

2023 UN WATER CONFERENCE

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE 5:

Water Action Decade:

Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary General's Action Plan

Co-chaired by Singapore and the United States of America

Co-Chairs' Conclusions

Member states and stakeholders offered the following ideas and proposals during Interactive Dialogue; these are not consensus ideas but rather a reflection of the general statements made.

First, water and the global water cycle needs to be protected collectively, and in the interests of all:

- Countries and communities are inter-connected regionally and globally not only by transboundary rivers and lakes, but also atmospheric water flows.
- The global water cycle is now out of balance; the water crisis is interacting with the twin crises of climate change and the loss of biodiversity in ways that exacerbate all three.
- Water is critical not only to achieve SDG 6, but all the other SDGs.

Second, valuing water correctly, including pricing water closer to its true value while providing appropriate targeted subsidies, could help secure more efficient, equitable and sustainable use of water.

Interventions during Interactive Dialogue 5 converged on several possible institutional processes and mechanisms to take forward the ideas and proposals of the UN Water Conference including:

- Transforming the multilateral system for water within the UN system including by:
 - appointing a UN Special Envoy for Water;
 - convening a time-bound task force of Member States to work with and support the UN Special Envoy for Water and help develop a plan of action on water;
 - strengthening the governance of water within the UN system, including through the strengthening UN-Water; and
 - Strengthening the connections among existing mechanisms to collect and share data on water, for early warning alerts and analytics to inform policy and, if needed consider establishing new mechanisms to fill any gaps.
- Reform multilateral finance institutions to mobilise capital to better support Member States in achieving water, climate and nature resilience.
- Bring together every stream of finance – redirecting subsidies that encourage the inefficient use of water and bringing together both public

and private streams of finance internationally to lower the cost of capital for water, especially in the developing world.

- Incentivise joint action on the ground through networked multi-stakeholder coalitions – local communities, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organisations, local and national governments, and international organisations.
- Develop skills and build capacity globally - especially for women and those working at the frontlines of water conservation.
- Convene the next UN Water Conference before 2028 to sustain the momentum of water-related actions and foster accountability for progress after this conference.

To bring coherence to these various institutional initiatives and mechanisms, we call on the UNSG to formulate a plan of action on water, and to ensure the integration of water into other inter-governmental processes, including the SDG Summit, the Summit of the Future, and upcoming climate and biodiversity COPs.

Water is a solvable problem, and we can turn the water crisis into a tremendous global opportunity.

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