



United Nations 2023 Water Conference

22-24 March 2023

Guidelines for Side Events

Pursuant to General Assembly decision [A/RES/73/226](#) of 20 December 2018, the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action (UN 2023 Water Conference) will be held from **22 to 24 March 2023 at the UN Headquarters in New York**. The co-hosts are the governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan.

Side events can be organized in connection with the UN 2023 Water Conference, **either in-person or virtually**, by Member States, the UN system, Intergovernmental Organizations and accredited non-governmental stakeholders. The side events will be an opportunity for all participants to share knowledge and solutions to accelerate implementation of SDG 6, identify new and emerging issues, exchange national and local experiences and practices, and showcase voluntary commitments for the [Water Action Agenda](#).

Who are eligible to organize side events?

Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), UN entities and [all other accredited organizations](#) can apply to have a side event inside the UN Headquarters, outside the UN Headquarters or virtually.

Criteria for side events

In view of the large number of requests anticipated and taking into consideration the limited space and time allocated for the side events, the following principles will be applied by the Secretariat when conducting the selection of side events:

- [Side events can only be organized by UN Member States, UN entities, relevant Intergovernmental Organizations and stakeholder organizations that are accredited to the Conference](#). All interested parties are strongly encouraged to partner with others to organize a side event.
- Priority will be given to events organized by Member States, preferably in partnership with other stakeholders, with an aim of having countries and non-state actors from all regions represented as organizers.
- Proposed side events should be [closely related to the five themes of the Interactive Dialogues](#).
- Side event organizers are encouraged to contribute to the [Water Action Agenda](#), the main outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference, by announcing or showcasing their own voluntary commitments.

- Priority will be given to those events contributing to the [Water Action Agenda](#) through transformative commitments and cross-sectoral partnerships to further strengthen collective action on water in the margins of the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- In the selection of side events, a geographic balance will be strived for ensuring a balanced coverage of side events from applications from the different geographical regions.
- Side events should ensure gender balance and strive for meaningful participation of stakeholders and countries, including civil society, women, youth, indigenous people, academia and others.
- Applications should be limited to ONE per entity for in-person events at the UN Headquarters. Eligible side event organizers are allowed to host more than one side event outside UNHQ or virtually. Organizers can host multiple side events as co-organizers.
- Only one organization should submit the application for the proposed joint side event.

Application process

- **The Open Call for Side Events is open from 5 December – 13 January 2023.**
- **Side events can be organized by UN Member States, UN entities, relevant Intergovernmental Organizations and stakeholder organizations that are accredited to the Conference.**
- Submit completed side event application forms to the Secretariat through [the website](#).
 - In-person side event at the UN Headquarters: <https://bit.ly/Water2023SideEventHQ>
 - In-person side event outside the UN Headquarters: <https://bit.ly/Water2023SideEventOutsideHQ>
 - Virtual side event: <https://bit.ly/Water2023SideEventVirtual>
- Deadline for submission of applications is **13 January 2023**.

Selection process

- The Secretariat will work with the co-hosts of the Conference to select side events, based on the above-mentioned criteria. Organizers of approved applications will be notified directly by **6 February 2023**. Only organizers whose side events have been approved will be contacted by the Secretariat.

Format of side events

- Side events can be hosted in-person or virtually.
- In-person side events at the UN Headquarters can be a maximum of 75 minutes in duration. Side events outside the UN Headquarters or virtually have no time limit imposed by the Secretariat
- In-person side events can be organized either inside the UN Headquarters in New York, or in outside locations in New York City. Please note that participation in events held inside the UN Headquarters is restricted to registered and approved participants of the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- Space inside the UN Headquarters is very limited, and participation will be restricted only to duly [registered participants](#) to the UN 2023 Water Conference. In case space is not available within the

UN Headquarters premises, organizers are encouraged to find an alternative location in New York City or organize the event virtually.

- For side events outside UNHQ and virtually, side event organizers are responsible for choosing the event location/platform and must bear ALL costs incurred.
- Participation in the UN 2023 Water Conference is free for all participants. Charging a fee for participation in side events is strictly prohibited.

Who can I contact about side events?

- For questions regarding side events, please contact water2023@un.org indicating [Side Events] in the subject.

For more information on the UN 2023 Water Conference, please visit

- [UN 2023 Water Conference official website](#)
- [UN 2023 Water Conference side events page](#)
- [UN 2023 Water Conference general FAQ](#)
- [UN 2023 Water Conference stakeholder engagement page](#)
- [UN 2023 Water Conference Trello Board](#) with public communication and outreach materials