



REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA

ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE ACTION



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
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2023

Intervention by H.E. the Secretary of State for Environment of Portugal, Mr. Hugo Polido Pires

Interactive Dialogue 3:

***Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea,
Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction
(SDGs 6.5, 6.6, 7, 11.5, 13, 14, 15)***

23 March 2023, UNHQ Conference Room 4 (10:00-13:00)

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Co-Chairs for giving Portugal the opportunity to contribute to this important dialogue, aiming to provide a detailed and comprehensive overview of the interlinkages between Water, Climate, Resilience and Environment.

Climate change and its impacts are making water scarcer, more unpredictable, more polluted.

These impacts throughout the water cycle threaten sustainable development, biodiversity, and people's access to water and sanitation.

In Portugal, as in many other latitudes, we are experiencing these impacts, such as droughts, wildfires, coastal erosion, or desertification.

It is, thus, crucial, to underline the role of healthy water-related ecosystems and sustainable water resources management for climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates,

We would like to stress the importance of reducing water pollution and increasing water quality and water use efficiency.

It is very important to address the role of wastewater treatment and new solutions, such as water reuse.

In line with this approach and bearing in mind the central role that water, and sanitation play in guaranteeing well-being, public health, security, environmental protection and to support economic activities, **Portugal is launching a Global Coalition for Better Policies and Regulation of Water and Sanitation.**

This initiative was presented as a voluntary commitment, aiming to accelerate SDG6 and other water-related Goals implementation, paving the way for follow-up initiatives that will continue to put water and sanitation services at the top of the international agenda.

Distinguished Delegates,

Cooperation through effective multilateralism remains the best way to tackle today's and tomorrow's global challenges.

In this regard, Portugal would like to emphasize the relevance to give water a stronger voice, through the appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water.

We also consider relevant to deepen our reflection about an “inter-cop” process.

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates

Portugal will continue working relentlessly to accelerate the achievement of water goals and enable better water outcomes to contribute to climate resilience, and environmental objectives.

Thank you.