



## 1<sup>st</sup> Online Stakeholders Briefing: UN 2023 Water Conference

15 June 2022, 10:00-11:00 am EDT (New York)

[Link to event website](#)

### Welcoming remarks – The Vision for the UN 2023 Water Conference

**Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG, UNDESA**, welcomed all participants to the 1<sup>st</sup> Online Stakeholders Briefing on the UN 2023 Water Conference and invited the Co-Hosts of the Netherlands and Tajikistan to deliver opening remarks.

**Mr. Henk WJ Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs (the Netherlands) and Mr. Sulton Rahimzoda, Special Envoy of the President of Tajikistan on Water Affairs**, shared a [presentation](#) featuring the Co-Hosts vision for the UN 2023 Water Conference, “Our watershed moment: Uniting the world for water”. The Co-Hosts stressed the importance of water in solving all global challenges and reminded that water-related crises particularly affect the most vulnerable. The close partnership between the Co-Hosts and the collaboration with all different stakeholders were highlighted as key enablers for a successful Conference.

The three main principles of the Conference were presented, being 1) inclusive, 2) cross-sectoral and 3) action-oriented. It was emphasized that the Conference will only be a historical moment with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. The Co-Hosts focused on the action-oriented nature of the Conference, calling attention to the need to quadruple efforts to achieve SDG6 and related goals. Participants were encouraged to enter the Conference with clear actions and commitments. In addition, the three main deliverables of the Conference were outlined, including a summary and voluntary commitments.

Furthermore, Mr. Rahimzoda shared his experiences from the Dushanbe Water Conference that took place on 6-9 June 2022, and pointed out how the experiences and outcomes will be valuable input to the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York.

### The UN 2023 Water Conference – Stakeholder Participation

**Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG, UNDESA**, shared brief information with participants and reminded all to [subscribe to email updates](#). Ms. Tahtinen referred participants to the Conference [website](#) for regular updates and invited all to review the summary report on the [Global Online Stakeholder Consultation](#) for the UN 2023 Water Conference.

## Special Accreditation for non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders

**Ms. Kathryn Good, Head, UN Non-governmental Liaison Service at United Nations, UN-NGLS**, shared information about the process of special accreditation for non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders process, emphasizing that all organizations that are not in consultative status with ECOSOC or have been accredited to attend the [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#) must [apply](#) for special accreditation by the deadline, **15 July 2022**. Ms. Good stressed the importance of including all required documents in the application, highlighting the opportunity for organizations to outline their relevance to the Conference. The final decision on accreditation will be made by Member States.

**Ms. Naiara Costa, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UNDESA/DSDG/OPB**, emphasized the inclusiveness of the Conference and called to attention that only organizations are eligible to apply for special accreditation. Individuals will need to be affiliated with accredited organizations in order to be registered to attend the Conference. Information about registration of individuals under accredited organizations including number of representatives and applications for side events by accredited organizations will be communicated at a later stage. Ms. Costa stressed the importance of being accredited to participate at the Conference and for those interested in applying to submit the documents as soon as possible. The first round of special accreditation is expected to be completed by September.

Participants were referred to the [website](#) for more information, including the [FAQ](#) section to be updated with questions received in the briefing.

## Closing Remarks

**Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG, UNDESA**, thanked all participants for joining. She informed that the recording and presentation would be shared with participants and made available on the [website](#). Follow up questions could be sent to [dsdg@un.org](mailto:dsdg@un.org) with subject line [2023 UN Water Conference]. Ms. Tahtinen also presented the opportunity to follow the Conference remotely through live broadcast (UN WebTV) and to take part in virtual preparatory activities.

**Mr. Henk WJ Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs (the Netherlands)** and **Mr. Sulston Rahimzoda, Special Envoy of the President of Tajikistan on Water Affairs**, thanked all participants for their engagement, and expressed their appreciation of stakeholders sharing comments, ideas, and expectations during the preparatory process.