



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Partnerships and Cooperation for Water: The main findings of the United Nations World Water Development Report 2023 and experiences from the countries

22 March 2023 from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm
UNHQ, Conference Room 5

Organized by:

Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations - MAECI, Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy and UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme

Contributing partners:

UN-Water (FAO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO IHP), OECD

Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia

Stakeholders: FAO-Mountain Partnership, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat – AKAH, World Youth Parliament for Water

Background on the event

The United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR) is the UN system's most authoritative water report, providing decision-makers with the critical knowledge and tools needed to formulate and implement sustainable water policies and actions. Launched each year on World Water Day (22 March), 2023 edition, entitled 'Partnerships and Cooperation for Water', has been designed to inform and inspire the dialogues and deliberations of the 2023 UN Water Conference. Building on the findings of the report, this side event highlighted relevant experiences at the local, regional and national level in Italy and other countries.

Water Action Agenda

Not only the 2023 Report but the previous editions of the UN WWDR contribute to inform many commitments submitted for the UN 2023 Water Conference:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/wwap/wwdr#thematic-reports-2014---present>

Key Issues discussed

The session shared the key findings of the 2023 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report underlining that:

- Almost all water-related interventions involve cooperation from local to global scales. Similarly, formal and informal agreements through water partnerships bring together a variety of stakeholders with different objectives and perspectives;
- Partnerships in different sectors are key to ensure water, food and energy security;
- Transboundary nature of water resources necessitates that partnerships and co-operation practices take into account the need for basin level management;
- Financing in water sector is not sufficient. Co-operation and partnerships would help addressing this challenge;
- Amongst many, partnerships between the nature and human beings are the most critical to ensure wellbeing of all and to address the triple crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution;
- National efforts are underway to improve water management practices. Partnerships between science community and policy making circles need to be strengthened.

Key recommendations for action

- Building partnerships and strengthening cooperation in all dimensions of sustainable development are essential to accelerate the achievement of all SDG targets and to realise human rights to water and sanitation. No-one must be left behind;
- It is important to focus on partnerships that implement nature-based solutions, involve local, indigenous peoples;
- Mixed financing systems should be developed to overcome the lack of resources needed to achieve SDG 6;
- Data from science must be taken into account in water policies.
The intersectoral nature of water, crossing all the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, also requires the exploration of opportunities for new models of partnerships and cooperation across all scales, from the municipal, national and basin levels through to the global;
- Safeguarding water, food and energy security through sustainable water management, providing water supply and sanitation services to all, supporting human health and livelihoods, mitigating the impacts of climate change and extreme events, and sustaining and restoring ecosystems and the valuable services they provide, are all pieces of a great and complex puzzle. Only through partnerships and cooperation can the pieces come together. And everyone has a role to play.