

2026 United Nations Water Conference
One day meeting to promote the achievement of Sustainable
Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable
management of water and sanitation for all
9 July 2025

Summary of Member States Interventions and References to
Stakeholder Engagement

Background


On 9 July 2025, the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA) convened an informal plenary meeting at the UN General Assembly Hall as mandated in [A/RES/78/327](#) ahead of the [2026 UN Water Conference](#). During the meeting, Member States [adopted the six themes](#) of the Interactive Dialogues by consensus. The themes are:

- a) **Water for people:** the human rights to water and sanitation, including for those in vulnerable situations, for healthy societies and economies,
- b) **Water for prosperity:** valuing water, water-energy-food nexus, advancing integrated and sustainable water resource management, wastewater and water-use efficiency across sectors, and economic and social development,
- c) **Water for planet:** climate, biodiversity, desertification, environment, source to sea, resilience and disaster risk reduction,
- d) **Water for cooperation:** transboundary and international water cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and inclusive governance,
- e) **Water in multilateral processes:** Sustainable Development Goal 6, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond, and global water initiatives, and
- f) **Investments for water:** financing, technology and innovation, and capacity-building.

Following the [adoption of the themes](#), high-level statements were delivered during the informal plenary segment. A total of 51 Member States and Observers of the General Assembly as well as UN system entities delivered their statements on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the themes of the Interactive Dialogues.

Further details of the meeting can be found [here](#), and all submitted interventions can be accessed [here](#).

Informal Plenary Segment – Member States Interventions and References to Stakeholder Engagement

This document reviews **references to stakeholder engagement** in interventions from Member States, Observers and UN system entities delivered during the informal plenary segment. The summary highlights the overarching challenges and proposals as presented, paying particular attention to references to stakeholder engagement considering the 2026 UN Water Conference. A total of 41 interventions¹ by Member States were reviewed. 

Following the high-level statements, the summary will be guided by five overarching themes that emerged from the interventions and recommendations of Member States. The five themes are: (1) Inclusive and Multi-Stakeholder Preparatory Process, (2) Stakeholder Coalitions and Institutional Engagement, (3) Reflections on the 2023 UN Water Conference and Stakeholder Commitments, (4) Stakeholder Participation in the Interactive Dialogues, and (5) Capacity Building, Education, and Local Engagement.

High-level Statements

The meeting was opened by the **Vice-President of the General Assembly**, with a call to act with urgency to address the concerns around water scarcity. He underscored that water use efficiency must be increased across all sectors and water resource management must be implemented and integrated at all levels while protecting water eco-systems. Throughout these efforts, he reiterated that they must be guided by a commitment to climate action and a focus on protecting vulnerable communities, ensuring that no one is left behind. He underscored that the six themes of the Interactive Dialogues reflect the complexity and comprehensiveness of the issue.

H.E. Cheikh Tidiane Dieye, Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation, Senegal, commended the open cooperation of all member states and their support towards the co-hosts with valuable contributions. He called attention to the challenges related to water and that they are well known and systematic with direct impact on agriculture, public health, food security, and our entire lives. He accentuated that the global water and sanitation crisis is a humanitarian, economic, climate, and security emergency, requiring collective, ambitious, and immediate response.

¹ Algeria, Angola, Australia, Brazil, Chile on behalf of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt on behalf of a Group of Countries, Ethiopia, the European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

H.E. Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, United Arab Emirates, stressed that water is not just a sector but a unifier and under the strain of climate change. He invited all stakeholders to contribute to the 2026 UN Water Conference with ambitious, inclusive, and transformative solutions and underlined that actions must reflect shared responsibility.

Ms. Retno Marsudi, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water, highlighted the importance of elevating water higher on the global agenda and that the achievement of SDG 6 cannot be compromised to ensure prosperity. She asked for continuously leveraging an open and transparent process of the Conference and that special attention shall be attained to those most affected by water related issues. Ms. Marsudi further pressed the use of the Conference as a platform that is action-oriented and based on cooperation to accelerate concrete water actions.

Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, reflected on water not just being a development issue but a survival issue and that the upcoming Conference serves as an opportunity to change the narrative and numbers around the global water issues.

Lastly, **Ms. Renée Martin-Nagle, Secretary General of the International Water Resources Association**, stated that the water crisis is a crisis of governance and that scientific innovation is crucial.

(1) Inclusive and Multi-Stakeholder Preparatory Process

The **European Union, France, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Tajikistan**, called for an inclusive, transparent, and participatory preparatory process ahead of the 2026 UN Water Conference. **Slovenia** urged future co-chairs of the Interactive Dialogues to maintain a transparent and inclusive approach, involving stakeholders in the preparation of the sessions. **Tajikistan** asked for an inclusive, intersectoral, and action-oriented approach to the preparatory process.

Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Ireland, Japan, the Marshall Islands, and Singapore highlighted the importance of engaging a wide range of stakeholders. **Australia** supported a multi-stakeholder approach, calling for engagement across civil society, communities, industries and sectors. **Brazil** advocated for an inclusive governance approach to ensure water security for all, acknowledging that effective solutions only emerge when they are context-specific and nationally driven. **Colombia** reiterated that the process must be inclusive, with the active involvement of indigenous peoples, women, young people and rural populations being central to the debate. **Finland** highlighted its commitment as stated in their International Water Strategy, [Finnish Water Way](#), and further urged that voices of different stakeholders must be incorporated. **Ireland** called for the collaborative and sustainable management of water,

calling for multi-stakeholder cooperation. The **Marshall Islands** emphasized the importance of locally driven strategies and warned that top-down international financial approaches often fail to connect locally, underscoring the urgent need for localised stakeholder involvement. **Singapore** underlined the need for diverse, gender-balanced and geographically balanced stakeholder engagement to create scalable solutions.

(2) Stakeholder Coalitions and Institutional Engagement

Several Member States flagged the importance of utilizing stakeholder platforms and coalitions to further inform and support the 2026 UN Water Conference. Speaking on behalf of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition², **Chile** accentuated that this multi-stakeholder partnership demonstrates how stakeholder collaboration is being operationalised to shape priorities and inform the 2026 UN Water Conference. **Italy** underscored the significance of the [2026 Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum](#), highlighting the participation of all European and Balkan states. **Mexico** presented its National Agreement for the Human Right to Water and Sustainability as a multi-stakeholder initiative that unites state governments, municipalities, industry sectors, academic institutions, and civil society. The agreement comprises around 10 strategic commitments that are aligned with SDG6, and the 2026 UN Water Conference. **Portugal** reiterated its commitment to a multi-stakeholder approach through the [Global Coalition for Better Policies and Regulation of Water and Sanitation Services](#). **Saudi Arabia** highlighted that the preparatory process for the [2027 World Water Forum](#) had already brought together 600 participants from 60 countries, underscoring the importance of sustained stakeholder engagement from regional and sectoral partners, and its contribution to the 2026 UN Water Conference. **South Africa** pointed out the upcoming [African Water Investment Summit](#), which will contribute to the 2026 UN Water Conference by creating a regional platform involving various stakeholders and other African countries.

(3) Reflections on the 2023 UN Water Conference and Stakeholder Commitments

² Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Namibia, The Netherlands, Panama, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Uganda, Inter-American Development Bank, Organization of American States, World Bank, Global Environment Facility, Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), Centro Regional para la Gestión de Aguas Subterráneas de América Latina y el Caribe (CeReGAS), Global Water Partnership (GWP), IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Geneva Water Hub, EcoPeace Middle East, and the University of Kinshasa.

The **Netherlands** underscored the importance of building upon and reflecting on the over 800 stakeholder-driven commitments made at the UN 2023 Water Conference through the Water Action Agenda. **Japan** reiterated the importance of advancing the agenda by following up on the results of the UN 2023 Water Conference and the actions of relevant stakeholders.

(4) Stakeholder Participation in the Interactive Dialogues

The **European Union**, **Egypt**, **France**, **Japan**, **Singapore**, and **Slovenia** reiterated the importance of stakeholders' active involvement in the Interactive Dialogues and other conference-related events leading up to the conference. **Egypt** called for the Interactive Dialogues to be collaborative, multi-stakeholder, and cross-sectoral in nature, paying attention to gender and geographical balance while being relevant to all stakeholders. The **European Union** recommended establishing civil society working groups aligned with the six Interactive Dialogues to enable meaningful contributions. **France** requested that stakeholders be included in the preparatory process for all Interactive Dialogues. **Japan** emphasized the importance of cross-border and scientific cooperation as part of the Interactive Dialogue: '*Water for cooperation*'³, and inclusive governance. **Slovenia** called upon future co-chairs to adopt an inclusive approach and engage transparently with stakeholders when preparing the Interactive Dialogues.

(5) Capacity Building, Education, and Local Engagement

Angola, **Israel**, **Italy**, and **Kiribati** stressed the importance of strengthening stakeholder engagement at local levels through education. **Angola** highlighted that a focus on engaging women and young people in training for water management and infrastructure maintenance is crucial. **India** underscored the critical role of community participation and local governance empowerment in managing water supply and sanitation systems, emphasizing the importance of citizen awareness in its national water strategy and the [Jal Jeevan Mission](#). **Israel** flagged public education and awareness-raising as key pillars, particularly through awareness campaigns targeting schoolchildren throughout the education system. **Italy** underlined the importance of academic, technical and professional training, stating that sustainable water management depends on knowledge transfer and strong local capacities to manage these resources. **Kiribati** noted that partnerships must be based on mutual trust, transparency and clear impact, and that there must be inclusive engagement and institutional capacity to assess and manage partnerships effectively.

³ Interactive Dialogue: Water for cooperation: transboundary and international water cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and inclusive governance