



UN
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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Fair Water Footprints: ambition, accountability and action for SDG6

Friday 24th March, 2pm, Trusteeship Council Chamber

Organized by: UK Government FCDO, Water Witness International,
CDP, Chatham House, Glasgow Declaration for Fair Water Footprints

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Launched at COP26, the Glasgow Declaration for Fair Water Footprints aims to establish water stewardship as the global business norm, and to put water justice and climate resilience at the centre of trade and investment. The 28 Signatories – representing 185 million people and US \$5 trillion GDP – commit to delivering zero pollution, sustainable withdrawal, universal WASH access, protection of nature, and resilience to climate shocks in their supply chains by 2030. Through the Declaration, Governments from the global north and south, banks, corporations, researchers and civil society are working together on new, transformational drivers such as markets and trade.

Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the [Water Action Agenda database](#))

To realise the ambition of the UN Water Action Agenda, we will deliver on our far-reaching leadership commitments, recruit new Signatories, and share lessons to transform the way water is used in global supply chains. We will work with the UN to use all available levers (e.g. standards, trade policies, and business practice) to harness the power of enterprise, investment and communities to deliver sustainable water and sanitation for all by 2030.

[Fair Water Footprints: Ambition, Accountability and Action for SDG6 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- New global water footprinting research by Water Witness International finds that 50% of the Global North's blue water footprint is from unsustainable sources, including

regions facing severe water scarcity, locking communities into climate vulnerability, resource depletion, ecosystem degradation and conflict, while also putting important global supply chains at risk. Report here: <https://waterwitness.org/news-events/2023/3/20/new-data-reveals-extent-of-global-north-reliance-on-unsustainable-water-sources>

- UK, Finland and Malawi governments outlined their delivery plans on the five pillars of the Fair Water Footprints declaration to address this. By 2030, Declaration Signatories are committed to delivering on these five SDG6-aligned outcomes in their supply chains:
 - Zero pollution
 - WASH for workers
 - Equitable withdrawals
 - Protection of nature
 - Building climate resilience
- Danone outlined their activities to address unsustainable water use in their supply chains
- Three new signatories to the Declaration were announced: WRAP, Bankabio Loos, Earth Guardians <https://fairwaterfootprints.org/2023/03/23/declaration-for-fair-water-footprints-welcomes-two-new-signatories-on-world-water-day/>
- Read the Fair Water Footprints declaration commitments here: <https://fairwaterfootprints.org/>

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Businesses, supermarkets, and investors associated with supply chains and footprints identified as unsustainable or at risk must now proactively demonstrate credible water stewardship and engage in collective action for shared water security.
- Resource a global Sustainable Development Goal 6, or SDG 6, Accountability Facility to channel financial, technical, and legal support to civil society in the global south so that they can investigate, monitor and take action on unjust and unsustainable use within supply chains.
- Intergovernmental collaboration between consumer and producer nations, new aid, investment, and technical assistance for shared water security, which prioritizes those most vulnerable.
- Systemic change in global financing, trade, and procurement, to drive divestment from companies that abuse water and to ensure that water footprints support rather than undermine SDG 6 delivery — including via the Fair Water Footprints initiative.
- Joint call from panel for governments, corporations and investors to sign up to the Fair Water Footprints Declaration www.fairwaterfootprints.org