



IMPLEMENTATION REPORT – INTERIM REPORT

SUPPORT TO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE 2023 CONFERENCE FOR THE MIDTERM COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN DECADE FOR ACTION ON WATER AND SANITATION

BACKGROUND

On 20 December 2018 the General Assembly adopted the resolution on the “Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’ 2018-2028”. ([A/RES/73/226](#)).

The resolution calls for a Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action to be convened in New York **from 22 to 24 March 2023**. The Conference shall be preceded by regional and global preparatory meetings, as appropriate, and informed by existing water-related meetings at the regional and global level.

The Government of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands will co-host the Conference.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

In the lead up to the UN 2023 Water Conference, a number of stakeholder engagement activities will be proposed **around two mutually reinforcing key tracks:**

- **Awareness-raising and information sharing to all stakeholders** about the Conference and its preparatory process through multiple channels.
- **Creating space and providing opportunities for stakeholders** to meaningfully engage in, and contribute to, the preparatory process and the Conference itself, including through consultation of UN Major Groups on the themes of the interactive dialogues (e.g. through a webinar series).

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BMU AND UNDESA

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) has established an agreement with UN DESA and allocated a contribution to be used by the UN for the preparatory process of the 2023 Conference for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of Implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation.

This interim report presents the main outcomes of the project implementation (August – November 2022)

GLOBAL LEVEL

To prepare for the UN 2023 Water Conference, funds were allocated to support the following stakeholder engagement activities at the global level:

- (i) Hiring dedicated consultants to support stakeholder engagement (1) and outreach and communication (2) efforts towards the Conference.
- (ii) Consolidation of regional stakeholder input, including by publicizing inputs at the Conference's webpage and newsletters.
- (iii) Identify key networks and events to support stakeholder outreach (including key constituencies such as women, youth and indigenous peoples) for the UN 2023 Water Conference through the organization of briefings, webinars as well as through the Special Accreditation process for NGOs and other stakeholders.
- (iv) Support the organization of meetings, the technical and expert input into these dialogues as well as communication and outreach activities, including the Stakeholder Consultation (organized by the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA) on 24 October 2022 and the Preparatory Meeting to the Conference (25 October 2022).

MILESTONES – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT – GLOBAL LEVEL

DESA uses its existing expertise and networks (including established networks of UN Water and its Members) to coordinate stakeholder engagement in global events.

Information about the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparations, including opportunities for stakeholders to engage, are made available on a regular basis through multiple channels, including:

- Using the established **dedicated [water information e-mail list](#)** (with over 5000 registrants as of December 2022), to share periodic updates about the Conference process, such as dedicated “Information Newsletters”. The email list is open for additional subscriptions and is a key tool for the Secretariat to collect information about entities that are interested in the Conference.
- Preparing regular “**Information Newsletters**”, monthly since November 2021, which are broadly shared by UN DESA and UN-Water to all relevant mailing lists.
- Using **additional mailing lists** – communication is additionally sent through other mailing lists including to Member States, UN System entities, Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, specially accredited organizations, organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC and others. In addition, all materials are shared with key partners, including the UN Global Compact.
- Organizing periodic **informational virtual briefings and seminars** for stakeholders (First briefing held in June 2022 – more information [here](#)).
- Having a [dedicated page](#) on stakeholder engagement on the Conference website. The website is constantly updated to include announcements and next steps in the preparatory process for the Conference.
- Having a dedicated email (water2023@un.org) to facilitate communication with all interested stakeholders asking for information about the Conference.
- Conducting regular outreach through UN DESA's and partners' **social medial channels** – Including setting up of [Trello board](#) with social media materials.

**Stakeholder Engagement Processes for the UN 2023 Water Conference -Outcomes (Dec 21 – Dec 22)
– Global Level**

Timeline	Action	Notes
December 21	Mailing list for general communication established	<i>Communication with the general mailing list is shared on a regular basis and at least once a month.</i>
January 22	First Newsletter distributed. Timeline for stakeholder accreditation– 1 st round	Newsletter shared monthly since January. Details here .
February	Online stakeholder consultation on themes for interactive dialogues conducted	Information: http://bit.ly/WaterEConsultation2022info
March	Outcomes of online consultation reviewed	
April	Summary report of 1 st online consultation launched	A total of 146 inputs from 46 countries were received from interested stakeholders. The report is available here .
May	Special Accreditation for NGOs and other stakeholders opened - (1 st Round)	
June	First online Stakeholder Briefing (15 June)	The briefing received over 900 registrations. Over 500 participants joined the session on Zoom or followed on Facebook live. More about the Online stakeholder briefing here .
July	Special Accreditation (1 st Round) closed	
August	Special Accreditation (1 st Round) – Finalized	440 non-governmental organizations and other actors received special accreditation during the 1 st round. Outcomes of the first round of Special Accreditation to the UN 2023 Water Conference (August 2022) can be found here .
September	2 nd online consultation launched Survey on the profile of specially accredited organizations	A total of 719 inputs from 73 countries, from all regions, were received. More about the Second online stakeholder consultation here .

<p style="text-align: center;">October</p>	<p>Report of 2nd Online Consultation launched</p> <p>2nd Online Briefing (12 October)</p> <p>24 October 2022 – PGA Stakeholder consultation (registration, speaking slots)</p> <p>25 October 2022 - Preparatory meeting (registration, speaking slots)</p> <p>31 October 2022 - 2nd round of Special Accreditation Opened</p>	<p>Report of Second online stakeholder consultation, including the 719 inputs used for the analysis, available here.</p> <p>The briefing received more than 1,400 registrations and more than 800 participants joined the session live, which was also livestreamed on Facebook. Information about 2nd online briefing here.</p> <p>Details about PGA stakeholder consultation available here. More than 1,100 participants registered to the event. Almost 4,000 video views were registered via UN Webcast and around 570 followed the discussions live via WebEx. More than 300 requests for speaking slots were registered and more than 100 stakeholders intervened during the meeting</p> <p>25 October - 280 representatives from accredited non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders registered to attend the Preparatory Meeting. Seven stakeholders made oral interventions during the session. Written statements from accredited organizations are being compiled by DSDG and will be published to the event's page.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November</p>	<p>Outreach for the 2nd round of Special Accreditation</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">December</p>	<p>2nd Round of Special Accreditation closed (2nd December)</p> <p>Open call for side-events launched</p>	<p>More information about side-events available here.</p>

REGIONAL LEVEL

UN DESA established dedicated agreements with UNECLAC, UNESCWA and UNECA to support the implementation of regional preparatory processes and regional participation of regional states (mainly from LDC countries) and non-state actors at global-level events in preparation for the UN 2023 Water Conference. Small-scale support will be granted to UNECE and UNESCAP as well as to joint initiatives of all 5 Regional Economic Commissions.

I. UNECLAC IMPLEMENTATION (AUGUST 2022 – NOVEMBER 2022)

ACTIVITY (1): ORGANIZE POLITICAL DIALOGUES AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THREE SUBREGIONAL PREPARATORY PROCESSES TO THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

UNECLAC designed spaces for political dialogues with subregional focus in the context of the forthcoming Regional Water Dialogues event that will take place in Santiago, Chile in a hybrid format between 18 -20 January 2023.

The objectives of the event were to i) communicate and consolidate the commitments made to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6 in LAC, taking special care to highlight the context of Caribbean, Central American and Andean Countries and ii) to exchange experiences and lessons learned for launching a Regional Water Action Agenda with a multi-stakeholder approach.

The sessions of the LAC Regional Water Dialogues follow the 2023 UN Water Conference but slightly adjusted to focus on specific sub regional challenges.

- The water and climate panel was centred on English speaking Caribbean countries water management in the context of climate change.
- The water and sustainable development session highlights efforts of Andean Countries on improving the implementation of Integrated Water Management across transboundary basins. -
- The water, energy and food session with special participation of Central American stakeholders.
- UNECLAC is organizing with the Dutch government a Valuing Water Initiative session where local and national solutions for accelerating SDG 6 in LAC are discussed and socialized.
- A water and culture session is also envisioned to portray folkloric dances related to water.

Each session is being co-organized with institutions from the Regional Water Expert Group. Besides inviting high-level participants from the public sector, the list of invitees includes representatives from LAC youth, indigenous communities, as well as the participation of female voices.

Technical assistance has been provided to Andean Countries in the context of the Andean Water Forum held in Lima 26-27 October 2022. ECLAC provided policy recommendations to enhance integrated water resource management strategies and data collection. Silvia Saravia Matus from the Water and Energy Unit at UNECLAC gave a master conference providing an overview of water resources in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the proposal for a sustainable and inclusive water transition. Afterwards, Marina Gil, from UNECLAC, supported the moderation, opening and closing remarks for the second session which

addressed current situation, emerging issues, priorities and opportunities for Andean cooperation in integrated water resources management. Support from UNECLAC staff was provided by identifying the relevant experiences and actions to be mentioned; holding key meetings with the CAN counterpart defining the agenda and details of the presentations themselves; in the preparation of the slides and the documentation itself. As a result of this event, Andean Countries have updated their roadmap towards integrated water management across boundaries.

MAIN OUTCOMES

Regarding the organization of UN ECLAC's Water Dialogues, there are 120 people invited to present or participate, with 200 people expected on site. For virtual attendance, about 500 participants have now registered. A total of 3000 participants are expected.

Regarding subregional outreach, the Caribbean Consultation got over 460 responses, 52% of them coming from female actors. Here, 53.9% of the respondents indicated that the topic to prioritize is strengthening the governance and institutional system towards Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Increasing resilience and adaptation to climate change (extreme events and rising sea level) together with ensuring sustainable groundwater management were also selected as issues that should be prioritized. These inputs will be used in the Caribbean-specific session of the Regional Water Dialogues. With this, for the Water and Climate panel dedicated to Caribbean Countries, four relevant high-level politicians are being invited. These are: the Environmental Minister of Barbados, the Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment of Antigua and Barbuda, the Minister for Public Works and the Digital Economy of Dominica and the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation of Jamaica.

LINKS AND RELEVANT MATERIALS

- UN ECLAC's Regional Water Dialogues in LAC
[Link to the informative note for registering to the Regional Water Dialogues](#)
Concept note (See Annex 1).
[Link to the preliminary agenda of the Regional Water Dialogues](#)
Agenda and Concept Note of Water and Climate session for Caribbean subregion (See Annex 2).
- Technical Assistance to Andean countries
[Link to the agenda of the Andean Water Regional Forum](#)
[Link to informative note of UN ECLAC's participation of the Andean Water Regional Forum](#)

ACTIVITY (2): UNDERTAKING STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS, PARTICIPATION AND MOBILIZATION IN TARGETED SUBREGIONS

For the subregional preparatory process, an open consultation was carried out to identify the water priorities of the Caribbean subregion. It was published from August 19 to October the 30^t, collecting responses from over 460 participants. Additionally, youth representatives from the Caribbean will be invited to attend the Regional Water Dialogues.

For the subregional preparatory process in Central America a list of key stakeholders has been identified from youth, NGO's and the private sector working with water. Some of these stakeholders have been

invited to the Regional Water Dialogues. Particularly, they will participate in a panel highlighting actions to accelerate SDG 6. For this, an open call was made between August 22 and October 15 of this year, where nearly 200 initiatives were sent. A total of 10 initiatives have been selected, 7 of them from Central American stakeholders.

MAIN OUTCOMES

The CAN Andean Water Forum ended up being a success. Nearly 50 people attended the event in person while there were another 300 participants connected online. Here, the event ended up with a consensus to implement a Roadmap for accelerating SDG 6 particularly regarding IWRM, with defined activities for the next steps during 2023.

LINKS AND RELEVANT MATERIALS

- [Link to informative note about Caribbean Consultation](#)
- [Link to Caribbean Consultation report](#)

ACTIVITY (3): PREPARATION OF SUBREGIONAL SPECIFIC INPUTS TO THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

The organization of the LAC Regional Water Dialogues is very advanced in its process. The event will last three days. The first day consists of a high-level political session that will close with a decalogue of commitments towards the UN Water Conference. The second day involves a technical session that will close with a Regional Water Action Agenda involving multiple stakeholders. The third day involves a field trip to address the interlinkages between water, energy, food and the environment. Thus, the results and commitments made throughout the LAC Regional Water Dialogues in January, will be used as inputs for the UN 2023 Water Conference, highlighting the special considerations per sub region and strategic groups such as Indigenous and Youth representatives.

MAIN OUTCOMES

The Brainstorming solutions panel got over 200 responses, most of them coming from SICA countries.

LINKS AND RELEVANT MATERIALS

- Activities carried out with Central American subregion
[Link to the open call for the Brainstorming Solutions Panel](#)
[Link to the selection of participant for the Brainstorming Solutions Panel](#)

II. UN ESCWA (ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA) IMPLEMENTATION (AUGUST 2022 – NOVEMBER 2023)

ACTIVITY (1): SUPPORT TO REGIONAL WATER ACTION DECADE DAY WITHIN CAIRO WATER WEEK, OCTOBER 16-19, TO INFORM ON REGIONAL PROCESS AND ENSURE INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE

ESCWA supported the organization of 5th Cairo Water Week 2022 High-level Segment Policy dialogues in water scarce countries for achieving SDGs: Towards the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade, March 2023 that was held on 16-17 March. The High-Level Segment on 17 March constituted a Policy dialogue in the water scarce countries for achieving the SDGs and discussed challenges and opportunities to the implementation of water-related goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on the acceleration of their implementation to contribute to the success of the UN 2023 Water Conference and the Water Action Decade. The High-Level plenary segment was preceded by a High-Level series of roundtable discussions on 16 October 2022 to inform the discussions.

MAIN OUTCOMES

The 2-day Policy dialogues were well attended by participants of the Cairo Water Week and resulted in the endorsement of the *Cairo Call for Action*. The sessions gathered high-level and technical representatives from governments, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, women and youth, local communities, private sector and multidisciplinary experts from all parts of the world. Ministers and heads of agencies participated in the high-level segment roundtables and plenary sessions. In addition to supporting the organization of the 2-day event, ESCWA supported the travel of 25 representatives from the Arab region to ensure that regional processes and messaging are well reflected.

LINKS AND RELEVANT MATERIALS

- [Cairo Water Week website](#)
- [Link to video of session 1 of High level Dialogue](#)
- [Link to video of session 2 of High level Dialogue](#)
- [Link to video of session 3 of High level Dialogue](#)
- [Link to video of session 4 of High level Dialogue](#)

ACTIVITY (2): SUPPORT TO REGIONAL WATER ACTION DECADE SESSION IN THE ARAB WATER CONFERENCE IN CAIRO BACK-TO-BACK WITH ARAB MINISTERIAL WATER COUNCIL SESSION

ESCWA is supporting the fourth Arab Water Conference that will be held in Cairo from 30 November to 1 December back-to-back with the Arab Ministerial Water Council Session from 27 November to 1 December. In addition to substantive support, ESCWA is also sponsoring the travel of 5 participants. ESCWA has ensured that the conference agenda has ample room for discussions on the regional preparatory process for the UN 2023 Water Conference

MAIN OUTCOMES

The fourth Arab water Conference is expected to be well attended with representatives from the Arab region constituting official representatives, academia, and civil society. The conference discussions will help to shape regional messages and discussions leading to the UN 2023 Water Conference.

LINKS AND RELEVANT MATERIALS

- [Fourth Arab water Conference](#)

PROPOSED ACTIVITY (3+4): ARAB POLICY BRIEF AND SUPPORT FOR THE INPUT INTO THE CONSOLIDATED NOTE AMONG REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AND SUPPORT TO FINALIZE OUTPUT DOCUMENT FROM THE ARAB REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING IN TERMS OF LAYOUT AND INTERPRETATION AND EDITING. (COST: USD 2,000)

This activity has been implemented through other funding sources due to time constraints and thus we would like to request redeployment of funds (USD 9070) to support participation of regional representatives to the UN 2023 Water Conference and participation in regional side events (Activity 5)

PROPOSED ACTIVITY (5): SUPPORT OF REGIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE 2023 UN WATER CONFERENCE AND THE REGIONAL COMMISSION SIDE EVENT

Support participation of regional representatives to the 2023 UN Water Conference and the regional commission side events. Savings realized in all above activities will be used in this activity to ensure that regional priorities and challenges and commitments are well reflected in the conference through a multistakeholder representation

III. UN ECA IMPLEMENTATION (OCTOBER 2022 – MARCH 2023)

PROPOSED ACTIVITY (1): ONBOARDING CONSULTANT TO UNDERTAKE DESK RESEARCH AND CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WITH SELECTED STAKEHOLDERS TO COLLECT DATA AND INFORMATION TO DRAFT AND FINALIZE AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON AFRICA’S PROGRESS AT MID-TERM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION, "WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT", 2018–2028.

A senior consultant in water resources management was engaged in October 2022. And contributed to the review of the outcome of the 1st regional consultation meeting and identify gaps and other areas of improvement so as to present concrete progress and milestones achieved, identify emerging issues and trends, and key challenges and opportunities for the acceleration of implementation during the 2nd half of the WAD post-2023;

Provided functional support and took a lead in the preparation of the concept notes, programs, plan of action and expected outcomes of the 2nd Africa regional multi-stakeholder consultative meeting;

Identified key stakeholders to participate in the multi-stakeholder meeting;

Facilitated the regional consultation meeting and presented outcomes from the regional assessment report;

PROPOSED ACTIVITY (2): CONVENE THE SECOND AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATION OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW

The 2nd regional consultation was led by the African Union Commission, and jointly coordinated by ECA, the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) from 7-8 November 2022, in Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

The consultation reviewed the first report and outcome statements and identified the gaps in the first report and made proposals to improve the record. Africa’s priorities across the five themes from the UNGA dialogue of water for development, climate resilience, cooperation, health and water action decade were adopted.

Participants agreed on a harmonized approach for presenting Africa’s inputs to the Mid-Term Review of the International Water Decade, “Water for Sustainable Development”, in March 2023.

At the end of the two days, participants considered and refined messages for the high-level political forum and Water for Sustainable Development Conference (WAD 2023), the roadmap of reviews and activities, African inputs into the Groundwater Summit 2022, road Map of activities to International Decade Mid-Term Review Conference 2023 and the recommendations on the revitalization of UN-Water Africa.

MAIN OUTCOMES

The consultant has completed the alignment of regional consultation outcomes with the five themes adopted at the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue organized at the UNGA on 2nd October 2022, and the 2nd round African regional consultation report is now being edited and translated from English to French before it is posted on the web for public use. The consultant is now working on producing an African

brochure for the Water Conference; and a policy brief for the Water Conference for the benefit of policy maker.

The 2nd Africa regional consultation focused on the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It provided a platform for key continental water stakeholders including river/Lake basin organizations(L/RBOs), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and civil society organizations active in water and sanitation, to deliberate, take stock and reaffirm their commitment to solving Africa’s water crisis and to collectively implement the actions envisaged in the African Water Vision, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030) on water (SDG 6) and the AU Agenda 2063. The Meeting was convened by key African institutions, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission AUC, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) as co-chairs, for better coordination, ownership of outcomes and commitment to options for accelerated action post mid-term review period. Over 100 participants took part in this hybrid format consultation.

LINKS AND RELEVANT MATERIALS

The report of the 2nd consultation will be posted after translation to form English to French, however a brief on the 2nd Africa regional consultation is available under events on the ECA website [here](#).

IV. UNECE IMPLEMENTATION (JULY 2022 – NOVEMBER 2022)

PROPOSED ACTIVITY (1)

At the sixth session of the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Geneva and online, 16-18 November 2022) additional consultations on the priorities of the Pan-European region towards the 2023 UN water conference were held and an input document was developed. This included the high-level segment which resulted in an outcome document to be brought forward towards the 2023 UN water conference, as well as a side event specifically on the conference organized in cooperation with the Netherlands.

MAIN OUTCOMES

More than 200 participants from over 40 countries (mainly from the health, water and environment sectors, permanent missions in Geneva, NGOs and water operators) attended the meeting, including several high-level ones. The high-level segment resulted in an outcome document highlighting the importance of access to water and sanitation for all as well as water resilience and climate-resilient water services not only for sustainable development, human dignity but also for preventing future pandemics and health more broadly.

LINKS AND RELEVANT MATERIALS

- <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/6thsession-MOP-Protocol>
- <https://unece.org/media/environment/Water-Convention/press/373038>

V. UN ESCAP IMPLEMENTATION (OCTOBER 2022 – MARCH 2023)

PROPOSED ACTIVITY (1): KEY MESSAGES AND BROCHURE FOR THE UN WATER CONFERENCE REGIONAL COMMISSION'S SIDE EVENT

Key messages from the Asia Pacific regional consultation on the Mid-Term review of the UN Decade of Action on Water were shared for the UN 2023 Water Conference preparatory meeting.

A consultant has been recruited in November 2022 to support the development of the brochure to be prepared by all regional commissions, synthesizing the main messages of the regional preparatory held from March-May 2022.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY (2): REGIONAL COMMISSION SIDE EVENTS DURING THE UN WATER CONFERENCE

This relates to travel for ESCAP staff from Bangkok to NY to attend the 2023 UN Water Conference and the regional commission side event, to be held in March 2023.

MAIN OUTCOMES

A proposal for the brochure for the UN water conference will be ready in December, to be discussed with other regional commissions for supporting the regional commissions' side event at the UN Water conference. The side event will be attended by one ESCAP staff member as well as by 4 stakeholders from the region supported by UN-Water funds for travel.