



11 April 2025

Dear Under Secretary-General LI and Colleagues,

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to preparations for next year's UN Water Conference. It extends its sincere appreciation to Conference Co-Chairs Senegal and the United Arab Emirates.

The 2023 UN Water Conference underscored the priority Member States place on water as a critical and cross-cutting issue, alongside their expectation that the UN system enhance coordination to ensure equitable and sustainable freshwater management.

UNDP welcomes Member States' call for improved coordination as we work to address global water challenges – whether local, national, or regional - through the protection and restoration of ecosystems on which so many livelihoods depend. The effective implementation of the UN's System Wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation will be key to meeting these expectations. UNDP is committed to its ongoing role in the development of the UN Water Collaborative Priority Actions.

UNDP acknowledges the continued relevance of the Interactive Dialogue topics. We support a potential sixth Interactive Dialogue topic focused on successful water governance models that showcase applied, collaborative approaches from the local to the international level. In this and other topics, UNDP welcomes the inclusion of real-world best practice examples to inform further progress towards SDG6, and the many interconnected SDGs it underpins as a foundational enabler.

UNDP acknowledges and welcomes the energy and focus of Her Excellency Mrs. Retno Marsudi, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water, and renews our commitment to supporting her vital efforts.

We look forward to our continued engagement in preparing for next year's Conference - a pivotal opportunity to advance equitable and sustainable access to water for all, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Achim Steiner', is positioned above the printed name.

Achim Steiner

Mr. LI Junhua
Under-Secretary-General
Department of Economic and Social Affairs