

SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Monday, 17 July, 2023

**10:00-18:00 EDT, Conference room 5,
UNHQ, New York**

The Special Event will be webcast on UN WebTV

BACKGROUND

Marking an unprecedented watershed moment for the international community, the United Nations 2023 Water Conference in March 2023 represented the first UN-convened Conference on water in nearly half a century. Thousands of world leaders, leading voices from civil society, business, youth, indigenous peoples and women gathered in New York to contribute to a once-in-a-generation event and committed and called for greater action to protect and shape a sustainable future.

A main outcome of the Conference is the Water Action Agenda: it collects water-related voluntary commitments to accelerate progress in the next five years of the Water Action Decade. Building on on-going efforts and utilizing the political momentum created by the Conference, the Water Action Agenda aims to mobilize action across countries, sectors and stakeholders to meet the global water and sanitation related goals and targets. In addition, the Summary of Proceedings by the President of the General Assembly sets forth game changers to super charge global efforts for water-related goals and targets. During the proceedings, the Blueprint for Acceleration: SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023 will be launched. Written by the UN-Water family of Members and Partners, this Report provides a forward-looking collective vision for sustainable and resilient water and sanitation management in the second part of the 2030 Agenda.

Introduced in 2020, the SDG 6 Special Event takes place annually during the High-level Political Forum giving space for discussion on water-related targets within the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. After reflecting on the Water Action Agenda voluntary

commitments, the President of the General Assembly's game changers, the country acceleration case studies, and the recommendations outlined in the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023, the Special Event will conclude with a forward-looking dialogue to build consensus as the international community considers a more robust global response to the international water crisis and also prepares for the SDG Summit in 2023 and the Summit of the Future in 2024.

DRAFT AGENDA

10:00 – 10:05 Welcome remarks

Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Mina Guli, Water Advocate and Ultrarunner

10:05 – 11:00 Youth takeover

- **Welcoming remarks & inspirational youth-led action** (10 min)

Ms. Sarah Breslin, Associate Expert, UN-Water

Ms. Maitreyi Koduganti, President of the Water Youth Network, Major Group for Children and Youth

Ms. Danielle Kamtié, Vice-President of the World Youth Parliament for Water & Co-founder of the African Youth Parliament for Water

- **Panel discussion - Review of the UN 2023 Water Conference & role of youth in follow-up and review of the Water Action Agenda** (20 min)

Moderator: Mr. Bipul Mayank, UN1FY

- Mr. Andrew Coriakula, SDG Specialist, Government of Fiji
- Mr. Neil Patel, UNESCO Groundwater Youth Network
- Ms. Carolina Tornesi Mackinnon, President of the World Youth Parliament for Water

- **Intergenerational panel discussion – Water needs a home: strengthening an inclusive multilateralism on water** (20 min)

Moderator: Ms. Claudia Prehn, International Water Association Young Water Professionals Steering Committee

- H.E. Carl Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform of Namibia
- Ms. Antra Bhatt, Statistics Specialist, Research and Data Section, UN Women
- Ms. Maitreyi Koduganti, President of the Water Youth Network, Major Group for Children and Youth

- **Concluding remarks & key takeaway messages** (5 min)

Ms. Elysa Vaillancourt, Youth Project Manager, International Secretariat for Water

11:00 – 12:00 Keynotes

- **Welcome remarks** (10 min)

Mr. Gilbert F. Hougbo, UN-Water Chair and Director-General of the International Labour Organization

Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

- **Opening remarks** (10 min)

H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th Session of the General Assembly

- **Outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference (15 min)**

H.E. Mr. Zavqizoda Zavqi Amin, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan

Mr. Steven Collet, Deputy Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

- **Analysis of the Water Action Agenda** (10 min)

Mr. Charles Iceland, Global Director, Water (Acting), World Resources Institute

- **[The UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023](#)** (15 min)

Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor, UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023 Lead Writer

Reflections from Finland: Mr. Juhani Damski, Permanent Secretary for the Minister of Environment, Finland



Commentator: Mr. Johannes Cullmann, UN-Water Vice-Chair will reflect on the discussions at the end of each accelerator segment.

12:00 – 13:00 Governance

Moderator: Ms. Sasha Koo-Oshima, Deputy Division Director, Land and Water Division, The Food and Agriculture Organization

- **Setting the stage: Co-Chairs of the Interactive Dialogue on Water for Cooperation** (10 min)

Dr. Mohamed C.B.C. DIATTA, Coordinator of the Unit for the Follow-up, Promotion and Popularisation of the Recommendations of the 9th World Water Forum, Senegal

Mr. Markus Reubi, Delegate of the Swiss Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda

- **Panel Discussion** (20 min)

- [National Water Roadmap](#): Professor Paul Mavima, Hon. Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe

- Country Acceleration Case Study: Honourable. Amidu Issahaku Chinnia, Deputy Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana

- Governance-related Water Action Agenda commitment holders:
[Accelerating transboundary water cooperation through increased accession to and strengthened implementation of the Water Convention](#): Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

- **Interventions from the floor** (30 min)

Lead discussant – Youth representative: Ms. Maitreyi Koduganti, President of the Water Youth Network, Major Group for Children and Youth



13:00– 13:30 Ceremony of deposit of the accession instruments to the United Nations Water Convention(s)

13:30 – 14:30 Innovation

Moderator: Mr. Pär Liljert, Director, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office to the United Nations

- **Setting the stage: Co-Chair of the Interactive Dialogue on Water Action Decade** (5 min)
Ms. Nancy J. Eslick, Senior Deputy Assistant to the Administrator for USAID’s Bureau for Resilience and Food Security
- **Panel Discussion with interventions from the floor** (20 min)
 - Country Acceleration Case Study: H.E. Ms. Grace Fu, Minister of Sustainability and the Environment, Singapore
Innovation-related Water Action Agenda commitment holders:
 - [Design for Good](#): Ms. Sandy Speicher, Board Trustee, Design for Good
 - [Bolstering evidence, benchmarking and capacity building efforts to diversify the water workforce](#): Ms. Marie Ottosson, Deputy Director General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- **Interventions from the floor** (35 min)
Lead discussant – Youth representative: Ms. Claudia Prehn, International Water Association Young Water Professionals Steering Committee

14:30 – 15:30 Data and Information

Moderator: Mr. Niall Boot, WASH Specialist, UNICEF

- **Setting the stage: Co-Chairs of the Interactive Dialogue on Water for Health & Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment** (10 min)
Mr. Rene Mateo, Deputy Minister of Soil and Water and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic
H.E. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek Mahmoud, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations
- **Panel Discussion with interventions from the floor** (20 min)
Data and information-related Water Action Agenda commitments holders:
 - [Better global water information through the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System \(HydroSOS\) & Reporting](#): Ms. Laura Patterson, Coordinator to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in North America, World Meteorological Organization
 - [Making water resources research and scientific knowledge more accessible to and usable by practitioners, policymakers and the public at large](#): Ms. Lesha Witmer, Vice President, International Water Resources Association

- **Interventions from the floor** (30 min)

Lead discussant – Youth representative: Ms. Carolina Tornesi Mackinnon, President of the World Youth Parliament for Water

15:30 – 16:30 Capacity Development

Moderator: Ms. Rahmah Elfithri, Chief, Capacity Development, and Water Family Coordination (CDW), UNESCO

- **Setting the stage: Co-Chairs of the Interactive Dialogue on Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment & Water for Health** (10 min)

Mr. Yanagimoto Akira, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Environment, Japan

Professor Adnan Khan, Chief Economist, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom

- **Panel Discussion with interventions from the floor** (20 min)

- [SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative](#): H.E. Mr. Milciades Concepción, Minister of Environment, Panama

Capacity development-related Water Action Agenda commitment holders:

- [Urban Water Catalyst Initiative](#): Dr. Bärbel Kofler, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#): Ms. Angie Saleh, Governance and Partnerships Manager, Sanitation and Water for All

- **Interventions from the floor** (30 min)

Lead discussant – Youth representative: Danielle Kamtié, Vice-President of the World Youth Parliament for Water & Co-founder of the African Youth Parliament for Water

16:30 – 17:30 Financing

Moderator: Mr. Sudipto Sarkar, Lead Water Specialist, World Bank Group

- **Setting the stage: Co-Chairs of the Interactive Dialogue on Water for Sustainable Development** (10 min)

Mr. Dai Bing, Deputy Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

Mr. Silvio Gonzato, Deputy Head of the Delegation to the United Nations, European Union

- **Panel Discussion with interventions from the floor** (20 min)

- Country Acceleration Case Study: Ms. Iara Bueno Giacomini, Director, Department of Water Basin Rehabilitation, Water Access and Multiple Uses of Water Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Brazil
- [Continental Africa Water Investment Programme](#): H.E. Mr. Senzo Mchunu, Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa

- **Interventions from the floor** (30 min)

Lead discussant – Youth representative: Mr. Neil Patel, UNESCO Groundwater Youth Network

17:30 – 18:00 Charting the course to 2030

Moderator: Mr. Johannes Cullmann, UN-Water Vice-Chair

- Reflections on water-related discussions during the UN Climate Change Conference: H.E. Mr. Majid Al Suwaidi, COP 28 Special Representative, United Arab Emirates