Damon and Gary White spoke to USG Melissa Fleming about what brought them together and to water. They discussed what water.org projects can unlock not only in terms of micro-loans credit but the positive impact the loans have on access to education, food security, gender equality, economic stability and much more.

[Watch the full interview >](#)



Press Releases and Media Advisories

Press Conference | [Turning the tide: A Call to Collective Action by the Global Commission on the Economics of Water >](#)

UN Global Compact | [More than 50 leading global companies unite to make unprecedented collective commitment to SDG 6 >](#)

UN | [Opening: UN calls for game-changing action to stem global water crisis](#)
[Full list of press briefings here >](#)



Marathon runner Mina Guli is greeted by cheering crowds as she completes her 200th marathon in front of the UN Headquarters. She ran around the world with her RUN BLUE campaign which seeks to inspire companies and connect people to take meaningful action on water in the lead-up to the Water Conference.



Key information

Whether you are joining us in New York or following the Conference from afar here are some useful links to help you make the most of the Conference:

[Full Programme >](#)

[Attending the Conference >](#)

[Information for Media >](#)

[SDG Media Zone >](#)

[Watch the Conference on UN Web TV >](#)

