



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Water Stress. Addressing water challenges in fragile settings in Africa

23- March-2023, 11.00-12.15 (Eastern Time), ROOM A

Organized by: UNOPS

TWO PAGE MAXIMUM

Background on the event (one paragraph)

In Africa, 400 million people lack access to essential drinking water. The progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 – clean water and sanitation for all – is worryingly off track. Achieving the related target of Agenda 2063 (Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future) of reducing the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water is unlikely. Across the continent, the most fragile countries are generally those with the poorest sanitation and water supply systems or where the water is too much, too little, or too polluted to be used. In areas where water resources are shared, scarcity often triggers conflict. As part of the UN 2023 Water Conference, UNOPS hosted a side event bringing together partners and experts to discuss ways to mitigate water stress in Africa, focusing on fragile situations.

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

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Challenges that the Government of Niger faces in providing water to its population.
- Challenges that the lack of water poses to Africa’s development.
- Most urgent water needs of people living in fragile settings.

- Government initiatives in Niger to overcome water stress.
- The role the international community plays to address water challenges.
- Lesson learned from success stories across Africa to accelerate progress toward achieving SDG6.
- Measures the governments and communities should put in place to ensure the sustainability of infrastructures.
- Implementation as the bottleneck to achieving SDG6: The weak implementing capacity of governments in fragile countries diminishes the many initiatives launched to mobilize financial resources for investment in water.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Bring together policymakers, scientists, local authorities, and communities to put water on the agenda for mitigating water stress.
- Creating new policies and investments to achieve progress on SDG6.
- Putting in place tools such as community radio which allow people to lead their own communication.
- Teaming up in doing better interventions with a strong emphasis on knowledge and capacity to execute sound projects.
- Engaging with young people to accelerate the progress towards achieving SDG6.
- New partnership model between local partners, implementing agencies, and financial institutions to ensure effective implementation of water infrastructure.