

# Briefing to Member States on the UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogues

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Uniting the world for water

**UN 2023 Water Conference**  
22-24 March, UNHQ, New York

Co-hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands



## **Interactive Dialogue 5:**

***Water Action Decade: Accelerating the  
Implementation of the Objectives of the Decade,  
including through the UN Secretary-General's Action  
Plan***

# Interactive Dialogue 5: Concept note organization and rationale

- **Introduction** of the Decade and its objectives
- **The Water Action Decade at the midpoint: opportunities for progress** review the progress made and ambitions communicated to present
- **Recommendations** for how the future progress on the Water Action Decade aligned with the Water Action Agenda
- **Guiding questions** for interventions at the UN 2023 Water Conference

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The **UN 2023 Water Conference** is officially Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, therefore the **Water Action Agenda** emerging from the conference will play a key role in ensuring the success during the remainder of the Decade.

# Interactive Dialogue 5: Opportunities for progress

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## Work streams of the UN Secretary-General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018-2028:

1. Facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices
2. Improving knowledge generation and dissemination
3. Pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships; and
4. Strengthening communication for implementation of the water-related SDGs.

## Successes of the Secretary-General's Plan

UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6

UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative

SDG 6 Data Portal

9<sup>th</sup> Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, (2022-2029)

World Water Day/World Toilet Day campaigns

Water and Climate Coalition

Fair Water Footprints

UN World Water Development Report (UN WWDR)

UN 2023 Water Conference

# Interactive Dialogue 5: Opportunities for progress

## Key events of the preparatory process leading to the conference:

- Water Dialogues for Results (Bonn 2021)
- 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Dakar 2022)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (Kumamoto 2022)
- High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (Dushanbe 2022)
- High-level Symposium on Water at the UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon 2022)



## By the request of the Co-Hosts, the ambitions coming from these events were organized according to the **SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework**:

- Financing
- Data and information
- Capacity development
- Innovation
- Governance

# Interactive Dialogue 5: Opportunities for progress

## Highlighted calls to action under each accelerator

**Financing**: Not only more financing, but effective use of financing and good governance around its regulations and institutions. Earmark funds for communities in situation of vulnerability.

**Data and information**: Disaggregate data to “leave no one behind,” improve data collection efficiency, democratize data and use data better for policy making.

**Capacity development**: Not only strengthen, but enable capacity development. Bolster all types of education related to water (vocational, technical, etc.). Focus on marginalized and allow for Global South leadership in this area.

**Innovation**: Innovate both governance and financial systems to work in more effective ways. Innovate educational systems to keep pace with new skills demands and water use efficiency in ways that incorporates sustainability more than just what is produced per unit of water

**Governance**: More inclusive governance, increase coordination across sectors, improve global water governance, especially with regards to the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference.

# Interactive Dialogue 5: Recommendations (1)

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1. Improve the interface between knowledge, policy and action to address water challenges of the future.
2. Better equip the world with skilled professionals at all levels to address current problems and future demands. Align education and labour to attract, educate, train and retain skilled professionals, especially women, as demands change over time.
3. The water community needs to innovate in all themes, which includes the other four accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. The effort to do so needs to be intensified many times over and create new ways to develop capacities and upscale and sustain solutions.

# Interactive Dialogue 5: Recommendations (2)

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4. Communities and groups of people in situations of vulnerability and/or marginalization (i.e., women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, people living with disabilities, etc.) need to be not only prioritized, but included in decisions that impact them.
5. Cooperating and coordinating across sectors is no longer a luxury, but an imperative. While the water community understands water's importance to sustainable development, it needs to be consistently proactive in its overtures to engage with other sectors.
6. While water and sanitation solutions are very local in nature, there is still much work to be done at the global level to create the best supporting structure to assist where help is needed most and to move forward together towards sustainable water and sanitation management worldwide:
  - Consider a Special Envoy on Water
  - Strengthen UN-Water and enhance UN system-wide approach on water
  - Establish regular intergovernmental meetings on water, potentially alongside the High-level Political Forum
  - Develop mechanism that will facilitate the interaction of water with other international initiatives



# Interactive Dialogue 5: Guiding questions

1. How can Member States, the Decade and the UN system help implement and follow up on the commitments made in the Water Action Agenda? What global governance and political leadership is needed? How can the stronger accountability and incentives needed for SDG 6 delivery be embedded and scaled through the Water Action Agenda?
2. How effective is the Decade at the political level? What would be success or failure of the Decade in five years' time?
3. How can the water community best utilize a Special Envoy for Water to raise the profile of water and accelerate the achievement of SDG 6?
4. How do you see water in a post-2030 Agenda?
5. How can we strengthen multilateralism around water through collaboration between national and multilateral actors? How can we strengthen collaboration/connections between the local and global levels?



**Principals should focus on answering these questions when formulating their interventions**

# Registration Process

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- **There are different processes and deadlines for registration**

Go to <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/participate> for the relevant registration link and information

- **Deadline to register for UN Secretariat, Funds, Programmes, Regional Commission, UN specialized agencies: **Wednesday, 15 March 2023 by COB 5:30 p.m. (EST)****

# Thank you!

**Conference website:** <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>

**Water Action Agenda:** <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/action-agenda>

- [Concept note](#) and [FAQ](#)

**Concept papers for the interactive dialogues:** <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/documentation>

**Register a commitment:** <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/water/register>