



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

Uniting the world for water action

March 2023



In less than one week, the world will unite for water action. We look forward to welcoming thousands of participants, representatives of governments, UN System and diverse stakeholders, including civil society and business leaders, young people, prominent mayors, scientists and many more to UN Headquarters for the UN 2023 Water Conference.

The level of engagement and diversity of topics being covered across the Conference programme is a reflection of the great mobilization power of both this Conference and water issues as a whole. Water action can increase food security and equality between genders, water action keeps children in school, communities at peace and nature healthy, the time to act is now.

[Programme Overview \(PDF\)](#)



[Full Programme](#)



UN DESA's Lotta Tahtinen was joined by Sul-ton Rahimzoda, Special Envoy of the President of Tajikistan for Water and Henk Ovink, Special Envoy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for Water for a curtain-raiser Press Briefing ahead of next week's Conference



The building blocks of the Water Action Agenda

A key outcome of the Conference will be an ambitious Water Action Agenda, which captures new water-related commitments from UN Member States and other stakeholders, through an online registry. In the words of our Secretary General Antonio Guterres: this Conference must result in a bold water action agenda that gives our world's lifeblood the commitment it deserves.

Many of the commitments that have already made to the Water Action Agenda are ambitious both in scope and funding with several commitments mobilizing millions, and in a few cases billions, of dollars for water action. Here are some examples of commitments to inspire your Water Action:

Examples of commitments already submitted to the Water Action Agenda:

[World Vision's Pledge to Accelerate Progress for SDG 6 >](#)

[EU commitments on water as a human right and water for health >](#)

[Youth for the Future of the Columbia River Basin >](#)

[Towards Healthy Watersheds: combining internal and external efforts to support global water security especially in water-stressed countries >](#)

[SIWI commits to support collective action on the Water Action Agenda, good governance, Water for Climate, Source-to-Sea and cooperation >](#)

[Promoting transboundary water cooperation - Switzerland's contribution to the UNECE water convention >](#)

[Space4Water Project >](#)

[UNICEF's Game Plan to Accelerate Safely Managed Sanitation for All >](#)



INTERVIEW: Turn the tide on water crisis with game-changing commitments, urge co-hosts of UN conference

Ambassadors of the Conference co-hosts, Yoka Brandt, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN, and Jonibek Ismoil Hikmat, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UN, spoke about the issues at stake and discussed how the world can unite for #WaterAction.

[**Read full interview >**](#)



Reports and press releases

The Editorial Board of the Natural Resources Forum has released a virtual special issue in connection with the UN 2023 Water Conference consisting of articles that address key water issues and challenges in various parts of the globe, illustrating scholars' efforts to tackle them with cutting-edge research in the field. This special issue will remain free to read until the end of June 2023.

[**Read the report >**](#)

[**UNECE | World must seize UN Water Conference to consolidate cooperation on shared waters as basis to address water crisis >**](#)

[**UN Global Compact | Starbucks, Ecolab, Gap Inc., Reckitt and DuPont Join with U.S. Government to Invest nearly \\$140 Million in Water Access Fund**](#)



Youth Participation

Young people are often active water managers and many water scarce countries have increasingly young populations. These are two of many reasons why it is vital that youth are involved in the UN 2023 Water Conference both as participants, but also speakers and session organizers. Here are some ways youth will have a big role to play at the conference and beyond:

All four Special Events have youth among their co-organizers and/or speakers, such as: African Youth parliament for Water, Global Youth Parliament for Water, Major Group for Children and Youth, Water Youth Network, YOUNGO and more.

[Special Events Programme >](#)

Of the 200 Side Events taking place inside UN HQ, almost 50 have selected children and youth as one of their target audiences, and many of the events inside and outside of UN HQ are organized by or with youth-led organisations.

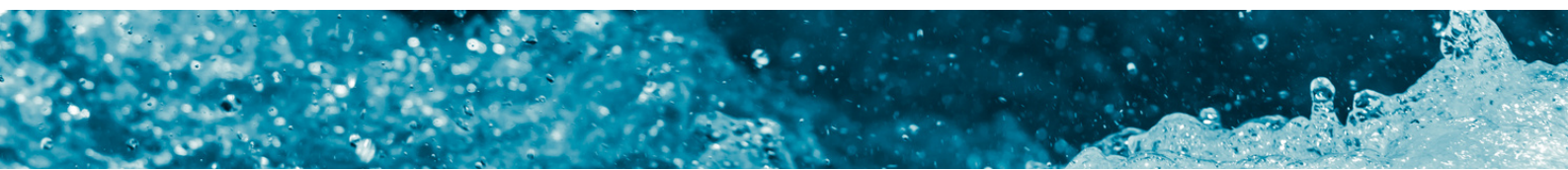
[Side Event Programme >](#)

There is a “Youth matchmaking” initiative which seeks to connect side event organizers with young people who will be attending the Conference so that they can be invited to speak in their capacity as experts.

[Sign up to the roster or find a speaker >](#)

Youth rapporteurs will be following the UN 2023 Water Conference, reporting on the special events, interactive dialogues and a range of side events. The summaries will be shared together with an analysis of the sessions, including recommendations and ideas that may influence future policy processes.

[The summaries will be made available in April 2023 here >](#)





BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD



This World Water Day is about accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. And because water affects us all, we need everyone to take action. You and your family, school, business and community can make a difference by changing the way you use, consume and manage water in your lives.

[Learn more and take part in #WorldWaterDay >](#)

Children around the world are using World Water Day as an opportunity to learn more about what they can do to help solve the water and sanitation crisis. School children in several countries, including Ghana, Canada, Japan, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Mexico, the US and Colombia are folding origami birds with their personal commitment and shipping them off to the UN 2023 Water Conference.

[Join them, take action and add your personal commitment on the Be the Change website >](#)





SDG Media Zone @ UN 2023 Water Conference

Hosted by the United Nations, the SDG Media Zone aims to take the conversation on advancing the Sustainable Development Goals out of the policy sphere and into the public discourse. An interview with UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications Melissa Fleming and water.org co-founders, Matt Damon (actor, producer, screenwriter and water activist) and Gary White (entrepreneur), will kick-off the programme addressing the global water crisis, gaps and challenges, and important solutions needed to accelerate change.

Through a live format of interviews and discussions, the UN 2023 Water Conference SDG Media Zone will bring together UN agencies, influencers, and industry leaders to talk about the global water crisis and innovative solutions to address current water issues. A daily session dedicated to the Water Action Agenda commitments will also be featured.

[SDG Media Zone schedule \(22-24 March\) >](#)



Less than 1 week to go...

With just one week to go, we have an array of digital assets and a refreshed press kit on our dedicated Water Trello board. For the month of March, SDG 6 is the Goal of the Month and this dedicated page highlights the Water Conference, latest news on the Conference, and key upcoming events for the month of March.

[Water Conference Campaign Kit >](#)

Check out the [Media Corner >](#) for a list of upcoming press briefings as well as press releases and media advisories.

Join the conversation and take #WaterAction

Get inspired by what the UN is doing to advance SDG 6, and follow and interact with the latest water-related content shared on UN social media channels @SustDev @GlobalGoalsUN @UNDESA @UN_PGA @UN_Water. Don't forget to add #WaterAction!