

Videoboodschap van minister-president Mark Rutte voor de preparatory consultations op 25 oktober 2022 ter voorbereiding op de UN 2023 Water Conference

Excellencies, distinguished guests, colleagues and friends,

Thank you all for being present today, at one of the most important moments in the run-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference in march.

That's only six months from now.

With your presence here you acknowledge that water is one of the most defining issues of our time.

As do we in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, because we know about water challenges.

After all, ours is a Kingdom that consists of island countries in the Caribbean and a low lying, densely populated delta country at the North Sea coast.

So we all realize: water plays a crucial role in all global crises and sectors.

It underpins every issue we're facing today: whether it's energy, food, health, gender equality or climate change.

These linkages are at the core of the discussions you will have today.

We must understand water's complexity, value water holistically and invest in a water secure world for all.

The truth is: our collective actions so far have been way too little way too late.

Therefore Tajikistan and the Netherlands, as cohosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference have proposed the Water Action Agenda.

A platform for voluntary commitments and game changers.

To make that agenda work, I ask of you three things:

I ask your political commitment and presence at the highest level.

I your own in-house commitments and policies at home.

And last but not least, I ask your financial commitment.

So please speak out, bring forward your commitments to the Water Action Agenda and together we will step up our pace.

Because if we want to create a wave of change for the future of water, every drop counts and we have no time to lose.

Thank you.