



WATER
ACTION DECADE
2018-2028

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

3RD HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE
INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION
“WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” 2018-2028

10-13 June 2024, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan

ORGANIZERS

The 3rd Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference is organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with the support of the United Nations and other partners. The ultimate responsibility for preparation of the Conference rests with the National Organizing Committee established by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan under the leadership of the Prime Minister.



BACKGROUND

The Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 will be held from 10 to 13 June 2024 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan within the framework of the Dushanbe Water Process.

The Dushanbe Water Process is an initiative of the Government of Tajikistan to support the implementation of the goals of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” through a series of biennial conferences hosted by the Government of Tajikistan in close cooperation with the UN. Prime-minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs are the Co-chairs of the conferences.

To date, two Dushanbe Water Conferences successfully held in 2018 and 2022 in Dushanbe. The Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference in 2022 played a significant role in shaping the themes of interactive dialogues of the UN 2023 Water Conference and launching the Water Action Agenda.

Within the sidelines of the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference the Government of Tajikistan aims to provide a platform for monitoring and promoting the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Based on this, the program structure of the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will follow that of the UN Water Conference, including five interactive dialogues that will comprehensively review progress made since the UN Water Conference in New York. The conference also includes a thorough assessment of the implementation of the Water Action Agenda.



GOALS

The main objective of the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference is to further enhance common efforts and support the implementation of voluntary commitments registered in the Water Action Agenda of the UN Water Conference, as well as to stimulate new partnerships and accelerate actions to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Dushanbe conference also aims to share best practices and innovative solutions, strengthen partnerships among stakeholders, promote the role of water in sustainable development, raise awareness and mobilize political will to accelerate progress towards achieving the water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda and contribute to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2024 and preparatory process of the UN Water Conference in 2026.

In particular, the 3rd Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will focus on:

- Providing a platform to support the implementation of the goals and targets of the Water Action Decade, as well as for the follow up to the UN 2023 Water Conference;
- 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 2nd Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference;
- 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 towards the implementation of the goals and targets of the Water Action Decade;
- Strengthening cooperation at different levels by promoting dialogue, partnership and cross-sectoral approaches.

The Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will also provide a mechanism to encourage governments, the United Nations and all other partners to translate intentions into actions on the ground and catalyze new commitments to be registered in the Water Action Agenda.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC)

The International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Dushanbe Water Process consisting the representatives of the partner governments, United Nations institutions, international and regional institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders will help the National Organizing Committee to facilitate an inclusive preparation for the Conference, as well as to develop a comprehensive program and outcome documents of the Conference.

The International Steering Committee (ISC) of the Group of Friends of Water in New York will be 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 towards the implementation of the Water Action Decade, presented during the Conference. The outcomes of the Conference will be presented to the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

PARTICIPATION

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 entities, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, communities, local governments, and other stakeholders. To provide an opportunity for the promotion of integrated approaches and partnerships,

participation of representatives from different sectors out of the water box is encouraged.

FORMAT OF PARTICIPATION

The Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference is expected to be a physical in-person event to ensure the highest level of interaction among participants, as well as widely broadcasted via YouTube and other channels.

DATES AND VENUE

The Conference will be held on 10-13 June 2024 at Kokhi Somon, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.

Conference forums will be held prior to the official opening of the Conference. Venues for these events will be decided by the organizers separately.

REGISTRATION:

The Dushanbe Water Process is introducing, for the first time, a registration fee for participation in the Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conferences. This is not related to commercial purposes, as the Government of Tajikistan covers most of the local costs for conference participants, which are many times higher than the envisaged fee.

The introduction of the registration fee is related to the need to ensure security and timely resolution of all logistical issues. It also helps to avoid false registrations, which we have encountered a lot in the preparation of previous conferences.

Detailed information on conference registration is available at the following link: <https://conf2024.dushanbewaterprocess.org/registration-ru/?lang=ru>.

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.

More information about the Conference is available at: <https://conf2024.dushanbewaterprocess.org/>

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

The program of the 3rd Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will follow the structure of the UN 2023 Water Conference, including a plenary session, five interactive dialogues that will comprehensively review progress made since the UN 2023 Water Conference, forums, side events, cultural events, an exhibition, a press conference and field trips.





PLENARY SESSION

The Plenary session of the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference 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, as well as Water Action Agenda of the UN 2023 Water Conference will be provided to Heads of Delegations through diplomatic channels, as appropriate.

FORUMS

The Forums will be held before the opening ceremony of the Conference and will provide focused engagement of private sector, academia, 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 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 UN 2023 Water Conference and 2nd Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference in their narrow context. The outcomes of the Forums will be presented at the Closing session. The Terms of Reference for the Forums will be prepared by the Conference Secretariat.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES

The Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will include five Interactive Dialogues correspond to that of the UN 2023 Water Conference. The Dialogues will focus on the implementation of the goals and targets of the Water Action Decade, review the progress catalyzed by the UN 2023 Water Conference particularly implementation of the Water Action Agenda, identifying challenges and opportunities

in their implementation, sharing best practices and innovative solutions and strengthening partnerships among stakeholders towards the implementation of the water-related goals.

The co-chairs of the appropriate interactive dialogues of the UN 2023 Water Conference are invited to co-organize the interactive dialogues of the Dushanbe Conference jointly with other partners of the Dushanbe Water Process. The Terms of Reference for the Interactive Dialogues will be prepared by the Conference Secretariat.

The Dialogues will cover the following themes correspond to that of the UN 2023 Water Conference:

Interactive Dialogue - 1. Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Interactive Dialogue - 2. Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus, and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development.

Interactive Dialogue - 3. Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Interactive Dialogue - 4. Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda.

Interactive Dialogue - 5. Water Action Decade: Accelerating the Implementation of the Objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan.

The outcomes of the Interactive Dialogues will be presented at the Closing session. They will also be reflected in the outcome documents of the 3rd Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference.

SIDE EVENTS

Side events are an excellent opportunity for stakeholders to dive deeper into pressing water issues within smaller, stakeholder-driven sessions. Share your expertise and insights, building collaborative connections with fellow Conference participants.

While aligning with the overarching themes of the 5 interactive dialogues of the UN 2023 Water Conference, side events offer you the freedom to choose specific topics that meet your interest.

The conference organizers provide dedicated space for your event, assist with visa applications for your participants, and arrange convenient local transportation. Additionally, you can enjoy a networking opportunity at the evening reception.

A diverse range of stakeholders can bring their unique perspectives to the table! International and regional organizations, financial institutions, government agencies, civil society groups, academic institutions, and the private sector are all welcome to organize side events.

More information about side events is available at: <https://conf2024.dushanbewaterprocess.org/side-events/>



**THIRD HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION
“WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”, 2018-2028**

June 2024, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

DAY-1

09:00 – 18:00	Conference Forums							
	Central Asian Water Forum	African Water Forum	River Basin Organizations Forum	Glaciers Forum	Youth and Children Forum	Women Forum	Forum on Science and Technologies	Privat Sector Forum

DAY-2

09:00 – 10:30	Opening Session							
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee & Networking Break							
11:00 – 13:00	Plenary Session							
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break							
14:30 – 16:30	Interactive Dialogues focused on the implementation of the Water Action Decade and outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference							
	Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation				Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus, and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development			
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee & Networking Break							
17:00 – 18:30	Side events							
19:00 – 21:00	Reception hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan							

DAY-3

09:00 – 10:00	Plenary Session (Continuation)							
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee							
10:30 – 12:30	Interactive Dialogues focused on the implementation of the Water Action Decade and outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference							
	Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)				Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda			
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch							
14:00 – 16:00	Water Action Decade: Accelerating the Implementation of the Objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan					Side events		
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee							
16:30 – 17:30	Closing Session							
17:30 – 18:00	Press Conference							

DAY-4

09:00 – 18:00	Filed trips / tours							
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Cultural Events and International Exhibition

The international exhibition:
“Rethinking the Value of Water”

The international exhibition “Rethinking the Value of Water” is held as part of the 3rd High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028.

The purpose of the exhibition is to raise awareness of the measures taken and progress achieved in the implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” and the outcomes of the 2023 UN Water Conference, including the Water Agenda for Action. To achieve this, the exhibition will showcase advanced knowledge, best practices and scientific achievements in the field of water resources.

In addition, the exhibition aims to further strengthen and develop cooperation between stakeholders, introduce innovative ways, methods, techniques and technologies for sustainable water management, as well as establish close business ties between various stakeholders.

The overall theme of the exhibition is “Rethinking the Value of Water.” It will focus on the following issues:

- Water cooperation at local, regional and international levels;
- Rational use of water resources;
- Prevention and management of water-related disasters;
- Impact of climate change on water resources;
- Hydropower development as an environmentally friendly and renewable source of energy;
- Introduction of water-saving technologies.

International and regional organizations, national authorities, local governments, non-governmental organizations, private companies, academic and research institutions and other stakeholders are invited to the exhibition.

To participate in the exhibition, you must fill out the registration form and submit it to the Conference Secretariat (extr@dushanbewaterprocess.org) before April 1, 2024. The Secretariat will notify the participant that their request has been accepted within five days of submission of the application.

In addition, Conference participants will also have the opportunity to visit the EXPO Dushanbe exhibition. This exhibition is a platform for demonstrating the trade, economic and production potential of Tajikistan.

EXPO Dushanbe will present goods and services from various industries, agriculture, tourism and other sectors of the economy of Tajikistan. Exhibition participants will be able to get acquainted with the latest achievements of Tajik enterprises, as well as establish business contacts with potential partners.

EXCURSIONS

Participation in the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference is also an opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture and nature of mountainous Tajikistan.

The National Organizing Committee will organize tours/excursions for conference participants on 13 June 2024 to demonstrate the country’s water management policies and practices, as well as the country’s breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and enduring traditions.

These trips are offered free of charge to all conference guests, including transportation and a light lunch. Detailed information on these trips will be provided additionally closer to the conference dates.

Besides the free excursions organized by the National Organizing Committee, Conference participants are welcome to book additional individual or group tours before and after the Conference on a paid basis. These tours offer a distinctive chance to explore the abundant history, culture, and natural beauty of Tajikistan.

Information on the sights of Tajikistan is widely available on the Internet.

Using the links below you can find more detailed information about tourist areas and attractions in Tajikistan: <https://traveltajikistan.tj>, <https://tour.tj>

ABOUT TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan, located in Central Asia, shares borders with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to the west and north, Afghanistan to the south, and China to the east. The country spans a total area of 142,600 km².

Tajikistan is characterized by its mountainous terrain, with elevations ranging from 300 to 7,495 meters. Mountains cover 93% of the country's land. The majority of Tajikistan's population and economic activities are concentrated in the remaining 7% of the territory, which consists of valleys.

As of January 1, 2023, Tajikistan's population is estimated to be 10 million people. Of this population, 26.4% reside in urban areas, while 73.6% live in rural areas. The average annual population growth rate is approximately 2.5%.

In terms of water resources, Tajikistan ranks first among Central Asian countries. More than 80% of the Amu Darya river flow and 1% of the Syr Darya river flow originate within Tajikistan's borders. In total, Tajikistan contributes 64 km³ per year or 55.4% of the water resources in the Aral Sea basin. The country also possesses over 845 km³ of glacier volume, 18.7 km³ of groundwater, and 46.3 km³ of lake waters.

Despite having very small oil and gas reserves and facing challenges in industrializing coal deposits, Tajikistan boasts vast and inexhaustible reserves of hydropower resources. Expert estimates suggest that these reserves amount to approximately 527 billion kWh of electricity annually. This potential is three times greater than the current electricity consumption of the entire Central Asian region. By effectively harnessing this potential, the region can benefit from affordable and environmentally friendly electricity.



SECRETARIAT

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