

Briefing on the UN 2023 Water Conference

22 – 24 March 2023

Outcomes and implications

Committee of the Permanent Representatives
Nairobi, 27 April 2023

UNEP at the Conference

- UNEP contributed to the Conference, developing the concept and supporting organization of the **Interactive Dialogue on Climate, Resilience and the Environment**
- UNEP led or co-led on sessions related to water and climate change, sustainable lake management, wastewater surveillance, integrated water resource management, Earth observations, floods and droughts monitoring, source to sea, circular economy and ecosystem restoration.



Key points raised by Member States

- Raising the ambition on water action and fully implementing water-related decisions in other relevant process e.g. UNEA, UNFCCC on Climate, CBD on Biodiversity, UNCCD on Desertification and Sendai Framework on DRR.
- Changing the way we regard water – water needs to be considered a common global good
- Pace of implementing SDG 6 has to quadruple in the second half of the 2030 Agenda

UNEP's priorities when it comes to water management

The Conference strongly highlighted UNEP's priorities when it comes to the water management:

- The role of water ecosystems as nature-based solutions
- The importance of water quality monitoring and addressing global water pollution
- Advancing integrated water resource management



Key points raised by Member States

- Need for innovative finance mechanisms to implement water-related goals and targets
- Advance public-private partnerships
- Enhance the use of the source to sea approach to tackle land-based pollution
- Strengthen water governance as a key area for acceleration
- Emphasis on the rights of vulnerable people, including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities and refugees.



Specific Outcomes of the Conference

Water Action Agenda



- Acceleration of implementation of SDG 6 through the Water Action Agenda and the mid-point review of the Water Action Decade
- UNGA President: more than 700 commitments and pledges, accounting to more than \$300 billion, made.
- Calls for the appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water – Secretary-General confirmed consideration of this by September SDG Summit
- Next intergovernmental review of SDG 6 to take place before 2028
- Strengthening of the UN inter-agency coordination mechanism for water (UN-Water), possibly including revising its mandate

UNEP's contribution to the Water Action Agenda

- Collect, analyse and assemble data and information on water
- Increase access to Earth observations and early warning systems
- Establishment of a data collection mechanism to support national and global policy and country support programmes to address SDG bottle-necks
- Enhance the reuse of unconventional water resources, such as wastewater, as well as circularity



UNEP's contribution to the Water Action Agenda

continued

- (at global level) **The strengthening of UN-Water**, the establishment of a UN Special Envoy on Water, and regular reviews of SDG 6 and other water-related global commitments
- Supporting you all to make **Integrated Water Resources Management a game changer at the 6th meeting of UN Environment Assembly**, taking place at the end of February 2024 in Nairobi.



UNEP's contribution to the Water Action Agenda

continued

- (at country level) A glimpse into **UNEP's work in Nairobi and Kenya** at large:
- to advance integrated water resources management, including achieving climate resilience and our biodiversity goals
- to address deteriorating water quality
- to adopt integrated landscape and source-to-sea approaches
- to increase the availability of data and information for early warning and decision-making on water-related disasters, including flood, drought, and pollution from stormwater runoff.



Thank you

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