

AIDE MEMOIRE

On 22-24 March 2023, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands will co-host the **UN 2023 Water Conference**. The Conference will take place in New York and is the second UN Conference on water in UN history, halfway into the Water Action Decade (“Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028). UN DESA, with the support of UN-Water, serves as the Secretariat for the Conference.

Water as dealbreaker and dealmaker

Water is one of the defining issues of our time, and holds the keys to their solutions. It plays a crucial role in all the major crises we are facing today - whether there is too much or too little water, or whether it is too polluted for human use. Water is cross-cutting and is essential in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through close linkages with i.e. climate, energy, cities, the environment, food security, poverty, gender equality and health. Water is also the biggest **dealbreaker** to achieve the internationally agreed goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, water does not only present us with challenges. It also presents us with great opportunities. If we better understand and value the complex relations and interlinkages of water, reflect this in our economic and fiscal policies and address water issues in a more integrated way, water can also be a **dealmaker**, the leverage point for a green economy, climate resilience and a more sustainable and inclusive world.

UN 2023 Water Conference: uniting the world for water

The existing and future challenges in the field of water require innovative and transformative ideas and a “beyond business as usual” approach. That is why the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands will host the **UN 2023 Water Conference** - a unique and pivotal moment for the international community to identify opportunities and mobilize all stakeholders and sectors to accelerate action for the water-related targets and goals of the 2030 agenda. Considering the urgency at hand, the co-hosts would like to invite Member States, UN entities and other stakeholders - and look forward to their participation - at the highest level in order to ensure the strongest political commitment. An official invitation by the UN Secretary-General to Heads of States and Governments will be sent to Member States shortly.

The Water Action Agenda: time to deliver

For the Conference to be impactful, it should result in clear commitments, pledges and actions. These voluntary commitments, pledges and actions will be brought together in the Water Action Agenda. The Water Action Agenda will be followed up in existing procedures to track progress, to keep the momentum going and to make sure there will be peer pressure and mutual accountability on organizations, countries, and other stakeholders to implement their commitments. In the run-up to the Conference the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands call upon all stakeholders, including Member States, local and regional governments, nongovernmental stakeholders and their coalitions across different sectors, to join hands, showcase best practices, scale up finance and funding, commit to water related goals and act by valuing and managing water better in our policies in order to truly make the UN 2023 Water Conference the watershed moment the world needs.

Additional information

- More information about the Conference and the Water Action Agenda can be found here: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>
- The platform to register commitments can be found here: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water>