

MAY 2025

2026 UN WATER
CONFERENCE

GLOBAL ONLINE
STAKEHOLDER
CONSULTATION

INPUTS TO THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES THEMES SUMMARY REPORT



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

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CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



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BACKGROUND



The high-level 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all will be held in the United Arab Emirates from 2–4 December 2026, co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates.

The Conference will consider challenges to achieving SDG 6 as well as opportunities and innovative ways to support its implementation and accelerate progress. Participants will exchange views, develop initiatives, and identify actions to advance SDG 6, including cooperation at all relevant levels to enhance means of implementation and partnerships. The Conference will also highlight gender perspectives and empowerment of women and girls in ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation for all.

The Conference will result in a summary of the proceedings of the Conference, to be prepared by the Presidents of the Conference, as its outcome document.

Additionally, the Conference will offer an opportunity to share best practices in accelerating SDG implementation—including those included in the Water Action Agenda—and will invite Member States and other stakeholders to announce voluntary commitments in support of the Conference objectives. The modalities resolution of the Conference ([A/RES/78/327](#)) decided that the 2026 Conference will build on the discussions held during the UN 2023 Water Conference.

The 2026 UN Water Conference will be comprised of plenary sessions and six interactive dialogues ([A/RES/78/327](#)). The Conference secretariat, UN-DESA, will prepare a background note on potential themes of the interactive dialogues, based on the inputs of Member States, the UN system, and a wide range of other stakeholders. The themes of the interactive dialogues will be adopted by the UN General Assembly at a one-day meeting to be convened by the President of the General Assembly on 9 July 2025.

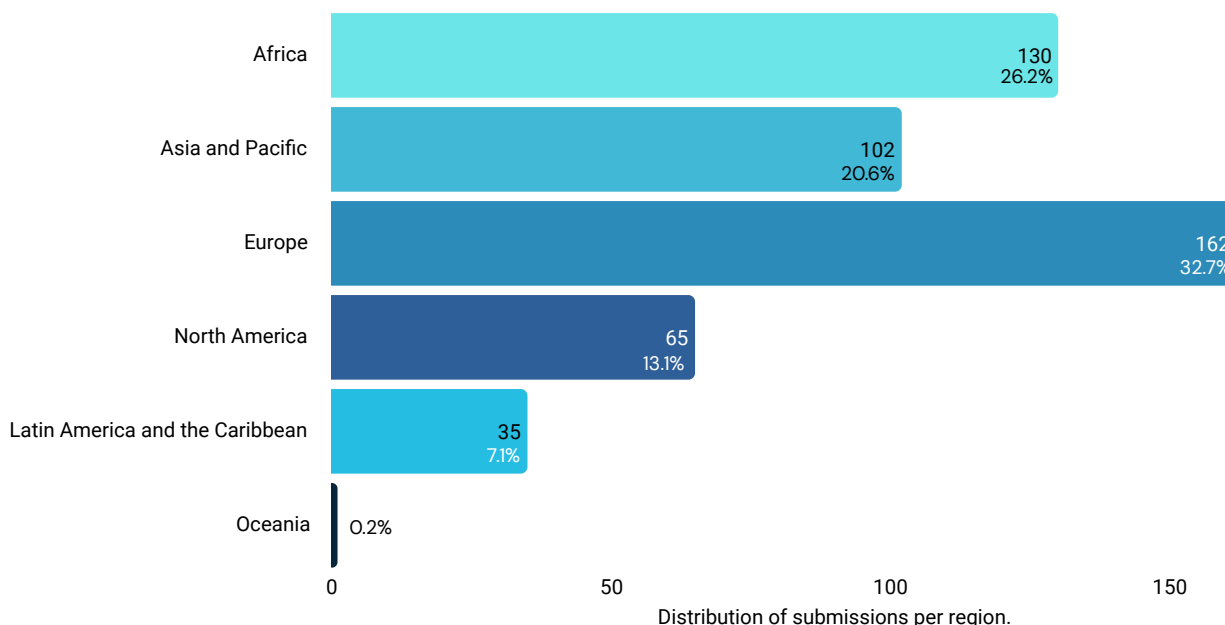


GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: THEMES OF THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES

Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, and other actors were invited to contribute inputs on the themes for the Interactive Dialogues of the 2026 UN Water Conference through a [global online stakeholder consultation](#) held from 11 March to 11 April 2025. Information about the global consultation was widely disseminated through mailing lists, UN official websites, and social media channels. Please find all the input received [here](#).

A total of **478 stakeholder organizations** contributed to the global online stakeholder consultation. Of the stakeholders who responded, **56.2%** identified as men and **42.8%** as women. A small minority (**1%**) preferred not to disclose their gender. Contributing stakeholders originated from all regions of the world, with the following distribution: Europe – **32.7%**, Africa – **26.3%**, Asia and Pacific – **20.6%**, North America – **13.1%**, Latin America and the Caribbean – **7.1%**, and Oceania – **0.2%**.

Inputs were received from stakeholders in **87 States**, including: Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (Republic of The), Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.



495

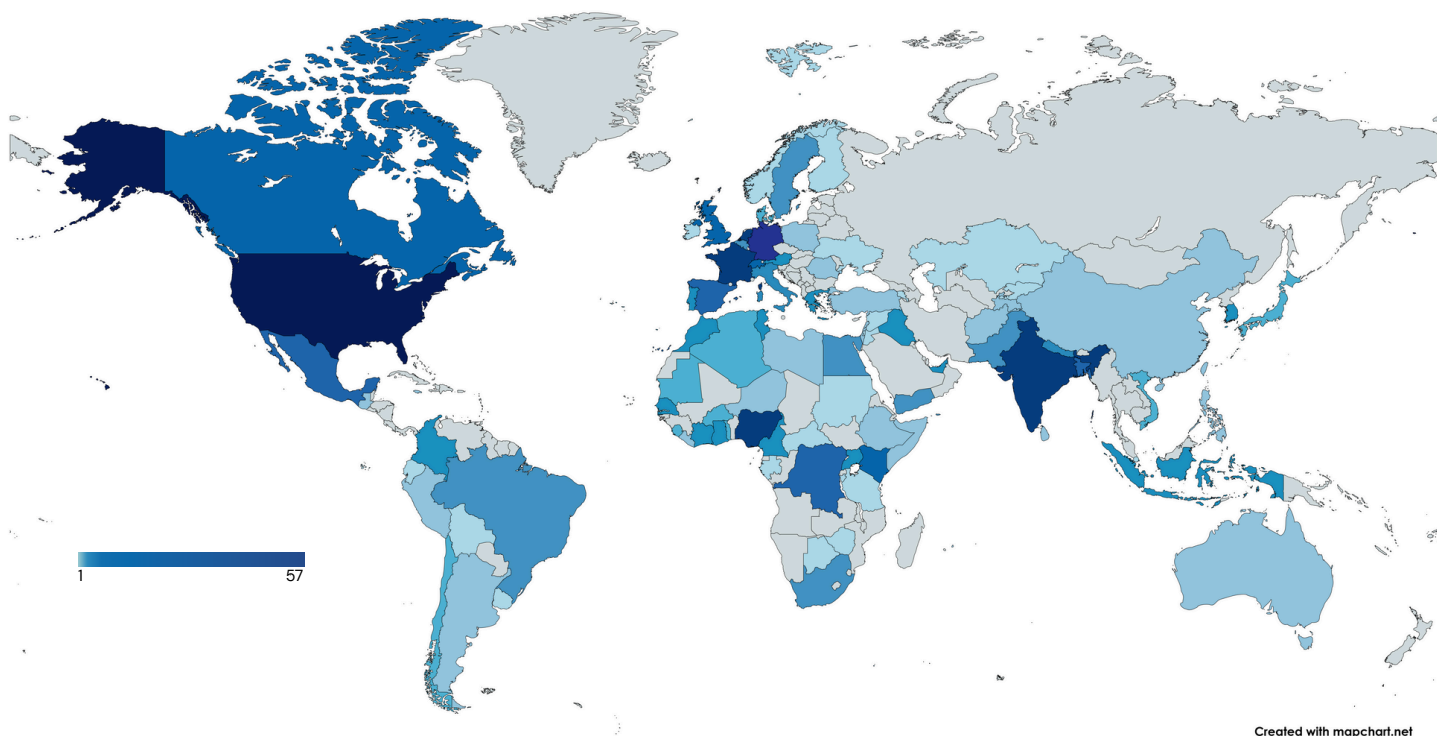
SUBMISSIONS

2000

INPUTS

20%

RESPONSES FROM YOUTH
BELOW 35 YEARS OLD

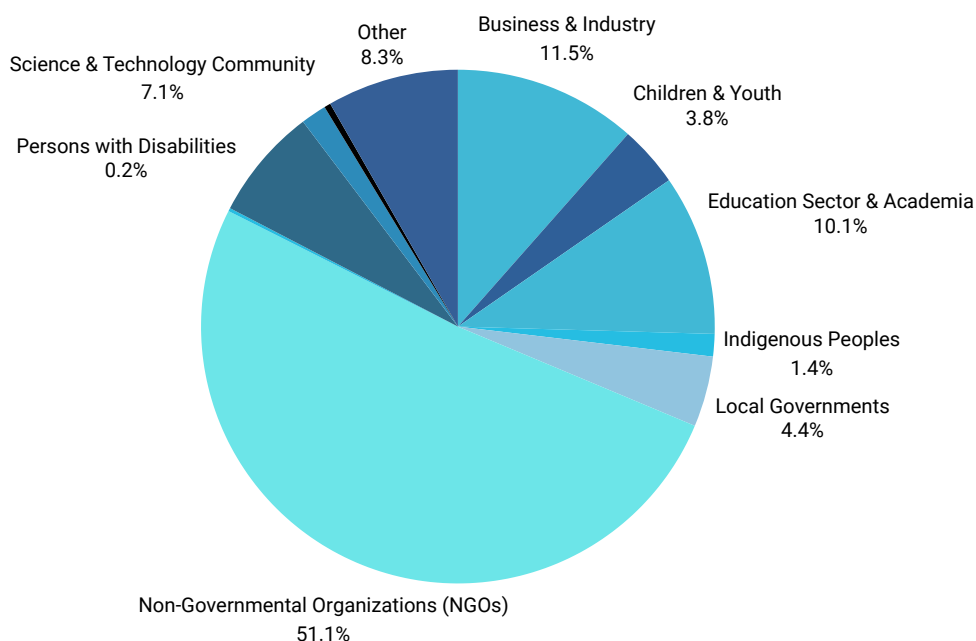


Geographic distribution of submissions. Source: UN DESA

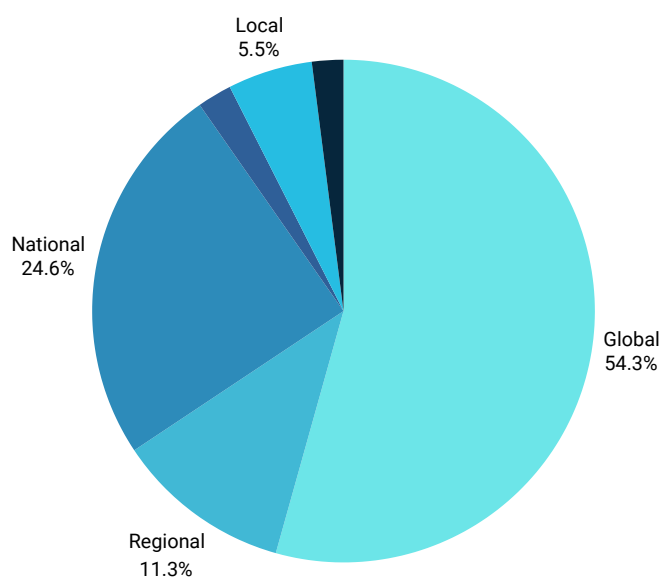
Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or any area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION – STAKEHOLDER DEMOGRAPHICS

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) formed the majority of respondents at **51.1%**, reflecting their prominent role in SDG 6 implementation globally. Other stakeholder groups included Business & Industry (**11.5%**), the Education Sector & Academia (**10.1%**), and the Science & Technology Community (**7.1%**). Local governments, youth groups, women's organizations, and Indigenous Peoples were also represented, though at lower proportions.



Source: UN DESA



Source: UN DESA

Over half (**54.3%**) of responding organizations indicated that they operate at the global level, underscoring the international relevance of water and sanitation issues. National-level organizations accounted for **24.6%** of responses, followed by regional (**11.3%**), local (**5.5%**), subnational (**2.2%**), and community or grassroots actors (**2.0%**). The range of operational levels highlights the importance of multi-level governance and coordination in the effort to achieve SDG 6.

GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: THEMES OF THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES

THE GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WAS HELD THROUGH AN OPEN ONLINE FORM WHICH INCLUDED FIVE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS:

- 1 Which Interactive Dialogue themes, if any, from the UN 2023 Water Conference remain relevant and should be included in the 2026 UN Water Conference programme?
- 2 If you could propose an amendment, including tweaks/iterations, to one of the Interactive Dialogue themes of the UN 2023 Water Conference, which would it be?
- 3 Please submit the revised title of the Interactive Dialogue theme.
- 4 Which additional theme(s) should be included in the 2026 UN Water Conference interactive dialogue?
- 5 Please finish the below with a catchy sentence: "To overcome challenges to achieving SDG 6 as well as promote opportunities and innovative ways to support its implementation and accelerate progress, we need to....."



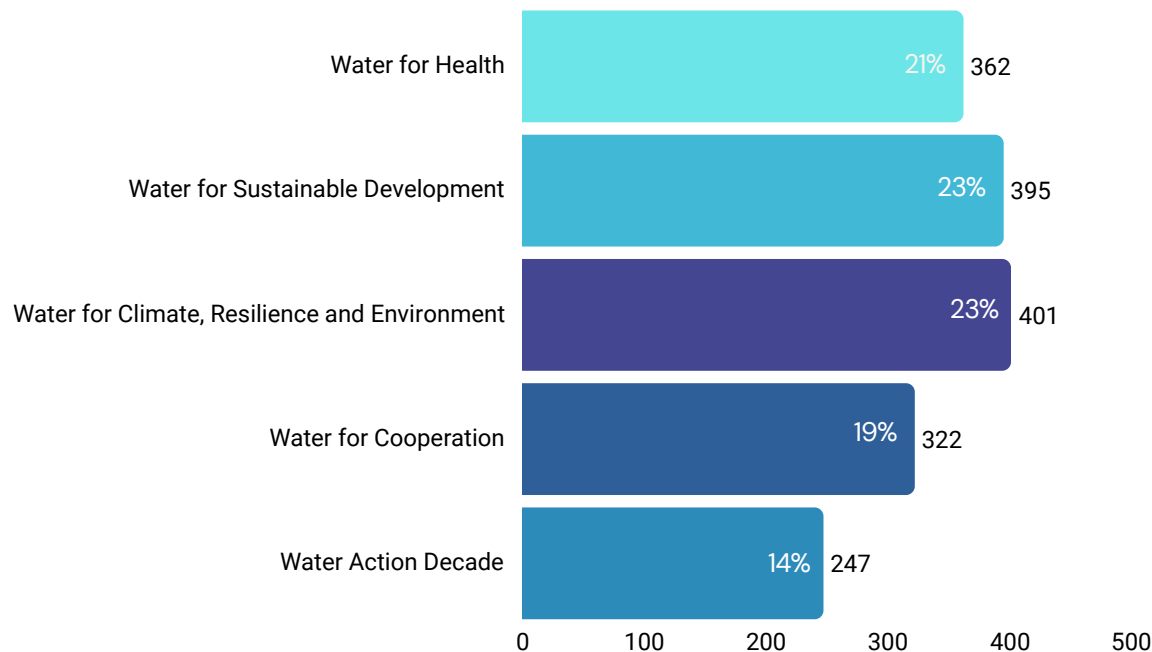
STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES



GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: RESPONSES IN NUMBERS

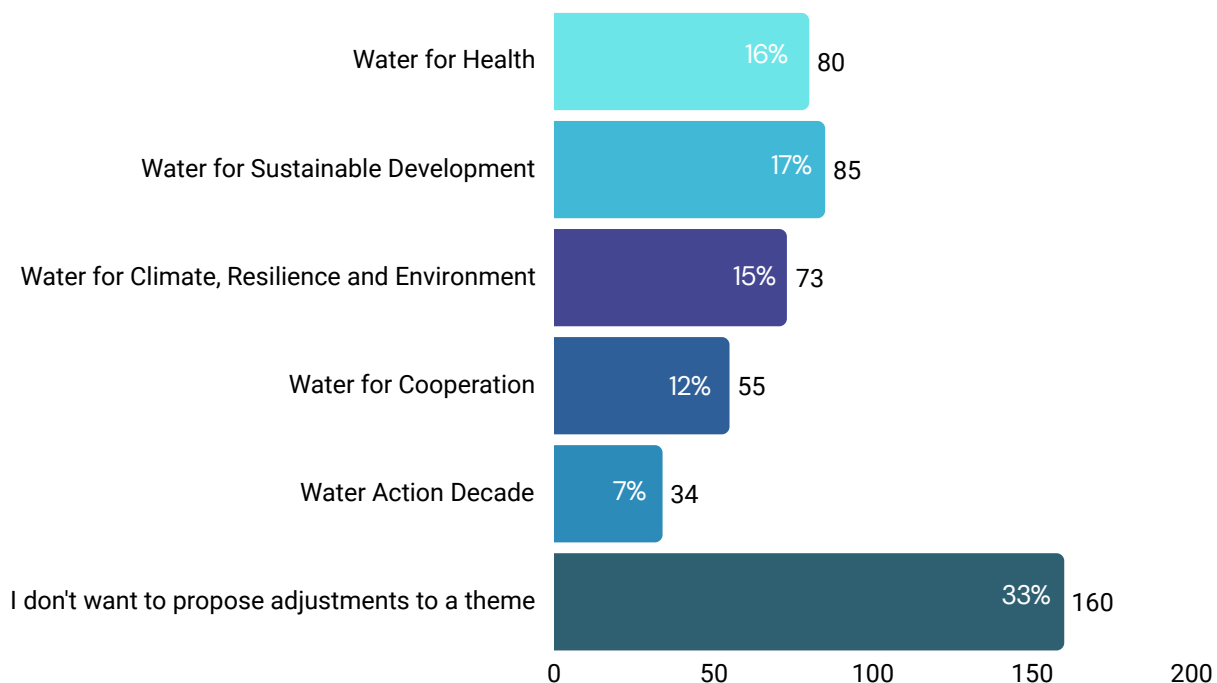
1

Which Interactive Dialogue themes, if any, from the UN 2023 Water Conference **remain relevant and should be included** in the 2026 UN Water Conference programme?



2

If you could propose **an amendment**, including tweaks/iterations, to one of the Interactive Dialogue themes of the UN 2023 Water Conference, which would it be?



GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: REVISED TITLES OF INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE THEMES

3

Stakeholders were invited to propose amendments to one of the Interactive Dialogue themes of the UN 2023 Water Conference. This section highlights a few selected proposals, which do not represent all of the entries received in the consultation.

Inputs for Revised Title of Interactive Dialogue Theme 1:

Water for Health: Access to water, sanitation and hygiene, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

“Water for Health and for Life: Access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all including in humanitarian crisis and the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation”

“Water for Life: Nurturing Our Future”

“WASH for Health”

“Water for Health and Resilience: Advancing Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene as a Fundamental Human Right”

“Water for Health: Advancing Equitable WASH Access and Upholding Human Rights to Safe Water and Sanitation”

“Access to water as a human right”

“Access to water, sanitation and hygiene, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation with special focus on women, children and marginalized groups”

“Water for Health and for Life: Access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all including in humanitarian crises and the human rights to water and sanitation”

“Accelerating Global Action for Water and Sanitation: Multi-Stakeholder Solutions for SDG 6 Implementation”

GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: REVISED TITLES OF INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE THEMES

3

Stakeholders were invited to propose an amendment to one of the Interactive Dialogue themes of the UN 2023 Water Conference. This section highlights a few selected proposals, which do not represent all of the entries received in the consultation.



Inputs for Revised Title of Interactive Dialogue Theme 2:

Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing water, water-energy-food nexus and sustainable economic and urban development

“ Water for Sustainable Development:
Valuing water, water-energy-food-
ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus and sustainable
economic and urban development ”

“ Water, Technology, and the
Future of Livelihoods ”

“ Water and Sanitation for Sustainable Development:
Valuing Water, the Water-Energy-Food Nexus, and Building
a Circular Economy through Sustainable Sanitation
Management for Resilient Urban Development ”

“ Enhancing Water Resilience:
Collaborative Strategies for Sustainable
Management and Accessibility ”

“ Water for Responsible Development: Advancing
responsible transitions in agriculture, energy, and urban
systems by mobilizing the pivotal role of water to drive
integrated action, policy innovation, and sustainable impact ”

“ Sustainable and fair Water sharing:
taking all water use into account and
prioritizing water for local subsistence and
ecosystems ”

“ Enhancing Sustainable Water and Sanitation
Management: Innovation and Collaboration for
Equitable and Resilient Access for All ”

GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: REVISED TITLES OF INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE THEMES

3

Stakeholders were invited to propose an amendment to one of the Interactive Dialogue themes of the UN 2023 Water Conference. This section highlights a few selected proposals, which do not represent all of the entries received in the consultation.

Inputs for Revised Title of Interactive Dialogue Theme 3:

Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to sea, biodiversity, climate, resilience and disaster risk reduction

“Water for Climate, Territory, Resilience and Environment: Source to sea, biodiversity, climate, resilience, disaster risk reduction and socio-environmental justice”

“Water for Ecosystems, Resilience and Climate”

“Water for Climate and Biodiversity”

“Transforming Water Governance for a Resilient Planet: Source-to-Sea Strategies for Climate, Biodiversity, and Disaster Risk Reduction”

“Flowing into the Future: Sustainable Water Management to Biodiversity Safeguarding and Climate Adaptation”

“Water for Climate Resilience and Nature-based Solutions: From Ecosystem Restoration to Community-led Adaptation”

“Water for Climate Resilience and Innovation: Integrating Technology and Nature-Based Solutions for a Sustainable Future”

“Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to sea, biodiversity, climate, resilience, DRR and addressing pollution”

“Water for Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation”

GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: REVISED TITLES OF INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE THEMES

3

Stakeholders were invited to propose an amendment to one of the Interactive Dialogue themes of the UN 2023 Water Conference. This section highlights a few selected proposals, which do not represent all of the entries received in the consultation.

Inputs for Revised Title of Interactive Dialogue Theme 4: *Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and international water cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and water across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

“ Water for Collective Action: Humanitarian coordination, transboundary and international water cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and water across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ”

“ Narratives, Power, and Equity in Water Governance ”

“ Water for Peaceful Coexistence ”

“ Water for Cooperation: Advancing Shared Standards for Transboundary, Cross-Sectoral, and Sustainable Development Goals ”

“ Water for Peace and Security: Water cooperation, water for just and peaceful transition ”

“ Water for Collective Action and Accountability ”

“ Water for Peace: transboundary, cross-sectoral, intergenerational and international water cooperation, including science, capacity-building, governance and financing for water ”

“ Water for Cooperation and Knowledge: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation, Water diplomacy, Scientific Cooperation and Knowledge networks on water issues ”

“ Water Without Borders: Strengthening Cross-Sectoral and Intergenerational Collaboration ”

GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: REVISED TITLES OF INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE THEMES

3

Stakeholders were invited to propose an amendment to one of the Interactive Dialogue themes of the UN 2023 Water Conference. This section highlights a few selected proposals, which do not represent all of the entries received in the consultation.

Inputs for Revised Title of Interactive Dialogue Theme 5:

Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the United Nations Secretary-General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028

“Water for all, making new stakeholders carry on the water goal to accelerate positive change”

“Accelerating Water Action: Implementing the Objectives of the UN Water Action Decade (2018–2028)”

“Water Action Decade: Enhancing the political, financial, and technical support necessary to accelerate the implementation of the objectives of the Decade”

“Financing a Water-Secure Future: Unlocking Investments for SDG 6”

“Water Action Decade towards Water-Smart Societies”

“Achieving the SDG's water-related targets: improving water governance at all levels, accelerating cross-sectoral partnerships and maintaining a holistic water vision beyond 2030 (all SDGs)”

“Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of solutions of the decade, including dynamic opportunities and those developed through the United Nations Secretary General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028”



CALL FOR GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

4

Stakeholders were invited to propose additional themes to the 2026 UN Water Conference. Common ideas and proposals were grouped into thematic clusters. The list below is not exhaustive but represents the most frequently recurring concepts across stakeholder responses.



Inclusive Water Governance & Equity



Innovative Financing & Investment Mechanisms



Digital Innovation & Smart Water Technologies



Nature-based Solutions, Ecosystem Restoration & Groundwater Emphasis



Water Quality & Pollution Management



WASH in Humanitarian and Conflict Settings



Climate Resilience & Adaptation



Hydro-Diplomacy, Conflict Prevention & Peace



GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: MESSAGES TO WORLD LEADERS

5

Please finish the below with a catchy sentence: ***"To overcome challenges to achieving SDG 6 as well as promote opportunities and innovative ways to support its implementation and accelerate progress, we need to....."***



"... prioritize inclusive policies, invest in sustainable water solutions, empower youth and communities to drive change."

International Youth Summit Sierra Leone, Children & Youth, Sierra Leone



"... embrace community-driven solutions like rainwater harvesting, empower local actors through education, and manage all water, by all, for all."

Rain for All, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), Republic of Korea



"... turn research into action, partnerships into impact, and policies into lasting change for sustainable solutions."

Reckitt Global Hygiene Institute, Other, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



"... devote more resources to the protection, restoration and sustainable management of freshwater biodiversity."

TNC, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), Brazil



"... to embrace bold innovation, cross-sector collaboration, and scalable solutions to turn water from a challenge into a driver of sustainable prosperity."

Impactful Ventures, BrainGym, Business & Industry, United Arab Emirates

"To overcome challenges to achieving SDG 6 as well as promote opportunities and innovative ways to support its implementation and accelerate progress, we need to....."



"... articulate the comprehensive management of water resources through inter-institutional mechanisms, knowledge networks and public-private synergies."

MAJOIS Guatemala, Science & Technology Community, Guatemala



"... promote community-led, inclusive (women, youth, indigenous p.), human rights-based water governance; encourage collective action & increase financing."

Vision Hope International, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), Germany



"... collaborate collectively and sharing water data for sustainable development of water resources backed with scientific validation."

Indian Institute of Technology, Education Sector & Academia, India



"... adopt specific goals for inclusion across the conference modalities and resource a data tracking mechanism.."

Women in Water Diplomacy Network, Women Organizations, United States of America



"...embrace a holistic approach to water and sanitation, fostering a circular economy through innovation, collaboration for equity and resilience."

Speak Up Africa, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), Senegal



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report provides a summary of the inputs received from a broad range of stakeholders through an online consultation organized by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) ahead of the 2026 UN Water Conference. Design and report writing were led by Mavluda Aslova, with research and analytics contributions from Michaela Balogun, Sarah Lazaro Nshoka, and Yue Tao.

Revisions were supported by Naiara Costa and Lineke Wang Schrijver.

DISCLAIMER

The summary report intends to present a synthesis of views and opinions expressed by stakeholders in an online consultation held between 11 March and 11 April 2025 and does not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations. Reference herein to any specific organization, partnership, process, service, website, or otherwise, does not imply endorsement or recommendation from the United Nations and shall not be used for advertising or service endorsement purposes. Some quotes have been edited for clarity. Hyperlinks in the report are included as a convenience to readers. The United Nations has no control over external sites and is, therefore, not responsible, or legally liable for their content. The United Nations reserves the right to delete any content or input not aligned with the United Nations Charter or the principles and purposes of the 2026 UN Water Conference. All photos and images used in this report have been sourced from Canva.



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