

Linkages with global processes on SDG 6 and transboundary water cooperation

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UN 2023 Water conference: New York, 22-24 March 2023



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

- Serviced by UN-DESA, co-hosts Netherlands and Tajikistan, more than 9000 participants
- A unique opportunity to draw the attention of the world to the **increasing water stress** and **slow progress** with the implementation of SDG 6
- Prepared in a 3-year process, with regional preparatory events (e.g. the one for the UNECE region in April 2022 in Geneva)

Format

- **Six plenaries:** Member States announced commitments, plans, actions, and best practices
- **Five interactive dialogues:** held in parallel with the plenary meetings
- **Four Special Events** – “Turning the Tide”
- **Around 500 Side Events**

Main outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference



- ✓ Water Action Agenda with around **800 voluntary commitments**
- ✓ Proposals for **follow-up by the UN Secretary General** (e.g. strengthening of UN-Water, appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water)
- ✓ A summary of **outcomes by the President of the General Assembly**, building on the interventions at the conference and the summaries
- ✓ **Decision on follow-up by the UNGA on 1 September 2023**: new UN Water conferences in 2026 and 2028, development of UN system-wide strategy on water



Outcomes related to the Water Convention



- ✓ 2 **new Parties** acceded to the Water Convention during the Conference: Nigeria and Iraq
- ✓ Over **20 other countries** willing to accede e.g. Benin, **Botswana**, Dominican Republic, South Sudan
- ✓ Secretary-General **urged countries to accede to the Water Convention**, PGA and UN-Water Chair also referred to the Convention
- ✓ High **visibility for transboundary water cooperation** (more than 70 countries mentioned it in plenary statements) and the importance of the Water Convention (around 20 mentioned it)
- ✓ Several **commitments on transboundary cooperation** submitted to Water Action Agenda
- ✓ The Water Convention secretariat supported the interactive dialogue 4 "Water for Cooperation" (by drafting, with UNESCO, the concept note); the UNECE Executive Secretary spoke at the dialogue as



Main achievements related to transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention resulting from the **UN Water Conference**

- More than **40 commitments on transboundary cooperation** submitted to the Water Action Agenda,
- **9 commitments referred to support to or accession to the Water Convention**
- Commitment submitted by Water Convention Chair, Vice-Chairs, Lead Parties and Secretariat on: ***Accelerating transboundary water cooperation through increased accession to and strengthened implementation of the Water Convention***
 - Among deliverables: By 2030, the Water Convention supports at least 10 transboundary basins in improving cooperation through the application of its existing tools and **develops at least 5 new tools to further support transboundary cooperation.**



Water Convention Secretariat during the High-level Political Forum (10-19 July 2023)

- SDG 6 was under review in 2023: **SDG 6 and interlinkages with other SDGs** (11 July 2023)
- **Water Action Agenda Special Event** (17 July 2023)
 - Treaty ceremony for new Parties - **The Gambia** acceded to the two United Nations Water Conventions
- Side event: **Water-Food-Energy Nexus** amid Climate Change in the UNECE Region, organizer: UNECE (13 July 2023)
- **Side event:** Fostering Transboundary Water Cooperation: Unlocking Multifaceted Benefits for Sustainable Development and Peace, lead organizer: **Switzerland** (12 July 2023)
- **Side event:** The Paradox of Climate Change: Spoiler or Driver of Transboundary Water Cooperation?, lead organizer: **Slovenia** (18 July 2023)



Plans of the Water Convention Secretariat at the 28th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 28)

(Dubai, 30 November to 12 December 2023)



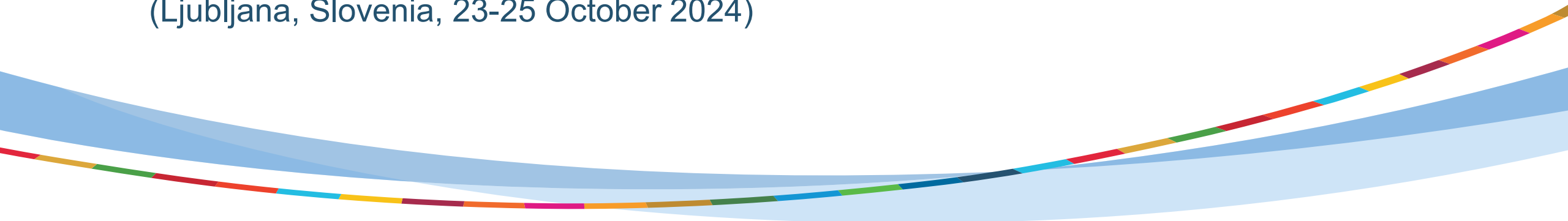
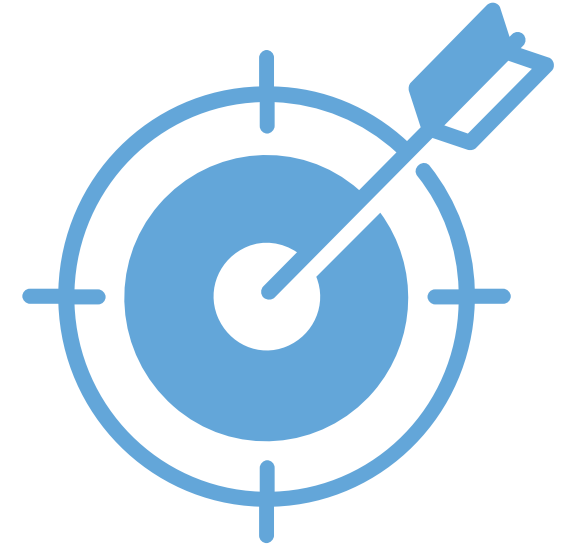
- Our aim: **Promote benefits of transboundary cooperation for adaptation (incl. tools of the Water Convention) for example in the negotiations on the global stocktake, global goal on adaptation..**
- **High-level presidency event:** Water for the clean energy transition and climate change mitigation (5 December) (lead: WMO, UAE, UNECE co-organizer)
- **COP28 Presidency Event** on Water Risks & Resilience (10 December, UNECE co-organizer)
- **Thematic Day 7 on Peace, Security and Health** (6 December, Water Pavilion)
 - Climate financing for transboundary water cooperation (organizer)
 - Water education for peace
 - High-level panel on health and peace (contributor)
- **Food, Agriculture and Water Day** (10 December)
 - Restoring and conserving wetlands as a tool to reduce water scarcity in transboundary basins (side event)



We encourage you to mention transboundary water cooperation in your national statements, side events etc.

Plans for 2024

- **World Water Day 2024** (22 March 2024) focused on “*Leveraging water for peace*”. Main pivot event with launch of the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) in Paris, other events in Geneva and New York
- **High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**, (New York, 8-17 July 2024): Launch of the UN system-wide strategy on water
- **World Water Week 2024** (Stockholm, 20-24 August 2024) focused on “*Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future*”
- **Summit of the Future** (New York, 22-23 September 2024)
- **10th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention** (Ljubljana, Slovenia, 23-25 October 2024)



Thank you!



WEB

unece.org/env/water

<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/un-2023-water-conference>



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

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