



# UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

July 2023



## Introduction

The United Nations 2023 Water Conference was held from March 22 to March 24 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This significant event, marking the first UN Water Conference in a generation, was co-hosted by the governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan. It served as a pivotal moment to rally Member States, the UN system, and various stakeholders towards taking action and implementing successful solutions for SDG 6 on a global scale.

The official website of the Conference provides access to various resources. This includes statements made during the Plenary Sessions, summaries of the Interactive Dialogues, Special Events and Side Events, as well as a Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Report of the UN 2023 Water Conference. Furthermore, recordings and UN Webcast links for numerous events can be found online.

For more information:

- [Press Release | Historic UN Conference marks watershed moment to tackle global water crisis and ensure water-secure future](#)
- [Plenary statements](#)
- [Interactive Dialogue summaries](#)
- [Special Events summaries](#)
- [Side Events summaries](#)
- [Exhibitions summaries](#)
- [Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Report of the UN 2023 Water Conference](#)
- [PGA77 Summary for the UN 2023 Water Conference](#)
- [Watch the Conference on UN Web TV](#)

# SDG 6 at the High-level Political Forum in July

The [High-level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#), held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is taking place at the UN headquarters in New York from 10-19 July, 2023. The programme will include thematic reviews of certain Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 6 on water and sanitation. The HLPF will support the mid-term review of the SDGs and the preparations of the [2023 SDG Summit](#) in September 2023. During the HLPF there will be multiple SDG 6-focused events:

## **SDGs in focus: SDG 6 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Clean water and sanitation | Tuesday, 11 July 2023, 10:00-13:00, UN HQ, Conference Room 4**

This meeting will ask what integrated policies and partnerships can accelerate the achievement of the targets on clean water and sanitation? How can the interlinkages with other Goals be fully realized to ensure more impactful policies? How can the SDG Summit advance the follow-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference? More information is available [here](#).

## **SDG 6 & Water Action Agenda Special Event | Monday, 17 July 2023, 10:00-18:00, UN HQ, Conference Room 5**

This Special Event will allow for an in-depth discussion on the findings of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023, provide an analysis of water-related progress, across sectors and global frameworks, showcase the success stories and lessons learned, and generate new commitments to the Water Action Agenda. The Special Event will start with a youth takeover, where youth organisations will review the UN 2023 Water Conference and discuss how the perspectives of young people can be included and strengthened going forward. This will be followed by a Keynote segment, with inputs from high-level speakers, including an analysis on the Water Action Agenda and a presentation on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023. The following discussions on the implementation of the Water Action Agenda will be organised thematically according to the accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework: Governance, Innovation, Data and Information, Capacity Development and Financing. The event will be webcasted on UN Web TV. More information is available [here](#). The page is being continuously updated.



# Water Action Agenda

To catalyse action, a key outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference was the [Water Action Agenda](#), which has captured over 800 commitments as of July 2023. The Water Action Agenda is a collection of water-related voluntary commitments that will accelerate progress in the second half of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, towards achieving SDG 6 by 2030. The Water Action Agenda signifies the resolute determination of the global community to address water challenges through a more coordinated and results-driven approach.

Building upon ongoing efforts and harnessing the political momentum generated by the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Water Action Agenda remains open and will mobilize action across nations, sectors, and stakeholders to achieve the global goals and targets related to water and sanitation. Member States, the UN system, and all stakeholders are encouraged to continue to contribute to the Water Action Agenda by adding their voluntary commitments to the [database](#).





# Blueprint for Acceleration: Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023

'Blueprint for Acceleration: Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023' aims to provide a strategic response to the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference by providing a "blueprint" to accelerate progress on water and sanitation, including the implementation of Water Action Agenda commitments. As a blueprint, the report will be a concise guide to delivering concrete results – offering actionable policy recommendations directed towards senior decision-makers in Member States, other stakeholders, and the United Nations System to get the world on track to achieve SDG 6 by 2030.

The report, written by the UN-Water family of Members and Partners, provides a forward-looking collective vision for sustainable and resilient water and sanitation management in the second part of the 2030 Agenda. The publication will be made available [here](#) in July 2023.



## 2023 Data Drive for SDG 6 to improve evidence-base and inform on acceleration needs

In March this year, the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6) launched its third round of global data compilation on the SDG 6 global indicators, the 2023 Data Drive. Seeking to close data gaps, improve data quality and enable an analysis of trends and acceleration needs, it involves countries collecting and reporting data on SDG 6 indicators 6.3.1-6.6.1 to UN custodian agencies, coordinated by UN-Water.

In the past months, country focal points have received a request for updated country data, together with different types of capacity support, such as methodologies, helpdesks, webinars and workshops. Custodian agencies are currently accepting data submissions, which are then validated together with the countries. The updated data will be published in 2024, in the SDG global database, the SDG 6 Data Portal, and in indicator-specific progress reports.

Other national, basin, regional and global stakeholders are encouraged to engage in the 2023 Data Drive, to raise awareness and support country focal points in their efforts. For more information, please contact [monitoring@unwater.org](mailto:monitoring@unwater.org).

## New data and progress report on WASH in households (SDG 6.1.1-6.2.1)

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) 2023 update report, Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2022: Special focus on gender, presents data on global progress towards achieving universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH, SDG 6.1.1-6.2.1), while revealing the unique risks that women and girls face from inadequate access to safe WASH.

The report shows that in 2022, 2.2 billion people (or 1 in 4) still lacked safely managed drinking water, 3.5 billion (or 2 in 5) lacked safely managed sanitation, and 2 billion (or 1 in 4) lacked basic hygiene services. Achieving the SDG 6 targets for universal access to WASH will now require a six-fold increase in current rates of progress for drinking water, a five-fold increase for sanitation, and a three-fold increase for hygiene. The report also shows that globally, women are most likely to be responsible for fetching water for households, while girls are nearly twice as likely as boys to bear the responsibility, and spend more time doing it each day. Women and girls are more likely to feel unsafe using a toilet outside of the home and disproportionately feel the impact of lack of hygiene.