

**Fifth joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources  
Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment  
6-8 May 2024**

# **Item 5. (a) Global processes and recent developments related to transboundary water cooperation**

**Ms. Sonja Koeppel  
Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE**

# Key achievements related to transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention at the High-level Political Forum

(New York, 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)



# Outcomes related to transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention from the SDG Summit

(New York, 18–19 September 2023)

- The SDG Summit marked the **mid-point to the deadline set for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**. It was the centerpiece of the High-level Week of the General Assembly and carried out a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs. The outcome of the Summit was a **negotiated political declaration**.
- The **political declaration reaffirmed commitment to the 2030 Agenda** but does not refer to transboundary water cooperation.
- However, several countries highlighted in their **national plenary statements the importance of transboundary water cooperation**.
- A “**Call to Action**” to advance transboundary water cooperation was prepared and disseminated. It was referred to by a few speakers in different events. A social media campaign highlighted the “Call to Action”.

# Other major global events in October 2023 -April 2024

- COP28 of UNFCCC, 30 November-12 December 2023, Dubai
  - Several events related to water and transboundary cooperation
  - Outcomes on global stocktake and goal goal on adaptation refer to transboundary water cooperation
- World Water Day 2024, 22 March focused on “leveraging water for peace”: UNECE led the preparations with UNESCO in the framework of UN-Water and the UNSG referred to the Water Convention in his statement

# World Water Week 2024

(Stockholm, 25–29 August 2024)

- Theme *Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future* centered on water cooperation for peace and security.
- The Water Convention Secretariat is co-organizing several events and is co-convening a **seminar series** titled *Institutions for Water, Peace and Cooperation*.
- Co-convenors: **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**, **Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France** and **Water Witness International**



osce

Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe

  
MINISTÈRE  
DE L'EUROPE  
ET DES AFFAIRES  
ÉTRANGÈRES  
*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

**WATER**   
**WITNESS**

World Water Week hashtag **#WWWeek**

# Summit of the Future

(New York, 22–23 September 2024)

- Building on the 2023 SDG Summit, the **Summit of the Future aims to strengthen the multilateral system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.**
- **Germany and Namibia** are co-facilitators of the Summit.
- An action-oriented **Pact for the Future** will be endorsed by Heads of State/Government at the Summit. The draft version of the Pact is under preparation.
- The **zero draft of the Pact for the Future** (26 January 2024) comprised a chapeau and five chapters (on financing, peace and security, science and technology, youth inclusion and global governance) – no reference to transboundary (water) cooperation or Multilateral Environment Agreements.
- All **countries and stakeholders are encouraged to put forward wording on transboundary water cooperation**, both in the Pact but also in national statements during the Summit.

“We can’t **build a future** for our grandchildren with a system built for our grandparents.”

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES  
United Nations Secretary-General  
17 January 2024



# Thank you!



WEB

[unece.org/env/water](https://unece.org/env/water)



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