

The background of the cover features a photograph of a large, clear blue lake with steep, rocky mountains in the distance. The image is overlaid with large, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of blue and green, creating a modern, abstract design.

# FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

**Second High-Level International Conference  
on the International Decade for Action  
“Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028**

**6-9 JUNE 2022**

Dushanbe, Tajikistan



## ORGANIZERS



The Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 is organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with the support of the United Nations and other partners.



In order to successfully convene the Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan established the Organizing Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda.

## SECRETARIAT

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## BACKGROUND

Today, per capita freshwater availability is diminishing. Over the past four decades, it dropped by one-third. According to UN-Water's World Water Development Report (2018), by 2050, between 4.8 billion and 5.7 billion people out of 9 billion will live in areas that are water-scarce for at least one month each year, up from 3.6 billion today, while the number of people at risk of floods will increase to 1.6 billion, up from 1.2 billion today.

Water is a powerful tool for cooperation and dialogue in support of sustainable development and safer and resilient societies. However, there is a need for more effective, integrated and coordinated actions, coupled with strong political will. All stakeholders, including those in government, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia, should be engaged, paying special attention to the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people, leaving no one behind.

To bridge the achievement gap, the United Nations launched the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. The Framework emphasizes that there are many examples from around the world which prove that dramatic gains are possible and that some of the solutions are inexpensive, effective and can be quickly deployed. The Framework aims at delivering fast results at an increased scale. Coordinated by UN-Water, the Framework is driven by country demand and will unify the international community's support to countries to achieve SDG 6. Action is driven by five accelerators: financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation, and governance.

Mobilizing political will and commitments to address water issues worldwide plays a crucial role. Equally important are forward-thinking and a willingness to promote innovative ways to approach local, national, regional and international water cooperation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. Open discussions about the issues shaping water resources management today and public participation in decision-making, including, among others, of women, youth, minorities, migrants, refugees and persons with disabilities, can stimulate cooperative solutions and actions. Promoting a culture of consultation and dialogue, increasing participatory engagement and partnership will help to deliver benefits for all.



## WATER ACTION DECADE AND THE DUSHANBE WATER PROCESS

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly declared the period 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” (hereinafter Water Action Decade), which aims at supporting sustainable development and integrated management of water resources, while promoting cooperation and partnerships to support achieving internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On 22 March 2018, the United Nations Secretary General’s Plan for the Water Action Decade was released during a High-Level Launch Event, convened by the President of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly. The plan outlines current activities and capabilities of the UN system and international organizations and the operational setup envisaged to support Member States in the implementation of the Water Action Decade.

In this connection, the Government of Tajikistan, committed to continue providing a platform for policy dialogue, partnership and action at the global, regional and national level, is organizing, with the support of the United Nations and other partners, high-level international conferences throughout the Water Action Decade. This series of events constitutes the so-called “Dushanbe Water Process”. As part of this process, the First High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (First Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference) was held in Dushanbe on 20-21 June 2018. The outcomes of the Conference included recommendations to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that took place in 2018, for its in-depth review of the implementation of SDG 6. The Final Declaration of the First Dushanbe Conference confirmed the focus of the next conference to be on “Catalyzing water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels” to achieve the goals of the Water Action Decade and other water-related SDGs and targets. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemics, the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference had to be postponed to 2022. Taking into account the rapidly evolving development challenges, and the fact that the coronavirus disease demonstrated a crucial role of the safe and affordable drinking water, and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene which should be available, accessible, and affordable to all, as well as importance of water for economic recovery the Conference planned for 2022 will have a renewed focus on “Catalyzing water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels” for the water-smart recovery path in the post-COVID world.



The importance of the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference was further reaffirmed at the global level through the adopted UN GA resolution 75/212, indicating it as the key preparatory event for the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028. The Midterm Review Conference will take place from 22 to 24 March 2023 in New York and will be co-hosted by the Governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands. The resolution calls on the offer of the Government of Tajikistan to use the Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference in 2022 as a platform to support an effective preparation for the Midterm comprehensive review. The Conference in Dushanbe shall also ensure linkages with other water-related meetings that may serve to provide input for the preparatory process of the Midterm Conference, e.g. high-level symposium on water during the UN Ocean Conference, Bonn Water Dialogue for Results, Asia-Pacific Water Summit and the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

The Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference is organized by the Government of Tajikistan with the support of the United Nations and will be held from 6 to 9 June 2022. The Conference will be co-chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.





## OBJECTIVES

The Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will focus on how governments, the United Nations and its entities, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, communities, local governments and other stakeholders can catalyze water action and partnerships to contribute to the implementation of water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the New Urban Agenda at all levels, while supporting the global response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will also serve as a platform for soliciting and consolidating inputs in preparation of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 in 2023 in New York (UN 2023 Water Conference) and will feed the upcoming UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.





In particular, the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will focus on:

- Providing an update on the activities and actions indicated in the Final Declaration, the Co-Chairs' Summary and the Call for Action and Partnerships of the First Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference, co-organized by the Government of Tajikistan and the United Nations;
- Accelerating the implementation of internationally agreed water-related goals and targets at the regional and national level, particularly through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework;
- Promoting science-based solutions and tools, including data, technologies and innovations;
- Improving capacity building, knowledge and education through sharing information and best practices;
- Showcasing successful partnerships, advocacy and networking actions by stakeholders at all levels;
- Strengthening cooperation at different levels by promoting dialogue, partnership and cross-sectoral approaches.

The Conference in 2022 will also provide a mechanism to encourage governments, the United Nations and all other partners to translate good intentions into actions on the ground.





## INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To facilitate an inclusive preparation for the Conference, as well as to develop a comprehensive program and outcome documents of the Conference, an International Advisory Committee (IAC), involving the representatives of the partner governments, United Nations institutions, international and regional institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders has been established. IAC members represent a diverse group of stakeholders.

The International Steering Committee (ISC) of the Group of Friends of Water in New York is engaged in the preparation of the Conference through its regular meetings, convened by Permanent Missions to the United Nations.

## OUTCOMES

In continuity with past events, this Conference will produce a Final Declaration and a Co-chair's Summary, as well as a compendium of actions, partnerships and other initiatives, presented during the Conference.

The outcome documents of the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will consolidate critical views of the stakeholders on key actions and partnerships necessary to take the water sector agenda forward globally and provide valuable inputs to the preparation of the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York. The outcomes of the Conference will be presented to the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.





## FORMAT AND PARTICIPATION MODALITIES

The Conference is multi-stakeholder in nature and will bring together different groups and actors involved in the implementation of water-related goals and targets.

The Conference will gather high-level representatives of the UN member states, UN institutions, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, businesses, river basin authorities, local governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, academia and media. To provide an opportunity for the promotion of integrated approaches and partnerships, participation of representatives from different sectors out of water box is encouraged.

Given the uncertainties associated with the realities of the COVID-19 and a global nature of the planned event, while the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference is expected to be physical in-person event to ensure the highest level of interaction among participants, the format of the Conference will be adjusted to allow for a combination of carefully planned offline, online and potentially hybrid events, as needed. Format of the Conference sessions will be defined based on the availability of the speakers, required level of interaction between online and offline participants, with the view of ensuring inclusive approach to participation and wide outreach. Preparation of the Conference will be completed mostly online. The Conference will incorporate safety measures for preventing COVID-19 transmission; specific standard operating procedures for the prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 will be communicated closer to the event.





## **DATES AND VENUE**

The Conference will be held from 6 to 9 June 2022 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.

The Conference forums will take place on 6 June 2022. The venue for these events will be determined by the organizers separately.

The opening and closing ceremonies, plenary session, thematic and interactive panels will be held on 7-8 June 2022.

## **REGISTRATION**

Registration is free of charge. Online registration is available on the website of the conference: [www.dushanbewaterprocess.org](http://www.dushanbewaterprocess.org)

The registration deadline is 6 May 2022.

## **LANGUAGES**

The working languages of the Conference are English and Russian (simultaneous translation will be provided). Translation into other UN official languages will be provided to the possible extent for the Opening Ceremony and Closing Session.

## **PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

The Conference program includes opening and closing ceremonies, a plenary session, thematic and interactive panels, special forums for regional and major groups, as well as side events. Cultural events including an exhibition will also be organized.

## **PLENARY SESSION**

The Plenary session will provide an opportunity for the Heads of Delegation to make political statements. Guidelines to make statements consistent with the Water Action Decade and SDG 6 will be provided to Heads of Delegations through diplomatic channels, as appropriate.

The Plenary Session will also include a presentation on the progress made towards objectives of the Water Action Decade.



## REGIONAL AND MAJOR GROUPS FORUMS

The Forums will be held before the opening ceremony of the Conference and will provide focused engagement of different regions, women, youth and other major groups, in the manner consistent with objectives of the Conference. The objective of the Forums is to create an additional platform for broader discussion of water-related issues among specific types of stakeholders or in certain regions.

The Forums make it possible to involve different types of stakeholders, including women, youth, indigenous people, professional groups, scholars, private sector and others in the implementation of the water agenda with a focus on catalyzing water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global level. Factual and relevant deliberations, findings and solutions may effectively contribute to the theme of the Conference and address the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.

The Forums will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on the outcomes of the First Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference in their narrow context. The outcomes of the Forums will be presented at the Plenary session and reflected in the outcome documents of the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference.





## THEMATIC AND INTERACTIVE PANELS

The Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference includes twelve Thematic and Interactive Panels. The Panels will focus on SDG 6, other water related goals, the goals of the Water Action Decade and the areas on means of implementation. The Panels are co-organized by partners of the Dushanbe Water Process, including Member States, United Nations agencies and programs, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, other development partners, private companies, as well as academia and non-governmental organizations. As a general rule, each Panel will be co-organized by two partners. They will cover the following issues:

### Three Thematic Panels on Water for Health and People (WHP)

- Increasing water-health nexus for responding to the challenges of the post-COVID world (WHP1)
- Accelerating access to safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions, leaving no one behind (WHP2)
- Advancing water sustainability in urban and rural areas (WHP3)

### Three Thematic Panels on Water for Livelihoods and Inclusive Economic Growth (WEG)

- Promoting integrated water resources management, water efficiency and valuing water (WEG1)
- Accelerating the water-energy-food nexus in post-COVID recovery (WEG2)
- Transboundary water cooperation for inclusive economic growth and sustainability (WEG3)

### Three Thematic Panels on Water, Environment and Climate Resilience (WEC)

- Promoting nature-based water solutions, water quality and ecosystems (WEC1)
- Resilient infrastructure and disaster risk reduction (WEC2)
- Water resources and climate: reinforcing the interlinkages (WEC3)

### Three Interactive Panels on Education, Technology, Awareness and Knowledge (ETAK)

- Promoting science-based water solutions, tools and technology (ETAK1)
- Moving out of water box and promoting integration at all levels (ETAK2)
- Improving knowledge, education and communication (ETAK3)

The outcomes of the Panels will be presented at the Closing session. They will also be reflected in the outcome documents of the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference.



## **CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES: SDG 6 GLOBAL ACCELERATION FRAMEWORK AND WATER ACTION DECADE**

All Forums and Panels will be organized in an inclusive approach and address the five dimensions of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework as cross-cutting issues: financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation and governance, as well as the objectives of the Water Action Decade.

### **SIDE EVENTS**

The Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will provide opportunities for interested parties to organize side events on relevant matters/issues on the sidelines of the Conference.

### **EXHIBITION**

An exhibition will be organized at the sidelines of the Conference. Partners interested in organizing their thematic booths shall contact the Conference Secretariat for more information.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Participants will be invited to participate in a tour/field trip the day after the Conference to get acquainted with the cases of integrated and sustainable water resources management in Tajikistan. Participants who plan to arrive before the Conference or stay longer and wish to visit other parts of Tajikistan can contact the Conference Secretariat for more information.



## ABOUT TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan is a country in Central Asia which borders on the west and north with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, on the south with Afghanistan, and on the east with China. Total area of the territory of the country is 142,600 km<sup>2</sup>.

Tajikistan is a typical mountainous country with absolute heights from 300 to 7,495 m. 93% of its territory is occupied by mountains. The majority of the population and economic activities of Tajikistan are concentrated on 7% of its territory, in the valleys.

By 1 January 2021, the population of Tajikistan estimated 9.5 million people, 26.4% of which live in cities and 73.6% in rural areas. The average annual population growth is about 2.5% per year.

Tajikistan ranks the first in Central Asia in terms of water resources. More than 80% of the runoff of the Amudarya and 1% of the Syr Darya River is formed in Tajikistan. In general, it provides 64 km<sup>3</sup> per year or 55.4% of the water resources of the Aral Sea basin. The total volume of glaciers of the country is more than 845 km<sup>3</sup>, underground waters reach 18.7 km<sup>3</sup> per year, and lake waters reach 46.3 km<sup>3</sup>.

With very little oil and gas reserves, difficulties for industrial development of coal fields, Tajikistan possesses vast inexhaustible reserves of hydropower resources. By estimations of experts, these reserves are approximately 527 billion kWh of electricity per year. The potential exceeds three times the existing electricity consumption of the whole of Central Asia. With the efficient use of this potential, the region can be provided with affordable and environmentally clean electricity.





