



# UN 2026 Water Conference: inputs from Switzerland in view of the Interactive Dialogues

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## Introduction

Following the preparatory session held on 3 March 2025 and in response to the letter dated 21 March 2025 from the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, LI Junhua, Switzerland would like to offer additional clarification regarding the thematic definition of the six interactive dialogues.

In line with the resolution outlining the modalities for the upcoming conference, the primary objective remains accelerating the implementation of SDG 6. To this end, Switzerland emphasizes the importance of maintaining thematic continuity, ensuring the conference builds on the advancements made in previous sessions and converts commitments into tangible actions. Significantly, since the 2023 conference, the core themes from interactive dialogues 1 through 4 have shaped all major international water-related events. These themes have effectively addressed all the targets under SDG 6, thereby contributing significantly to its advancement.

Switzerland further proposes introducing a degree of openness for interactive dialogues 5 and 6. This would enable discussions on critical enablers in the water sector, such as innovative technologies, alongside financing and investments. Additionally, Switzerland considers it essential to explore the post-2030 water agenda and emphasizes that the enhancement of global water governance deserves focused attention as a standalone dialogue.

## Proposed themes

Interactive Dialogue	Main sub themes covered
<b>Water for Health</b>	Access to WASH Water quality and pollution control Hygiene and public health Survival and resilient WASH Equity and inclusion
<b>Water for sustainable Development</b>	Valuing water Water-energy-food nexus Wastewater as a Resource Sustainable Economic and Urban Development
<b>Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment</b>	Climate resilience Biodiversity conservation Disaster Risk Reduction Circular water economy Green infrastructure Groundwater

<b>Water for Cooperation</b>	Transboundary water cooperation Strengthening legal frameworks Water data sharing Scientific Cooperation Cross-sector cooperation Private sector engagement
<b>Water Innovations and Financing Pathways</b>	Advanced Water Treatment Technologies Smart water management Innovative Financing Models Access to Capital in Low-Income Regions
<b>Shaping Tomorrow's Waters</b>	Global water leadership Youth and inclusive participation Post-2030 monitoring and accountability

### **Format and approach**

Switzerland, having actively chaired an interactive dialogue at the 2023 Water Conference, firmly believes that adopting a dynamic and engaging format for interactive dialogues can significantly advance the primary objective of the conference: accelerating progress toward achieving SDG 6. Such a format would emphasize genuine exchanges and conversations rather than a succession of statements. Panelists would be encouraged to react and respond to one another's interventions, while ensuring a seamless progression in discussions to cover all relevant topics comprehensively.

Moreover, promoting inclusive participation by ensuring gender balance and incorporating representatives from governments, private entities, indigenous communities, and young people as panelists would allow for a more holistic approach to addressing water challenges.

Finally, integrating mechanisms such as preparatory workshops to galvanize commitments towards accelerating progress on SDG 6, followed by in conference workshops aimed at drafting actionable recommendations and commitments could ensure that the dialogues yield tangible and actionable outcomes.