



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023



United
Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

United Nations 2023 Water Conference

Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Reporting

Summary of Key Engagement Activities

April 2023



Contents

<u>Background</u>	3
<u>Preparatory Process - Online Consultations</u>	4
<u>Preparatory Process - PGA's Stakeholder Consultation and Preparatory Meeting</u>	5
<u>Briefings and Webinars</u>	6
<u>Special Accreditation Process First Round</u>	7
<u>Special Accreditation Process Second Round</u>	8
<u>Participation at the Conference - Registration</u>	9
<u>Mailing list</u>	10
<u>Stakeholder Interventions – UN 2023 Water Conference Official Sessions</u>	11
<u>Special Events</u>	12
<u>Side Events</u>	13
<u>Written Inputs</u>	14
<u>Water Action Agenda</u>	15
<u>Other</u>	16

Background

This report aims to summarize the key activities related to stakeholder engagement in the lead up to and during the [UN 2023 Water Conference](#) in line with A/RES/75/212:

- Paragraph 4 (f) the Conference should “*involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as support further action to implement, the objectives of the Decade and the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;*”
- Paragraphs 22 invites “*other relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, whose work is relevant to the Conference, accredited in accordance with the provisions set forth in annex II to the present resolution, to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory meeting*”.
- Paragraph 24 “*Stresses the importance of the **participation and full involvement of all relevant stakeholders**, including women, children, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, in the implementation of the Decade at all levels.*”

The stakeholder engagement activities were organized to both raise awareness and share information with all stakeholders about the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory process through multiple channels, as well as to create space and provide opportunities for stakeholders to meaningfully engage in and contribute to both the preparatory process and the Conference itself.

The UN 2023 Water Conference Secretariat expresses gratitude to all stakeholders for the active, passionate, constructive and broad engagement during the preparations and the Conference.

Preparatory Process

To ensure meaningful and substantive engagement of stakeholders in preparation for the UN 2023 Water Conference, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders were invited to contribute their views, comments and inputs on the interactive dialogues of the Conference.

Online Consultations

10 February – 10 March 2022 | Global Online Stakeholder Consultation

- Stakeholders from **46 countries** submitted a total of **146 inputs** on five potential themes to be discussed during the UN 2023 Water Conference, including the rationale for the proposals. More information, including the summary report, can be found [here](#).

9 September – 30 September 2022 | 2nd Online Stakeholder Consultation

- Interested stakeholders from **73 countries** submitted a total of **719 inputs** to contribute their views, comments, and inputs on the themes proposed by the co-hosts for the interactive dialogues. More information, including the summary report, can be found [here](#).



Preparatory Meetings

On 25 October 2022, the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA) held a one-day preparatory meeting. Stakeholders from various sectors actively participated in the meeting to finalize the themes of the interactive dialogues and other important organizational issues related to the UN 2023 Water Conference. In addition, to guarantee the meaningful engagement of all pertinent stakeholders, a stakeholder consultation was conducted on 24 October 2022, preceding the one-day preparatory meeting.

24 October 2022 | The President of the General Assembly's consultation with stakeholders

- One-day consultation with stakeholders to prepare for the UN 2023 Water Conference, co-organized by OPGA and DESA.
- Held in hybrid format, the event featured five interactive roundtables where stakeholders discussed potential transformative game changers that could feed into the Water Action Agenda. The accelerators of the Global Acceleration Framework (governance, capacity development, data and information, innovation and financing) along with the five themes proposed by the co-hosts for the interactive dialogues of the UN 2023 Water Conference guided the discussions.
- **More than 1,100 participants registered** to the event, and **more than 4,000 video views** were held via UN Webcast. **More than 300 requests for speaking slots** were registered and **more than 100 stakeholders intervened** during the meeting. More information is available [here](#).

25 October 2022 | UN 2023 Water Conference Preparatory Meeting

- **Over 300 stakeholder participants** registered to attend in-person at this one-day preparatory meeting as mandated by the General Assembly [A/RES 75/212](#).
- Relevant stakeholders from accredited organizations shared their views on the themes of the interactive dialogues proposed by the co-hosts of the Conference. **7 stakeholders made oral interventions** at the meeting and **42 written inputs** from accredited stakeholder organizations were received. More information is available [here](#).



Briefings and Webinars

In order to ensure the timely dissemination of information regarding the UN 2023 Water Conference, a series of webinars were organized. These webinars served to update stakeholders on the conference proceedings, share opportunities for stakeholder engagement, and provide a platform for questions and answers with stakeholders.

15 June 2022 | 1st Online Stakeholder Briefing

- This 1st Online Stakeholder Briefing was held to share information on the Conference, including opportunities for engagement and expected outcomes. The briefing received over **900 registrations** and **over 500 participants** joined the Zoom or followed on Facebook live. The recording and summary can be found [here](#).

12 October 2022 | 2nd Online Multi-Stakeholder Informative Webinar

- The 2nd Online Multi-Stakeholder Informative Webinar was held to share updated information about the Conference with all stakeholders, including on the preparatory meeting. The briefing received more than **1400 registrations** and more than **800 participants** joined the session live, which was also livestreamed on Facebook. The recording and summary can be found [here](#).

17 – 18 January 2023 | Multi-Stakeholder Thematic Webinars

- A series of Multi-Stakeholder Thematic Webinars were held as an additional opportunity to prepare all stakeholders for the Conference, including to encourage contributions to the Water Action Agenda in the form of transformative gamechangers and voluntary commitments. More than **1800 participants** registered to attend, and participation reached **1000+ participants** on 17 January and **950 participants** on 18 January live on Zoom. The Webinars were also livestreamed on Facebook with over 6200 impressions (as of 19 January 2023) and attracted 130+ new followers to the page (as of 19 January 2023). The recording and summary can be found [here](#).



Special Accreditation Process

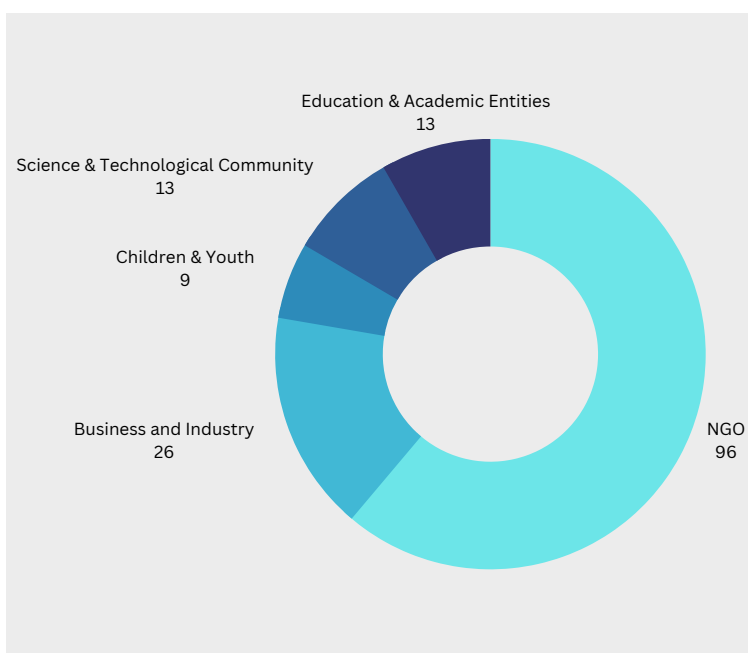
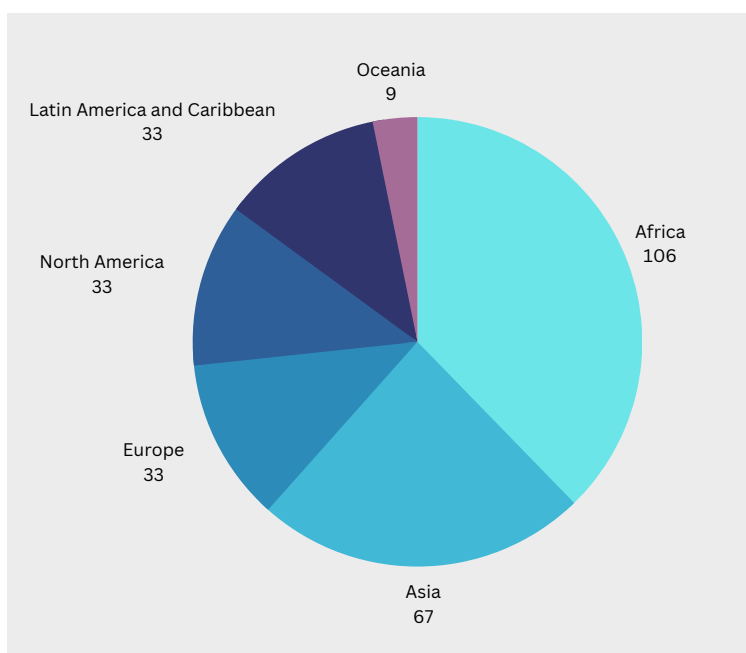
In accordance with the modalities resolution of the Conference, [A/RES/75/212](#), two rounds of special accreditation were undertaken by UN NGLS/DGC resulting in the accreditation of **1,168 civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations** whose work is relevant to the Conference, from **103 countries**.

All applications for special accreditation were reviewed by the UN-NGLS/DGC before they were presented to the General Assembly membership. Special accreditation was granted to organizations or entities by the UN General Assembly on a non-objection basis.

For additional information on the two rounds of special accreditation, see below:

16 May – 15 July 2022 | 1st round of special accreditation

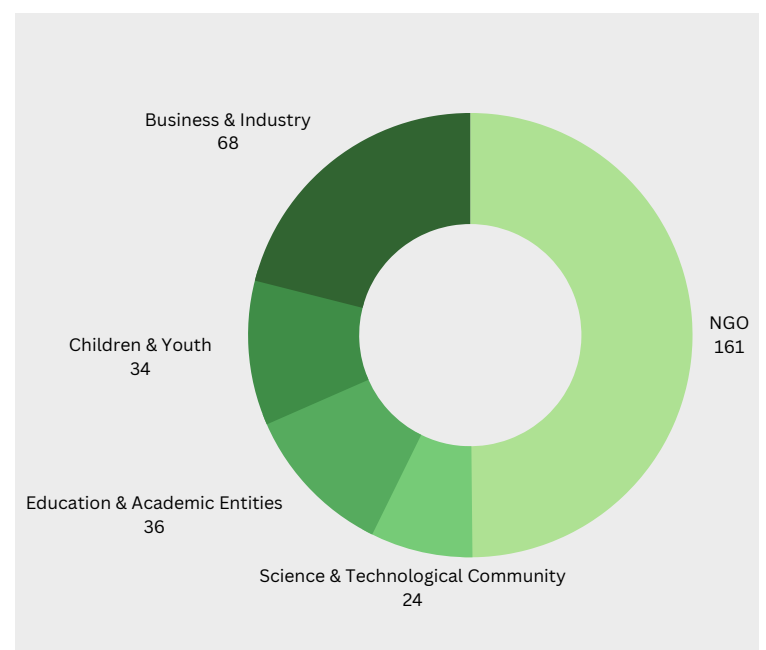
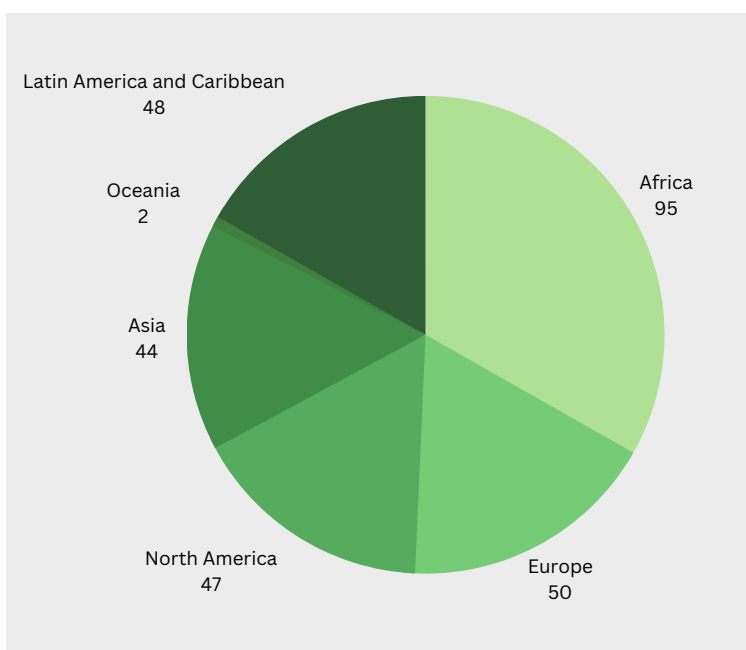
- The 1st round of special accreditation took place 16 May – 15 July 2022, and resulted in the accreditation of **440 organizations**. The list is available [here](#).
- A survey was shared with accredited organizations between 8 – 20 September 2022 focusing on better understanding the sectors, scope and geographic focus of their work. More than **200 responses** from **58 countries** were received.
 - Organizations informed that they were based on or worked in one or more of the following regions: Africa (106); Asia (67); Europe (33); North America (33); Latin America and Caribbean (33) and Oceania (9). Approximately 24% of responding organizations indicated operations at the global level.*
 - Organizations self-identified as follows: non-governmental organizations (96); Business & Industry (26); Education & Academic Entities (13); Science & Technological Community (13); Children & Youth (9); and the remaining identified as women organizations, indigenous peoples, local and regional government and other major groups and other stakeholders.



* Many organizations indicated operations in several regions as well as at the global level. As certain organizations have selected to operate in multiple regions, the figures do not total up to 100%.

31 October – 2 December 2022 | 2nd round of special accreditation

- The 2nd round of special accreditation took place 31 October – 2 December 2022, and resulted in the accreditation of **728 organizations**. The list is available [here](#).
- A survey was also shared with these organizations (between 11 – 31 January 2023) receiving **over 300 responses** from **74 countries**.
 - Organizations informed that they were based on or worked in one or more of the following regions: Africa (95); Europe (50); North America (47); Latin America and Caribbean (48); Asia (44) and Oceania (2). Approximately 2% of responding organizations indicated operations at the global level.*
 - Organizations self-identified in the survey as follows: non-governmental organizations (161); Business & Industry (68); Education & Academic Entities (36); Science & Technological Community (24); Children & Youth (34); and the remaining identified as women organizations, indigenous peoples, local and regional government and other major groups and other stakeholders.



* Many organizations indicated operations in several regions as well as at the global level. As certain organizations have selected to operate in multiple regions, the figures do not total up to 100%.

Participation at the Conference - Registration

A **total of 6,767 participants** registered to attend the UN 2023 Water Conference through the three channels for stakeholder registration (1) Special Accreditation, (2) ECOSOC, and (3) Umbrella.

Youth

- 37% of the total registrants of 6767 stakeholder participants were **under the age of 35**.



Credit: UN Photo

Specialty Accredited Organizations

- **4,900 registrations** were approved - this process was coordinated by UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (DGC).
- Specially accredited registrants were distributed by sector as follows: NGO (29%); Private Sector (33%); Academia (10%); and others (7%).

ECOSOC

- **1,463 registrations** were approved for representatives of organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC. This process was coordinated by UNDESA/DSDG/OPB.

Umbrella

- The Secretariat called on a limited number of accredited organizations to support the registration and participation of additional stakeholder representatives from a few strategic sectors.
- A total of **404 participants** registered through this channel. The distribution was as follows:
 - International Secretariat for Water – Youth (**75 registrants; 19%**).
 - Global Compact Foundation – Private Sector (**112 registrants; 28%**).
 - United Cities and Local Governments – Local and Regional Governments (**108 registrants; 27%**).
 - International Science Council – Academia (**47 registrants; 12%**).
 - Pawanka Fund/CADPI - Indigenous Peoples (**62 registrants; 15%**).

Mailing list

Over 10,500 registrants signed up to the UN 2023 Water Conference mailing list. Between January 2022 and 27 March 2023, a total of 21 newsletters were sent out to this mailing list. The newsletter archive can be found on the Conference documentation website [here](#).

UN 2023 Water Conference

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



22-24 March 2023



UN HQ, New York, USA

The Conference will bring stakeholders from all sectors together to accelerate implementation, improve impact and advance the broad challenges surrounding water. All stakeholders are invited to [share commitments](#) to the **Water Action Agenda**.

Conference format



Six plenaries

Member States to announce commitments, plans, actions, and best practices



Five interactive dialogues: to be held in parallel with the plenary meetings

1. Water for Health: SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 17
2. Water for Sustainable Development: SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12
3. Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: SDGs 7, 11.5, 13, 14, 15
4. Water for Cooperation: SDGs 16, 17
5. Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation



Special Events

[Learn more](#)



Side Events

[Learn more and apply](#) before 20 January

Participate

Participants from Member States, IGOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, civil society, youth and many more will be participating. The Conference will be webcast on UN Web TV.

Outcomes

The outcome of the Conference will be a summary of the Conference proceedings and new commitments, pledges and actions by Governments and all stakeholders towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets, compiled in the **Water Action Agenda**.

Learn more about the Water Action agenda and make a commitment for **#WaterAction**



Spread the word

This [Trello board](#) contains communications materials, don't forget to use #WaterAction in all your posts

Any questions?

Visit our website: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023> or contact us at water2023@un.org



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

Stakeholder Interventions – UN 2023 Water Conference Official Sessions

Between 1 – 13 March 2023, **over 522 stakeholders** registered their interest to speak at the plenary or interactive dialogue sessions of the Conference which were reviewed by the Conference Secretariat.

- A total of **12 stakeholders** intervened during plenary sessions which took place on the 23 and 24 March 2023. These stakeholders represented Local & Regional Governments, NGOs, Children & Youth, Women, the Scientific & Technological Community and Indigenous Peoples.
- **9 stakeholders intervened** during the five Interactive Dialogue sessions, representing Persons with disabilities, Business & Industry, the Scientific Community, NGOs, and Children & Youth.

Written versions of these interventions can be found by navigating the Conference programme and selecting the dedicated webpages for each plenary and interactive dialogue session. The Conference programme can be found [here](#).



Special Events

Four informal high-level special events were organized in connection with the Conference to create a platform for in depth and broader discussion of water-related challenges and solutions. For more information, please visit the webpage here: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/events/special>

- **Radical Collaboration for Water Resilience: Action with our greatest Allies in the Climate Crisis** (Wednesday, 22 March 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 PM)
<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/events/informal-special-event-radical-collaboration-water-resilience>
- **Reducing inequalities – implementing Human Rights** (Thursday, 23 March 2023, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM) <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/events/Reducing-inequalities%E2%80%93implementing-Human-Rights>
- **The Economics of Water: transforming governance to secure a sustainable, just and prosperous future** (Thursday, 23 March 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 PM)
<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/events/economics-of-water>
- **Water Leadership: Uniting for a Sustainable World** (Friday, 24 March 2023, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM)
<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/events/informal-special-event-water-leadership>



Side Events

- Side events provided an additional significant opportunity for stakeholders to participate in the UN 2023 Water Conference. Side events could be organized either in-person inside the UN Headquarters, in-person across New York City or virtually by **Member States, the UN system, Intergovernmental Organizations and accredited non-governmental stakeholders**.
- The open call for side events in connection to the UN 2023 Water Conference yielded **1300 applications**. Priority was given to side events organized by Member States and those organized in partnership by several networks/organizations.
- **Over 500 side events** took place in connection with the UN 2023 Water Conference, including **200 side events held inside UN Headquarters, over 180 side events across New York City and 160 virtual side events**.
- Over **230 summaries** of side events have been uploaded to the Conference website and over **140 commitments** were added to the Water Action Agenda by side event organizers (as of 19 April 2023).
- **Side Event Briefing for Organizers** | On 7 March 2023, a virtual briefing was held to inform all organizers preparing a side event inside the UN Headquarters on the logistics of side events and reiterated the information shared in the Guidance Note for Side Event organizers. **Over 300 participants attended the briefing over Zoom**.



Written Inputs

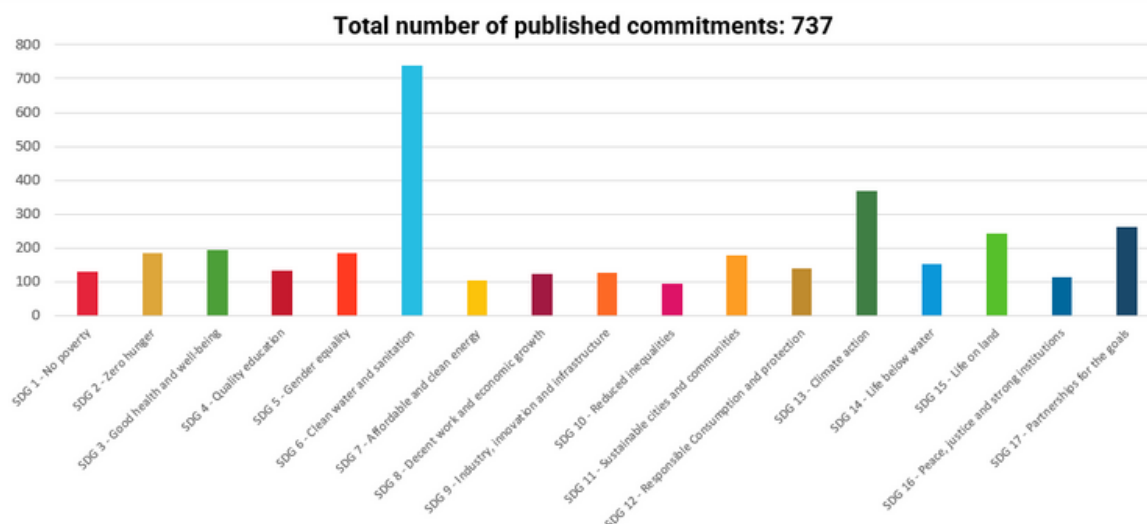
- An open call for written inputs from accredited stakeholders was held between 8 – 24 March 2023, receiving **over 200 submissions**. The Secretariat reviewed submissions and published all substantive inputs aligned with the objectives of the UN 2023 Water Conference and submitted on behalf of accredited organizations.
- The review process resulted in a total of **150 written inputs** published to the Conference webpage for Stakeholder Engagement under the “Documents” tab [here](#).



Water Action Agenda

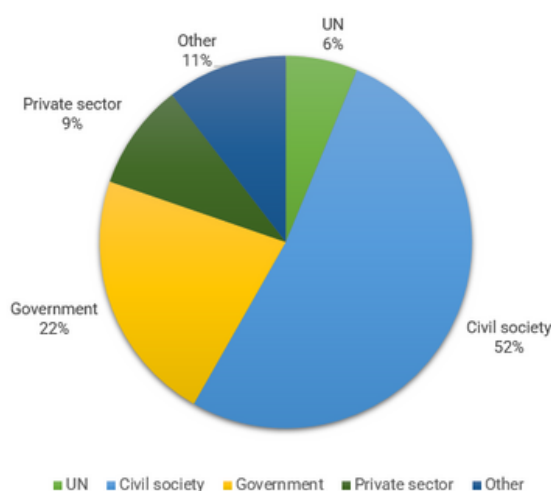
- A main outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference is the Water Action Agenda. The Water Action Agenda is the collection of all water-related voluntary commitments to accelerate progress in the second half of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 and second half of the 2030 Agenda.
- The [Water Action Agenda](#) captured over 700 commitments by the end of the Conference.
- As of 19 April 2023, an estimated **72% of registered Water Action Agenda commitments** were made on behalf of civil society organizations, academia, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other relevant actors.

Commitments by thematic area



Disclaimer: This chart shows the number of commitments that have selected a goal and therefore the total number will exceed the aggregate amount of commitments

Commitments by entity



Note:
 'Civil society' includes: NGOs, CSOs, Academic, Scientific community and IGOs.
 'Other' includes: Partnerships, Philanthropic, Local government, Other

Other

Caucus Room

- Conference Room F inside the UN Headquarters was provided as a 'Caucus Room' for internal meetings of groups / major groups / networks from civil society and other stakeholders during the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- **9 stakeholder groups** were offered the possibility of reserving the caucus room for their meetings, including: *International Science Council, Business as Nature (BasN), Global Youth Development Institute, Women's Major Group, Major Group for Children and Youth, NGO Major Group, Youth4Water, and the International Water Stewardship Community.*

Youth Engagement - "Matchmaking"

- An informal "matchmaking" platform was put into place to encourage and promote youth engagement in connection with the UN 2023 Water Conference. This initiative was facilitated by the International Secretariat for Water with support from other partners of the Global Youth Movement for Water including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- The platform was shared to the Conference webpage and the announcement was disseminated through our mailing lists for Special Event and Side Event organizers.
- In total, **64 young delegates** were matched with speaking opportunities in the Conference's Special Events and Side Events (inside and outside HQ and virtually) as well as in New York Water Week events.



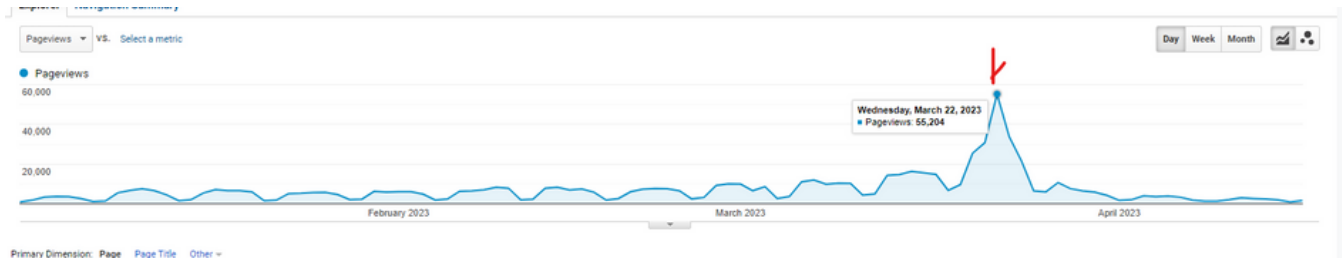
Travel Support

- A total of **24 stakeholders** representing youth networks (10), Women's networks (5), Indigenous peoples (4); Academia (1) and local and regional governments (4) received funding to attend the Conference. The Governments of Germany and Switzerland supported this initiative.



Website

- From 1 January to 17 April 2023, the official UN 2023 Water Conference webpage had a total number of 729,167 pageviews.
- The day with the most visits was the opening day (22 March 2023), with more than 55,000 page views.



Social Media

- According to statistics provided by UN-Water, the hashtag #WorldWaterDay generated **10.1 billion potential impressions**. The #WaterAction hashtag was used in 12 percent (64K) of the posts during the period from 26 February to 26 March 2023, generating 2.3 billion potential impressions. Besides the use in relation to the UN 2023 Water Conference, the hashtag was used to call for increased #WaterAction from governments and world leaders.
- The UN 2023 Water Conference was mentioned in **48% of the posts** that used the hashtag #WaterAction. In total, 10% of the posts during the period from 26 February to 26 March 2023 mentioned the Conference and to a large extent, these posts were made by organizations or professionals engaged in the event.





UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023



United
Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023