

Russia's Proposals for Themes of the 2026 UN Water Conference Interactive Dialogues

1. **“Water as a strategic resource for sustainable development”**. Water is not just a vital element, but a strategic resource. It plays a key role in economic growth, food security and preservation of ecosystems.
2. **“Water and Energy”**. Water plays a crucial role in the energy sector. Hydropower is the largest source of renewable electricity in the world and emits no carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, making it an important tool in the fight against climate change. Hydropower plants provide one-sixth of the world's electricity production and play a key role in ensuring the stability of power grids. Water is also essential for cooling nuclear power plants, another source of clean energy. Discussing this topic in a separate interactive dialog is important for energy security and sustainable development of countries, especially developing countries.
3. **“Relationship of water resources to food security and health”**. Water is essential for agriculture and safe sanitation. Controlling the quality of surface and groundwater becomes a critical aspect to ensure the sustainability of these systems. Including this topic in the dialogues will emphasize the need for an integrated approach to water resources that contributes to both food security and improved health.
4. **“Water resources management in the context of combating land degradation and desertification”**. Competent water management contributes to ecosystem restoration and increased crop yields in arid regions, which is especially important for countries in Africa and the Middle East.
5. **“ICT, including artificial intelligence, in water management”**. Artificial intelligence and other ICTs can significantly improve water management by providing more accurate forecasting, monitoring and management of water systems. Water also plays an important role in cooling computing power. Water cooling

systems are an efficient and cost-effective solution to keep high-tech systems stable. Making this topic a separate dialogue or including it as a component in all dialogues is important to optimize the use of water resources in the context of digitalization.

It is important to **avoid** introducing into the interactive dialogues sensitive topics that may cause controversy among UN Member States. Special attention should be paid to issues related to **linking water and security, as well as transboundary issues**, as these topics remain **unacceptable** for a number of delegations, including the Russian one.