



UN 2023 Water Conference

Frequently Asked Questions about the Participation

Of: NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS

Updated on 10 October 2022

1. Who can participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meeting?

According to [A/RES/75/212](#), 4 (f) the Conference should “*involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as support further action to implement, the objectives of the Decade and the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*”

Paragraphs 22 invites “*other relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, whose work is relevant to the Conference, accredited in accordance with the provisions set forth in annex II to the present resolution, to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory meeting.*”

2. Which civil society organizations, private sector, academia and other stakeholders can participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meeting?

Relevant stakeholders, including **non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations and other actors**, whose work is relevant to the UN 2023 Water Conference, accredited in accordance with the provisions set forth in Annex II of [A/RES/75/212](#) will be able to request registration to participate as observers in the Conference and in its preparatory meeting.

3. Which organizations can register participants to the Conference and its preparatory meeting?

Organizations that fall under the following categories will be able to request to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference:

- a. Non-governmental organizations **in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council** ([Special, General or Roster consultative status](#)). You can check if your organization has consultative status [here](#).
- b. Organizations that have **received special accreditation** by the UN General Assembly to the following past Summit (please click on the link for details):
 - i. [The World Summit on Sustainable Development](#);
- c. Organizations that receive special accreditation by the UN General Assembly to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference.
 - Outcomes of the first round of Special Accreditation to the UN 2023 Water Conference (August 2022) can be found [here](#).
 - For information about the second round of special accreditation to the UN 2023 Water Conference, please check below.

4. My organization is not on the lists above – can we attend the UN 2023 Water Conference?

Civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations whose work is relevant to the Conference and which are not listed in categories **a)** and **b)** above will be able to request Special Accreditation to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meeting.

Interested organizations should apply following the procedures detailed below. Approved organizations will be able to request registration of representatives to attend the preparatory meeting and the 2023 UN Water Conference.

Please carefully review the following sections of this FAQ before applying for special accreditation.

5. How can I request Special Accreditation for my organization?

The first round of Special Accreditation was held from 16 May to 15 July 2022 and is now CLOSED.

Outcomes of the first round of Special Accreditation to the UN Water Conference (August 2022) can be found [here](#).

A second round of Special Accreditation will open from **31 October – 02 December 2022**. Please, check the [UN 2023 Water Conference stakeholder engagement page](#) for updates.

6. My organization applied for Special Accreditation. What is the process for Special Accreditation requests to be reviewed?

The United Nations Secretariat reviews each submission and its documentation. Submissions that are complete and relevant to the UN 2023 Water Conference are compiled and sent to the Office of the President of the General Assembly (PGA). The PGA submits the list for the review of United Nations Member States under a non-objection basis. After the review by Member States, the PGA publishes the final list of organizations specially accredited to the Conference.

Outcomes of the first round of Special Accreditation to the UN Water Conference (August 2022) can be found [here](#).

7. When will I know if my organization was specially accredited to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference?

Outcomes of the first round of Special Accreditation to the UN Water Conference (August 2022) can be found [here](#).

A second round of Special accreditation will open from **31 October – 02 December 2022**. Check the [UN 2023 Water Conference stakeholder engagement page](#) for updates.

8. What is the difference between accreditation and registration for the UN 2023 Water Conference?

Special accreditation is granted to **organizations** whose work is considered relevant to the UN 2023 Water Conference. Once accredited, organizations would need to request registration of their representatives (individuals) to attend the UN 2023 Water Conference and/or its preparatory meeting.

All accredited organizations, including non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (Special, General or Roster consultative status), organizations that have received special accreditation by the UN General Assembly to the past [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#) and organizations that received special accreditation by the UN General Assembly to the UN 2023 Water Conference ([here](#)) will need to request registration of representatives to attend the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meeting. Details about how to register will be shared in due time at the Conference webpage.

9. My organization has received Special Accreditation to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference, do I still need to register for the Conference? Can I just show a copy of the confirmation letter to participate at the Conference and its preparatory meeting?

Special accreditation of your organization **DOES NOT** automatically mean that you are registered to the UN 2023 Water Conference and/or its preparatory meeting. All organizations will **need to register** their representatives to be able to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference. Information about registration to the preparatory meeting and for the UN 2023 Water Conference will be published in due time at the Conference's website. Presenting only a copy of the confirmation letter on Special Accreditation will not grant participation at the UN 2023 Water Conference and/or its Preparatory Meeting.

10. I do not belong to any organization. Can I attend the Conference?

Unfortunately, you cannot register to the Conference as an individual. Participants must be connected to an accredited organization or to a United Nations Member State delegation in order to have registrations confirmed. You will, however, be able to follow the proceedings through the webcast.

11. My organization has consultative status with ECOSOC. Do I need to register to attend the Conference?

Yes. All participants **will need to register** to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meeting.

12. How can I register to participate at the Conference and/or its preparatory meeting? (UPDATED)

Pursuant to the [letter of the President of the General Assembly of 27 July 2022](#), a one-day preparatory meeting will be held on **25 October 2022** for the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, to be convened from 22 to 24 March 2023, with the aim of finalizing the themes of the interactive dialogues and other outstanding organizational matters of the Conference. Registration for accredited organizations is now open for the Prep Meeting, more details could be found on the website: bit.ly/Water25Oct.

Additionally, to ensure the meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, the one-day preparatory meeting will be preceded by a stakeholder consultation also convened by the President of the General Assembly on **24 October 2022**. More information is available here: bit.ly/Water24Oct.

Registration to the Preparatory Meeting (25 Oct) and Stakeholder Consultation (24 Oct) are now open till 19 October 2022. Check the dedicated websites below for more details.

PGA’s Preparatory Meeting (In-person, 25 October): bit.ly/Water25Oct

PGA’s Stakeholder Consultation (Hybrid, 24 October): bit.ly/Water24Oct

Registration to the UN 2023 Conference in March will open in the beginning of 2023.

13. How many representatives can each organization register to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meeting?

Information about the number of participants each organization will be able to register will be shared when registration opens. Please, check this page for updates: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/stakeholders>.

14. Are funds available for stakeholders to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meeting?

Registered stakeholders are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. The United Nations does not charge a fee for participation in the UN 2023 Water Conference or any of its official events.

15. I represent a city and/or a regional government. Can I participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meeting?

Representatives of local and regional governments should register through their Member State delegation. Registration information for all categories of participants will be posted on the website: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>.

Associations of local and regional governments can also request special accreditation. Associations of local and regional governments in consultative status with ECOSOC will also be able to register participants.

16. Are there opportunities for stakeholders to speak during the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meeting?

Yes. Information on engagement opportunities will be published [here](#). You may also sign up to the general mailing list to receive updates. Please, check [here](#).

17. Can NGOs and other stakeholders organize side events at the UN 2023 Water Conference?

Yes. Accredited organizations will be able to apply for side events once the process is open. Information will be published on [the website](#).

18. I need a visa to travel to the United States, what type of visa I need to apply for to participate at the UN 2023 Water Conference? (NEW)

Representatives from accredited organizations, who have received the confirmation of their registration to attend the UN 2023 Water Conference, will be able to apply to the C-2 Visa Class (rather than the visitor B class).

The C-2 visa classification is specifically designed for individuals who are not officials of a government but who are transiting to and from the UN Headquarters District. Additionally, eligible C-2 visa applicants do not pay visa fees, receive expedited reviews of their applications, and may have an in-person interview waived. To be eligible for a C-2 visa, in addition to their applications, individuals must submit evidence that they are either invited by a UN office to participate in a UN event (registration confirmation letter issued by the United Nations) or represent an NGO in consultative status with the UN.

Individuals invited by the UN or representing NGOs in consultative status with the UN may still choose to apply for a different visa class, including visitor (“B”) visas, or travel on a current visitor visa. However, if an individual who is eligible for a C-2 visa chooses to apply for a visitor visa, the applicant will be subject to the requirements for a visitor visa, including fees and in-person

interviews, as well as to the timelines provided by the embassy or consulate at which they are applying. The applicant is responsible for requesting from the embassy or consulate an expedited appointment or interview, if needed. Wait times at many US visa processing posts around the world are significantly longer than they have been in prior years, given visa application backlogs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information on C-2 visa to the United States, please check the [relevant website of the U.S. Department of State](#) or contact your nearest U.S. embassy/consulate.

Do you still have questions? Please, email: water2023@un.org