

UN 2023 Water Conference

Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE

Progress on SDG 6: need for huge acceleration

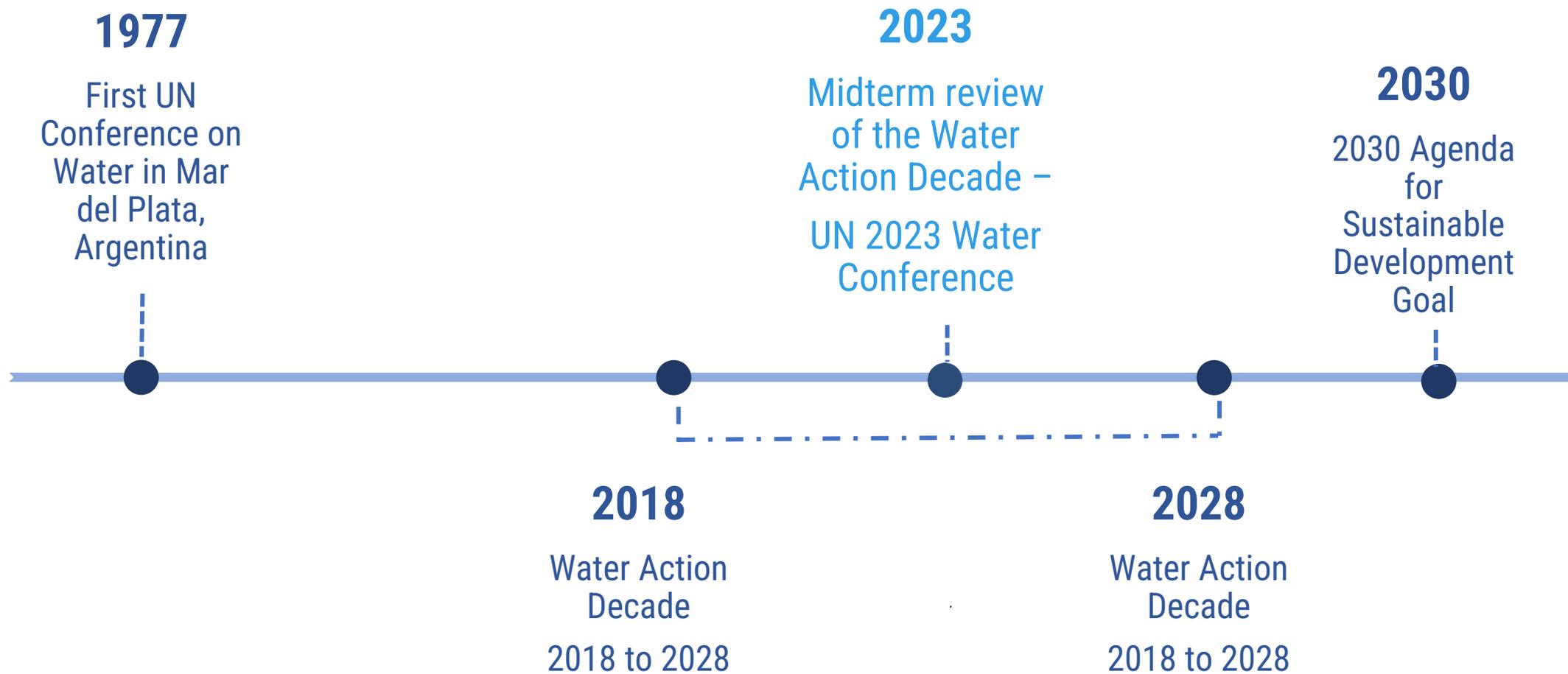
SDG 6 Summary Progress Update 2021 and Progress Reports

- The world is off-track to meet SDG 6 by 2030
- Progress needs to quadruple (x4)



https://www.unwater.org/publication_categories/sdg6-progress-reports/

“Once in a generation” Conference



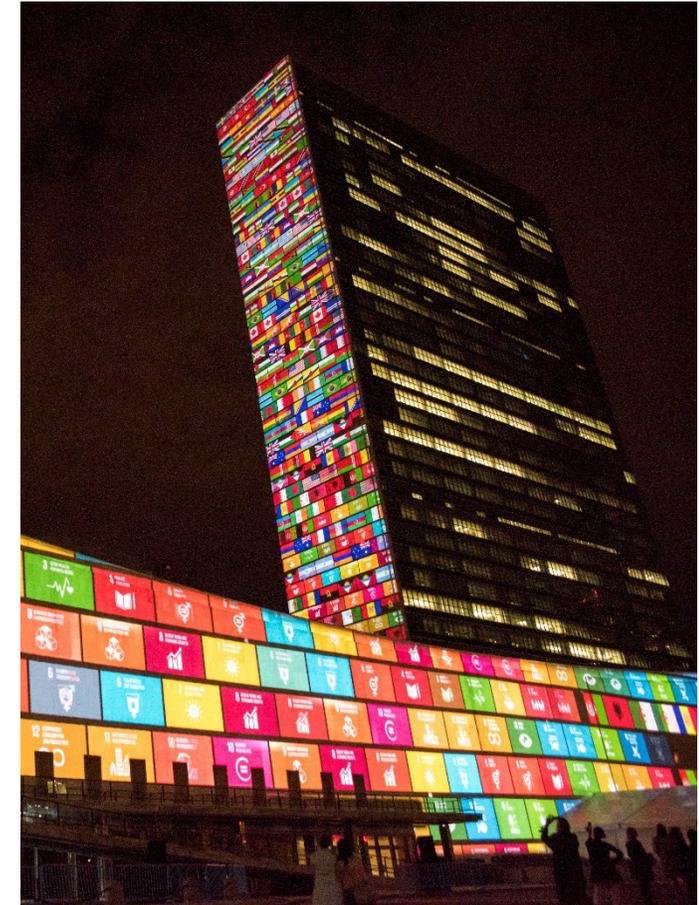
Background

UN 2023 Water Conference: UNHQ, New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023

Theme: “Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028”

Key objective: Support to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Preparatory meeting: One-day preparatory meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 October. Stakeholder Consultation on 24 October.



Results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

UNESCO and UNECE custodian agencies

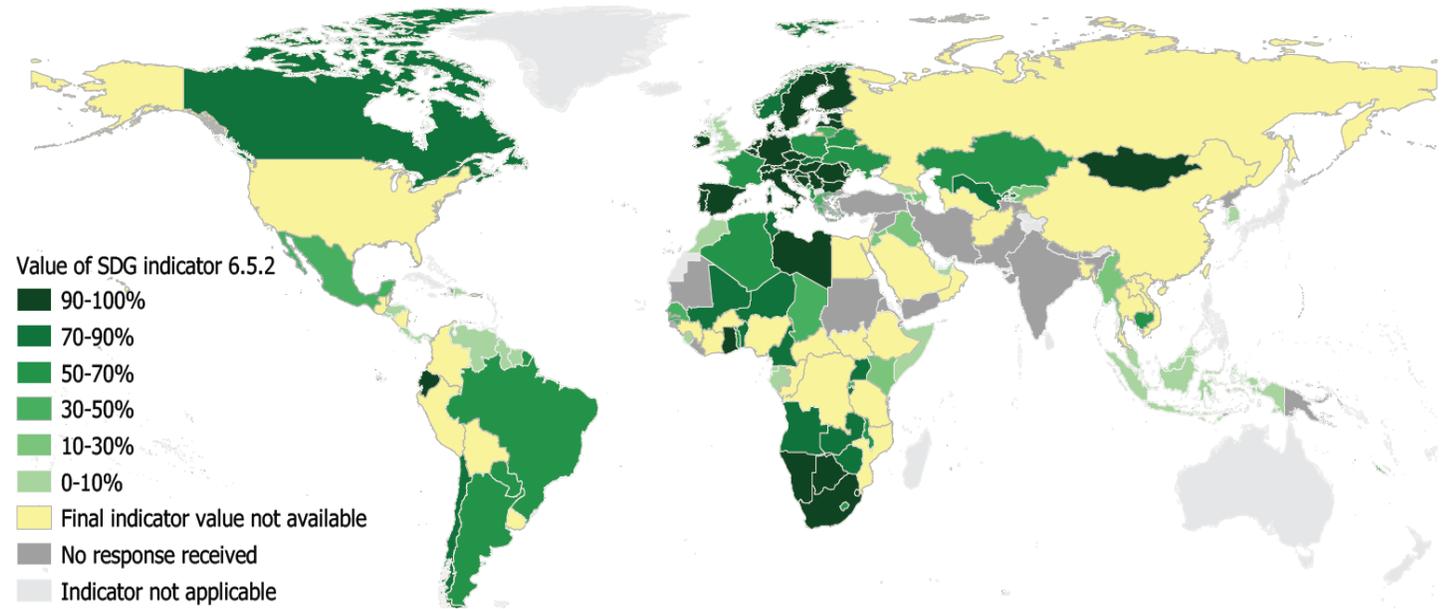
High level of engagement

- In 2020: **129** out of 153 countries sharing tb waters submitted reports

Not on track

- Only **24 countries** report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**
- At least **128 basins** reported **lack agreements**
- Insufficient knowledge on **groundwater** systems

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received during the 2nd exercise



Progress must be accelerated to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030

Background

Co-hosts of the Conference: the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Conference Secretary-General of the Conference: Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Li Junhua

Secretariat: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with support of UN-Water

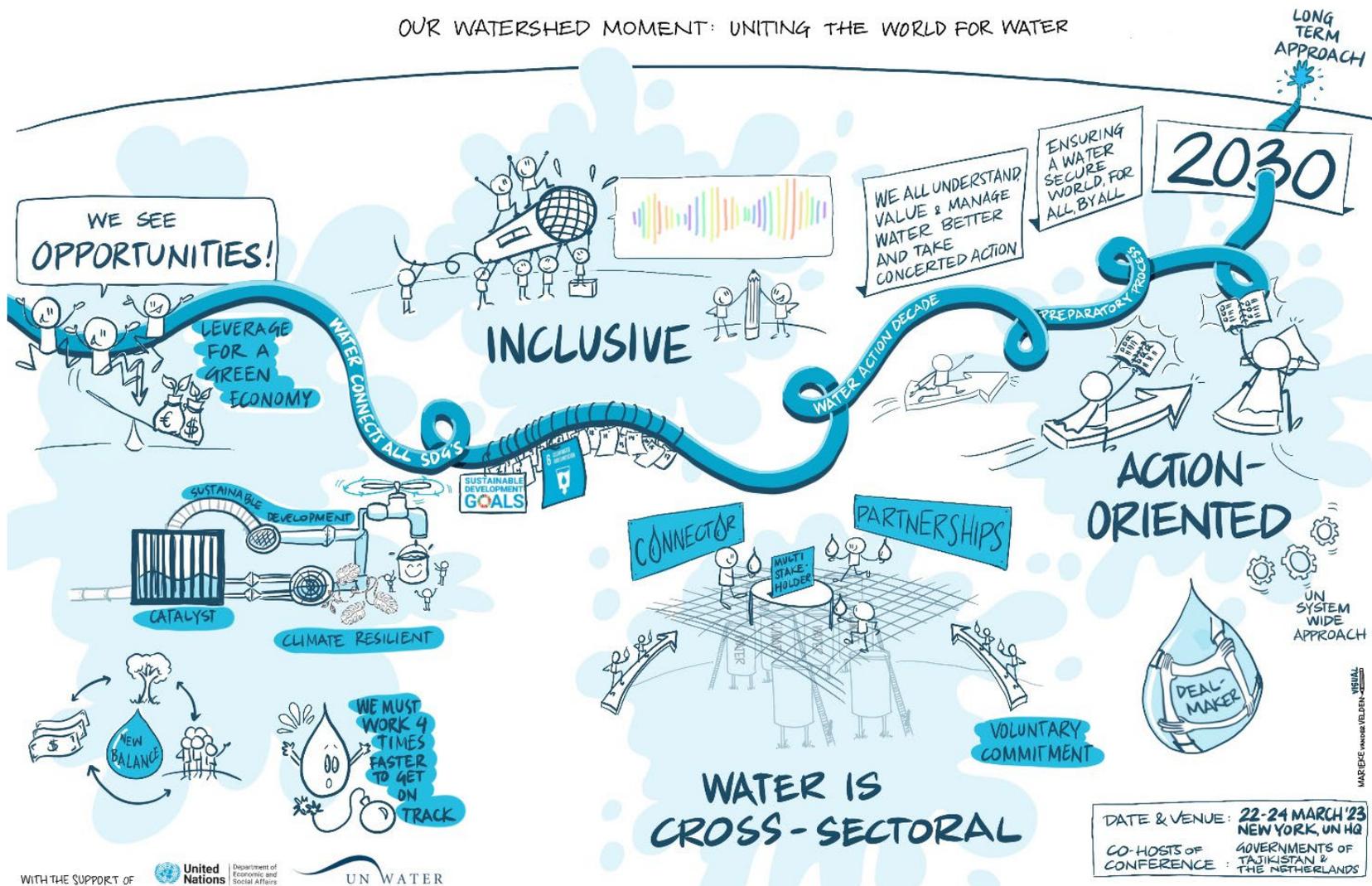
Keep informed:

- **Conference website:** <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>
- **Please sign up for the mailing list**



VISION STATEMENT UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

OUR WATERSHED MOMENT: UNITING THE WORLD FOR WATER



Three Principles:

- Inclusive
- Cross-sectoral
- Action-oriented

UN 2023 Water Conference, 22-24 March, UNHQ

Six Plenaries

Member States to announce commitments, plans, actions, and best practices

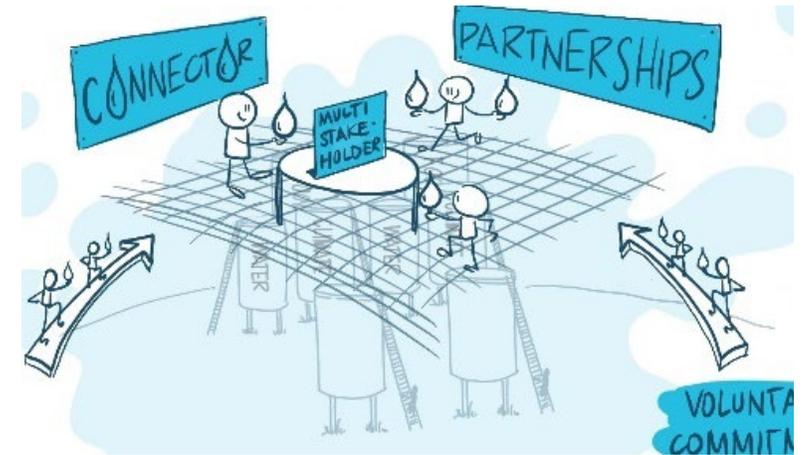
Five interactive dialogues to be held in parallel with the plenary meetings

Special Events

The co-hosts decided to strive to organize 3-5 Special Events, scope: 50-200 people

Side Events

Member States and other stakeholders will organize many side events that are cross-cutting and aim for action



Preparatory process



- March-June 2022: different regional preparatory meetings
- HLPF in July 2022: announcement of the proposed themes for the interactive dialogues
- PGA event on 25 October 2022, preceded by stakeholder consultation on 24
- November 2022: final possibility for accreditation for NGOs etc.
- 6-8 December: UN groundwater summit, Paris, UNESCO

Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting

Geneva and online, 12-13 April 2022

- Organized by UNECE and UN-Water in consultation with the UN-Water Regional Discussion Group on Water
- Chaired by Austria as Chair of UNECE
- Multi stakeholder meeting with over 250 participants
- Objectives:
 - Assess the progress in the implementation of the Decade and water-related goals and targets of the SDGs
 - Share best practices and experiences;
 - Inspire new actions, initiatives and partnerships, needed for accelerating progress



Topics of discussion

- Access to drinking water and sanitation for all
- Water pollution, ecosystems and biodiversity, circular economy policies
- Water governance at national and transboundary levels
- Climate resilience and strengthening cooperation among water using sectors
- Groundwater
- Accelerating progress through partnerships, financing, data, research and innovation



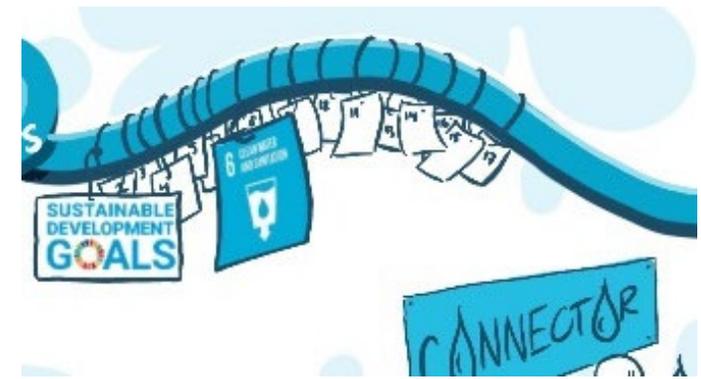
- Presentation of many initiatives and best practices that contribute(d) to implementation of SDG6 and Water Action Decade in the UNECE region
- Water Convention and UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health recognized as key catalysts of progress in UNECE region

Proposed themes for the Interactive Dialogues

- 1. Water for Health:** Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation (SDG 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 17)
- 2. Water for Development:** Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development (SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12)
- 3. Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment:** Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and DRR (SDGs 6.5, 6.6, 7, 11.5, 13, 14, 15)
- 4. Water for Cooperation:** Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation and Water Across the 2030 Agenda (SDG 6.5, 6.b and SDGs 16, 17)
- 5. Water Action Decade:** Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan.

Supported by 5 Accelerators of the **SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework:**

- Finance
- Governance
- Capacity
- Data and information
- Innovation



Stakeholder Engagement

Second Global Online Consultation: Contribute inputs on the draft Themes for Interactive Dialogues - OPEN NOW till [30 September 2022](#)

Participation and Special Accreditation

- ONLY eligible organizations can register representatives to participate in the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory meetings.
- **2nd round of Special Accreditation** will start around late Oct/early Nov

Online Stakeholder webinar will be organized around early Oct

Contact: water2023@un.org

**All info
on the
Conference
website!**

What will the Conference deliver?

The Conference will help set the agenda until 2030, and thereafter:

1. **Deliver a summary of the Conference proceedings**
2. **Present a set of voluntary commitments (Water Action Agenda)**
 - Scale up and replicate** what works
 - Discontinue or change** what does not work
 - Innovate** what needs to be improved
 - Fund** what merits funding
3. **Roadmap towards 2028 (Decade) and 2030 (SDGs)**

Commitments can come through coalitions and partnerships across all of society



Water Action Agenda

Launched by the Conference co-hosts in Dushanbe in June 2022 as **a main outcome of the 2023 Conference.**

Builds on on-going efforts and on the political momentum created by the Conference

“Water” means “Big Water”, including sanitation, Disaster Risk Reductions etc.

To mobilize action across countries, sectors and stakeholders

SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework launched by the UN system and its partners in 2020

Learns from other processes and sectors



All stakeholders have a role

- **Governments:** Foster necessary policy environment, including ensuring incentives and inclusive governance for implementation to happen.
- **UN system:** Build on the UN reform and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and be a neutral platform to commit, follow-up and review.
- **International financial institutions:** Provide financing and leverage additional financing to implement the Water Action Agenda.
- **Civil society, including the youth:** Implement, support, advocate, and participate in follow-up and review.
- **Private sector:** Invest, implement and commit to action.
- **Multi-stakeholder partnerships:** Advocate and support implementation by bringing stakeholders together.

How can you contribute?

- Engage in the online stakeholder consultations
- Get accredited! Last deadline: 2 December 2022
- Provide evidence to shape the discussions
- Bring voluntary commitments to the table

- Commitments could include accession to the Water Convention, its implementation, and development of transboundary agreements
- Please contribute, highlight the importance of transboundary cooperation and consider concrete initiatives for the conference



Sign up to the newsletter:

<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/announcements>

Learn about the Conference:

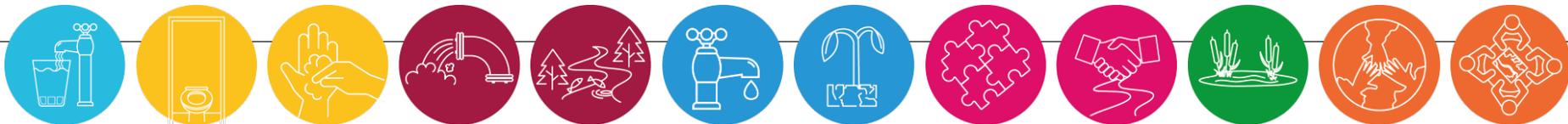
<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>

Read

https://www.unwater.org/publication_categories/sdg6-progress-reports/

Explore the data:

<https://sdg6data.org/>



Commit to Action

Foundational commitments:

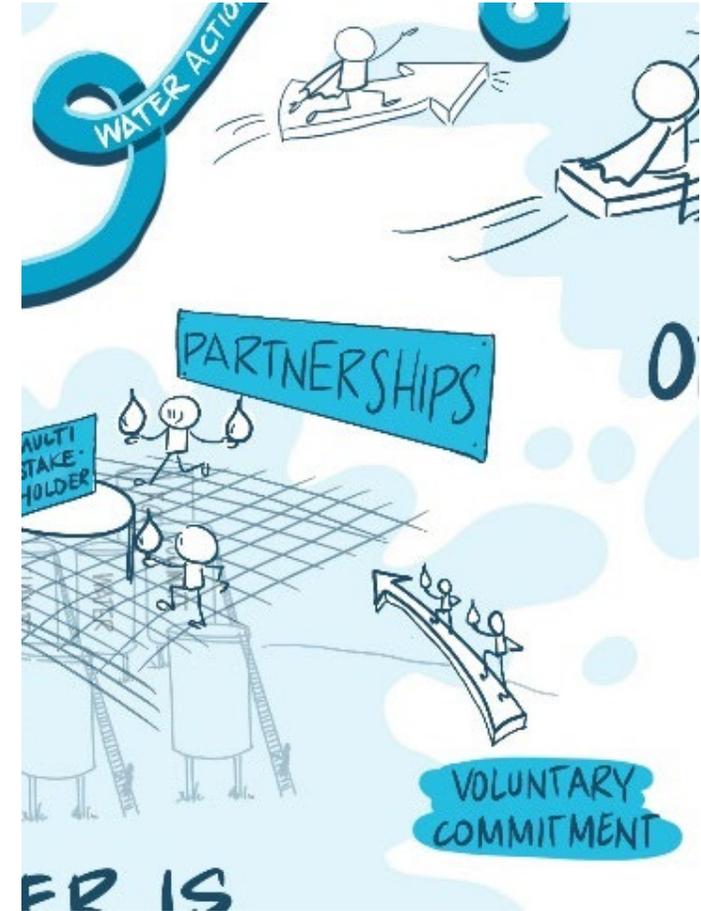
Commitments from across the world that need the acknowledgement and empowerment. Often small in scale, size and reach but meaningful at the level of the commitment (e.g. schools, communities, innovators, etc.).

Institutional commitments:

By governments, civil society, private sector, academia, coalitions etc. These might be dozens, with large-scale impact and to be scaled up and replicated.

Game changers:

Commitments by coalitions of partners that aim at systems change, rooted in deep understanding of the systems failures and with longer term commitments to realize systems change. These might be only 3 to 5.



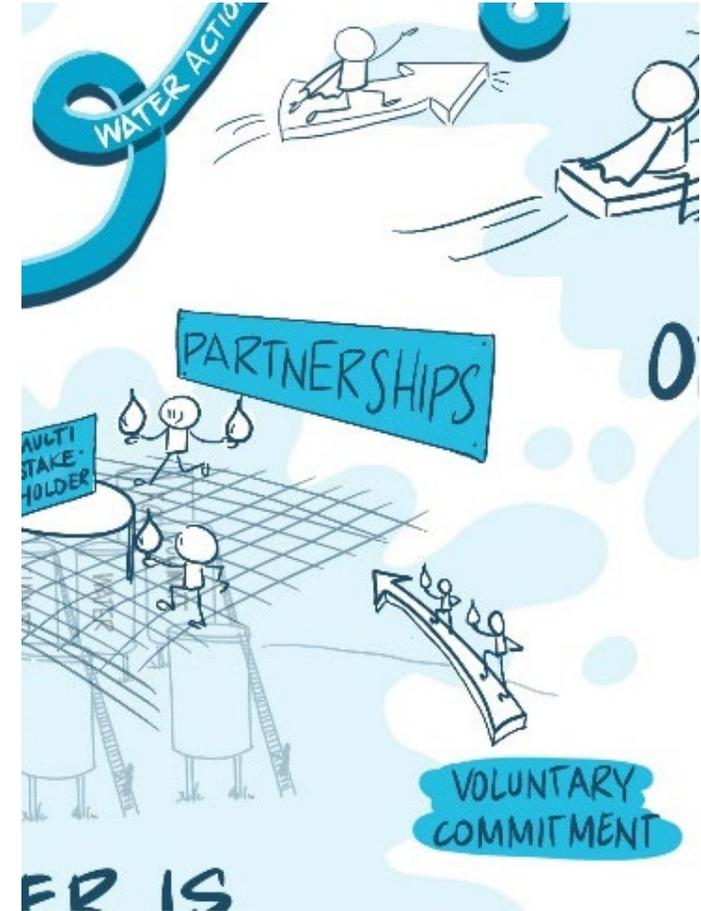
Commit to Action

Voluntary commitments are “invited” in the modalities Resolution for the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Leading up to the Conference all stakeholders will be able to make commitments, and collectively they will make up the core of the Water Action Agenda.

The platform to collect commitments is custom built as part of the SDG Acceleration Action platform and is managed by UN DESA.

All commitments, from local to global, from small to big, are important!



Water Action Agenda

Three building blocks:

1. **Commit to action:** Mobilizing voluntary commitments to action across countries, sectors and stakeholders.
2. **Sustain and scale up implementation:** All stakeholders have a role to play to drive the implementation and scale-up of the Water Action Agenda.
3. **Follow-up and review processes:** Take stock on progress, showcase successes and learn from what works and what does not.