



**UNITED NATIONS
WATER CONFERENCE
ABU DHABI 2026**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the 2026 UN Water Conference?

A. [The 2026 UN Water Conference](#), a major UN conference mandated by the General Assembly, will take place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 8-10 December 2026. Co-hosted by the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Senegal, the Conference will seek to drive investment, foster innovation and strengthen global cooperation to accelerate progress toward [Sustainable Development Goal 6 \(SDG 6\): Clean Water and Sanitation for All](#).

Q. Who is the 2026 UN Water Conference for?

A. The 2026 UN Water Conference will bring together a wide range of participants, including governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, civil society, academia, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and other partners to accelerate action to achieve SDG 6. The Conference will focus on concrete solutions, bringing a new level of political will and moving from commitments and pledges to implementation on the ground.

Q. What is Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6): Clean Water and Sanitation?

A. SDG 6 is one of [the 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) adopted by world leaders in 2015 to build a healthier, more resilient, and sustainable future for people and the planet. https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6#targets_and_indicators SDG 6 aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. This includes achieving universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, improving water quality, increasing water-use efficiency, promoting transboundary water cooperation and protecting water-related ecosystems, among others. The 2026 UN Water Conference aims to raise awareness of the global water crisis, while promoting concerted action at all levels to achieve clean water and sanitation for all.

Q. What is the status of SDG 6?

A. Progress has been made toward achieving SDG 6. Between 2015 and 2024, over 961 million people gained access to safely managed drinking water, 1.2 billion to safely managed sanitation and 1.6 billion to basic hygiene services. Yet critical gaps remain: 2.1 billion people still lack safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion lack safely managed sanitation, and 1.7 billion lack basic hygiene services as of 2024. In addition, the number of people living in water-scarce urban areas is projected to increase significantly by 2050.

Q. Why is water an urgent issue and why should I care about it?

A. Water is essential to life and underpins nearly every aspect of sustainable development, including health, food and energy production, economic growth, climate resilience, and healthy ecosystems. Safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are fundamental human rights and critical for preventing disease and improving well-being. Yet, billions of people still lack access to these basic services.

Q. What are some of the issues hindering access to clean water and sanitation?

Growing water demand, climate change, pollution, population growth, and unsustainable water management are putting increasing pressure on freshwater resources worldwide. These challenges reduce water availability, degrade water quality, and limit access to safe water and sanitation, particularly for vulnerable communities.

Q. What are the expected outcomes of the Conference?

A. The Conference will comprise an opening and closing ceremony, seven plenary meetings and six interactive dialogues. The outcome of the Conference will be a summary of its proceedings prepared by the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Q. What are the themes of the Interactive Dialogues at the Conference?

A. The themes of the Conference 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, the 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.
- (f) **Water in Investments:** financing, technology and innovation, and capacity-building.

Q. How can I attend the Conference?

A. The 2026 UN Water Conference will be open to the delegations and representatives of the following:

- All States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies;
- Intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and other international bodies already accredited;
- Associate members of the regional commissions;
- Specialized agencies and related organizations;
- Other intergovernmental organizations and other international bodies;
- Interested United Nations organs;
- Accredited non-governmental and other stakeholder organizations;
- Media.

Information about registration for each category is available on the 2026 UN Water Conference website at <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2026/participate>

Q. What can I do as an individual?

A. Everyone has a role to play in protecting our water resources. Here are some simple actions you can take to help create a more sustainable and water-secure future:

- **Save water:** Take shorter showers and turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, washing dishes, or preparing food.
- **Promote equality:** Share water collection and water-related household responsibilities among women and men, girls and boys.
- **Break taboos:** Help raise awareness about the critical links between water, sanitation, hygiene, and menstruation.
- **Maintain sanitation systems:** Fix leaks, properly maintain septic systems, and report the unsafe disposal of waste.
- **Prevent pollution:** Avoid pouring food waste, oil, medicines, or chemicals down drains or toilets.
- **Choose sustainable products:** Buy local and seasonal food and look for products that use water more efficiently.
- **Learn about water:** Find out where your water comes from, how it is managed, and how wastewater is treated in your community.
- **Protect nature:** Plant trees, create rain gardens, and support nature-based solutions that help conserve water and reduce flooding.
- **Advocate for action:** Encourage elected officials to invest in water and sanitation services at home and around the world.
- **Get involved:** Participate in clean-up efforts at local rivers, lakes, wetlands, beaches, and other waterways.

For more actions you can take on the Sustainable Development Goals, join the United Nations [ActNow](#) campaign.