

World Water Day 2022
“Towards the UN 2023 Water Conference;
The One Year Mark”

Summary

The PR of Egypt opened the meeting and noted that the importance of the one year mark, it is a critical juncture from the high level statement and one year to go to the 2023 world water conference.

The DPR of Finland in her opening remarks highlighted that the next 12 months is the most important time in advancing the water agenda in decades. The 2023 conference is an opportunity that cannot be missed.

H.E. Jamshed Shoimzoda, First Deputy Minister of Energy and water Resources of Tajikistan stated that the decade provides an opportunity for all of us to take action. The main aim is to make the invisible visible- We need to make our actions more visible. The second Dushanbe water conference will focus on action. Need to bring water on top of the agenda.

H.E. Kitty van der Heijden, Vice Minister of International cooperation of the Netherlands stated that the Netherlands and Tajikistan will be cohosting the first water conference in decades. In March 2021 160 countries signed a statement on water. In March 2023 we will together commit. The Netherlands will work to focus on achieving the SDGs – action oriented, cross sectoral and inclusive. Conference can be the moment the world defines a roadmap and a timeline when the world commits to water security for all.

SG for Water Conference Liu emphasized that the SGs report Our Common Agenda means to reiterate actions for delivering the 2030 Agenda. Millions of people still lack access to water and sanitation. The UN 2023 water conference will address the issues of sustainable and integrated management of water resources. Discussions on the themes for the interactive dialogues are under way. In January DESA launched the consultations and to date the secretariat has received 14 proposals from member states and 79 from stakeholders all over the world. The UN system has developed a zero draft concept note. The themes will be finalized at the one day preparatory meeting to be convened by the PGA by November. The Secretariat will prepare two pre documents; background note for one day preparatory meeting and a report on progress of water action decade. A series of global and regional preparatory meetings will build inclusive networks..

Mohamed Abdel Aty, Minister of Water Resources of Egypt highlighted that the world cannot afford to waste the anticipation of the years from the 46 years. We need a future where we ensure that human rights to water are promoted and fulfilled and SDG6 is achieved. We must address water scarcity. Water stress and desertification will threaten livelihood. Egypt is the most densely populated water stressed country in the world. Egypt will remain a strong advocate for the peaceful settlement of transboundary water issues. As COP27 president will address interlinkages between water and climate agenda. We need a strong UN – political dialogue and a UN system wide approach.

H.E. Ville Skinnari, Minister of development cooperation of Finland – Finland's priorities for the 2023 water conference are clear – we need new investment models and accelerated action. The UN water agenda has been stalled for decades. We need to work together to ensure water security for all.

The SG of WMO Petteri Taalas emphasized that the message from the 6th IPCC assessment report is clear. Climate change is driving water scarcity worldwide, Africa as a continent has become increasingly water scarce. In addition water-related natural disasters are increasing. Only half of the 193 member states have proper early warning services and only one third has access to early warning forecasts. This needs to be addressed urgently.

The Chair of UN Water Hounbo stated that the fact that we are off track on meeting SDG6 is a major threat to the whole 2030 agenda. SDG6 global acceleration framework – since we launched the framework nearly 2 years ago UN agencies. Civil society and other actors have been using it to drive forward.

The State Secretary for Environment **for** Germany, Stefan Tidow emphasized that we need nothing more and nothing less than an ambitious agenda. Bonn water conferences – 65 countries have expressed support for the statement of the Bonn water conference, which included a call for a Special Envoy on Water. Germany will work to support the secretariat to ensure the inclusivity of the conference and its preparatory process.

In the interventions from the floor 17 countries spoke. The PR of Pakistan and the Chair of G77 stated that protection of water as a natural resource is a common thread for all the SDGs. Water scarcity is already taking a toll on people in Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the top ten water scarce countries in the world.

France: support UN2023 vision, strengthening of water governance including IWRM; promote human rights to water. Support the proposal of UN envoy on water, also the possibility that UN 2023 launch a global compact on water. France is participating in WWF in Dakar at ministerial level.

The PR of Slovenia said that the cross regional statement gained support for a range of key countries. The 2023 conference should maintain clear focus on achieving SDG6. EU Council conclusions on water agreed in 2021 outlines the priorities of EU for the conference.

The PR of Switzerland said that the conference is putting water firmly in global agenda. Switzerland believes that the conference has to step out of the water box – address issues such as food security and climate change – Nexus approach.

The PR of Jordan said it is essential that we agree on the priorities and have a common agreement on the approach. Water security is a key issue.

The DPR Hungary spoke about the work of the GoF on wash. There is a lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation that needs to be addressed.

The DPR of Malaysia DPR stated that the event today is important and timely. Malaysia wants to achieve water agenda and has taken significant steps nationally.

The DPR of Portugal spoke about the high level symposium hosted in June in Portugal and invited countries to take part.

The DPR of Indonesia emphasized the need for multistakeholder partnerships and the need to ensure affordability of water technologies.

The DPR of El Salvador emphasized the need to ensure water security for all, and the sustainable use of water as a means to eradicating poverty.

Senegal informed the meeting of the ongoing Dakar water week and the work of the organization of the development of the Senegal river. Water requires global governance. Morocco emphasized the need for action oriented solutions.

Brazil: Cross regional Statement on Water was a strong politic message. Water is essential to achieve Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. UN 2023 is an important opportunity to enhance Water visibility and all water related goals and targets of Agenda 2030.

US: Critical role of water security, transformational power of water to every human being; global water security is essential for economic growth, food security, decrease conflicts and instability and tackle climate change. Global water scarcity as a threat. Water insecurity will be driver for instability. Large domestic investment in Water and adaptation.

Australia: Asia-Pacific water in summit and Dushanbe water conference. UN2023 requires engagement between governments and civil society to push water Agenda. The interactive debates could be covering wide and comprehensive issues related to social, environmental and economic. The idea of UN envoy on water as presented in Bon key messages.