



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

10-13 June 2024, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

CO-CHAIRS’ SUMMARY

Executive Summary

The Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 was organized by the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations and other international partners in Dushanbe from 10 to 13 June 2024. This pivotal event brought together more than 2500 participants from over 70 Member States and 100 United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, financial institutions, academic institutions, civil society, women’s organisations, youth, the private sector, and other stakeholders to discuss the most pressing issues of today’s water problems in a rapidly changing world. The Conference was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and H.E. Mr. Li Junhua, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

The Conference’s main objective was to support implementation of the Water Action Decade and review progress catalysed by the United Nations 2023 Water Conference. It had a special focus on the implementation of Water Action Agenda voluntary commitments. The official programme consisted of a high-level opening ceremony, two plenary sessions, five interactive dialogues, nine forums and a closing session. The Interactive Dialogues mirrored the thematic topics of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference: water for health; water for sustainable development; water for climate, environment and resilience; water for cooperation; and the Water Action Decade. Side events, exhibitions, the Water and Glacier Festival, cultural programmes and excursions took place on the margins.

Throughout the event, world leaders affirmed political will to implement commitments that prioritize water resources management, water supply and sanitation in policies, plans and investments. The Interactive Dialogues examined solutions to strengthen interlinkages across the sustainable development agenda and within global processes. The Forums convened multi-stakeholder discussions on water-related topics of interest for Africa, Central Asia, basin organizations, glaciers, science and technology, women, youth and children, parliamentarians and the private sector.

The Conference sessions offered a unique opportunity for participants to share progress updates, discuss challenges and possible solutions, and seek partnerships to accelerate implementation. The need for inclusivity, honest dialogue, transparency and trust to improve cooperation and accelerate implementation were emphasized as a key message. There were calls for more high-level commitments to close the gaps by 2030, as well as for increased support for initiatives that promote the Water Action Agenda and to conduct periodic analyses to assess implementation progress.

The Conference produced three outcome documents: (i) Co-Chairs’ Summary, (ii) final Dushanbe Declaration, and (iii) Dushanbe Commitment. The outcomes will be presented by the Government of Tajikistan during the 2024 United Nations High-level Forum for Sustainable Development and other upcoming events.

The successful outcomes demonstrate that the Dushanbe Water Process is an important asset for the implementation of the Water Action Decade that can be further leveraged to support preparations for the upcoming United Nations Water Conferences in 2026 and the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the Water Action Decade Conference in 2028, as well as contribute to other international water-related processes at global and regional level.

1. Introduction

The Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 (Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference) was held by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations and other international partners from 10 to 13 June 2024 in Dushanbe. The Conference was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and H.E. Mr. Li Junhua, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

The Conference was organized within the framework of the Dushanbe Water Process,¹ an initiative of the Government of Tajikistan to support the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 (Water Action Decade) that were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 71/222 adopted on 21 December 2016² and the workstreams of the *United Nations Secretary-General’s Action Plan: Water Action Decade 2028-2028*.³ Two previous Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conferences were successfully organised in 2018 and 2022.

The Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference ‘re-united the world for water’ fifteen months after the historic United Nations 2023 Water Conference⁴ took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York. This first United Nations conference on water in 46 years was co-hosted by the Government of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. A key result from the New York Conference was the launch of the Water Action Agenda,⁵ a compendium of voluntary commitments from the international water community to accelerate efforts toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: *ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*,⁶ and other water-related goals and targets.

As part of the Water Action Agenda, the Government of Tajikistan committed to use the Dushanbe Water Process as a follow-up mechanism to the United Nations 2023 Water Conference⁷ by providing a platform to report on the Water Action Agenda and track progress against voluntary commitments. The Government has committed to offer a venue and logistical support for the Dushanbe Water Process, as well as engage with all relevant stakeholders to ensure the Water Action Agenda is embedded in Dushanbe Conferences up to 2028.

The main objective of the concluded Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference was to support the implementation of the Water Action Decade and review the progress catalysed by the United Nations 2023 Water Conference. It had a specific focus on the implementation of the Water Action Agenda. The Conference also sought 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 water-related goals and targets, including those in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁸

The official programme consisted of a high-level opening ceremony, two plenary sessions, five interactive dialogues, nine forums and a closing session. The Interactive Dialogues mirrored the thematic topics of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference: water for health; water for sustainable development; water for climate, environment and resilience; water for cooperation; and the Water Action Decade. Side events, exhibitions, the Water and Glacier Festival, cultural programmes and excursions took place on the margins of the Conference.

The Conference was designed to ensure inclusivity and diversity throughout the preparatory process. Important stakeholders were engaged as members of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Dushanbe Water Process. Members of the International Steering Committee of the Group of Friends of Water that is convened by the Permanent Missions to the United Nations made valuable input in preparatory process. The National Organizing Committee chaired by the Prime-Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan led the preparatory process.

¹ Dushanbe Water Process (<https://dushanbewaterprocess.org/>).

² United Nations General Assembly Resolution 71/222 adopted on 21 December 2016 (<https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/222>).

³ United Nations Secretary-General’s Plan: Water Action Decade 2018-2028 (<https://sdgs.un.org/documents/united-nations-secretary-generals-plan-water-action-decade-2018-2028-33215>).

⁴ 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, also referred to as the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

⁵ Water Action Agenda (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water>).

⁶ Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6>).

⁷ United Nations Water Action Agenda, #SDGAction51276, *Dushanbe Water Process as a follow up mechanism to the UN 2023 Water Conference*, (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/dushanbe-water-process-follow-mechanism-un2023-water-conference>).

⁸ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1 adopted on 25 September 2015 (<https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>).

2. Stocktaking of the Conference

The conference was attended by 2500 participants from over 70 Member States and 100 United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, financial institutions, academic institutions, civil society, women's organisations, youth, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

Conference Main Sessions

Opening Ceremony

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon provided the keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Conference, which was followed by other distinguished speakers at the level of Heads of State, Heads of Government, senior United Nations officials and leaders of international organizations and international financial institutions. The ceremony was moderated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin.

In his speech, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon welcomed participants. He expressed appreciation that over the last two decades Tajikistan's global initiatives, particularly the Dushanbe Water Process, have united Member States and institutions of the United Nations, international and regional structures, financial institutions, civil society and other stakeholders to discuss global water issues and strive for solutions. He highlighted that the historic United Nations 2023 Water Conference co-chaired by Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands opened a new page in the world water agenda. Despite this success, he noted that our current actions and initiatives are still not sufficient, particularly due to modern risks and rising threats.

H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon underscored that water-related problems are a national and international priority for the Government of Tajikistan. Internationally, Tajikistan has promoted the water and climate agenda through the adoption of ten United Nations General Assembly resolutions, notably the International Decade of Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028,⁹ which laid a foundation for the acceleration of water-related actions. He spoke about how Tajikistan has also promoted the issue of water in the global climate agenda. He affirmed that the use of the Dushanbe Water Process as a platform to follow up the results of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference is one of Tajikistan's commitments registered in the Water Action Agenda and expressed readiness to further expand this process. He stressed the important role of the Dushanbe Water Process for broad and open dialogue to prepare the United Nations Water Conference in 2028 in Dushanbe and suggested that the capacities of the platform can also be utilized for the preparation of the United Nations Water Conference in 2026. H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon described several effective measures that Tajikistan is taking at national and regional levels including implementing the "Water Sector Reform Program for 2016-2025", developing the "National Water Strategy until 2040" and the "State Program for Drinking Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment until 2032", increasing national electricity production from 98 per cent to 100 per cent from hydropower by 2032, turning Tajikistan into a "Green Country" by 2037, adopting the "Program for Greening the Country's Nature until 2040", and paying special attention to cross-border cooperation on water issues to strengthen regional cooperation and solve pressing water issues through constructive dialogue. He stressed the importance of water as a source of life and need to use it wisely and protect it for future generations.

H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon emphasized that 2024 can be a year of high tribute to water resources. He encouraged linking together the Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference with other high-level water-related forums and summits, as well as incorporating water into the agenda of other international events including the Conference of the Parties for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Azerbaijan and the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Colombia. He expressed deep concern about the impacts of rapid melting of glaciers on populations and economies, which can be clearly observed in Tajikistan. To address this issue, Tajikistan has led the initiative of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2025 as the "International Year of Glacier Preservation", to dedicate March 21st for the annual celebration of "World Day of Glaciers", to organize an international conference on glaciers preservation in Dushanbe in 2025, and the establishment of the "International Special Fund for Glaciers Preservation".¹⁰ He invited partner countries and international organizations to make their contribution to strengthening the financial capacities of this Fund. He mentioned that Tajikistan has decided

⁹ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 71/222 adopted on 21 December 2016 (<https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/222>).

¹⁰ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/158 adopted on 14 December 2022 (<https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/158>).

to draft a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the declaration of the Decade of Polar Sciences and Glaciology. He concluded by expressing gratitude to the United Nations and its institutions, all international and financial organizations, members of the International Advisory Committee to the "Dushanbe Water Process" and all partners for their help and support in organizing the Conference.

H.E. Mrs. Zelka Tsvijanovic, Member of the Board of Bosnia and Herzegovina, underscored the invaluable importance of water compared to all other undeniably important resources and one that is crucial for the long-term future of humanity. She noted that the topic does not receive nearly as much attention in the global public discourse as its significance requires. She emphasized that the conference provides an opportunity to foster stronger connections between nations, peoples and cultures as well as enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation. She expressed concern that the focus of the global public on wars, crises and geopolitical tensions overshadows other pressing issues faced by many countries and peoples. She highlighted that one-quarter of the world's eight billion people struggle to access safely managed drinking water, while nearly half lack adequate sanitation. She also highlighted the risks associated with water and shared her experience related to catastrophic floods that occurred in 2014 that affected her entire region. She explained that nature has endowed her country with enormous 'hydropotential' which is still underutilized and laid out plans for investments in the energy sector to strengthen economic development and improve the well-being of her citizens. She affirmed that modernization of the water services sector is a strategic priority for her country and described the Bosnia and Herzegovina Water Alliance that was established in 2020 to support domestic institutions to improve water supply and modernize wastewater management. She recognized the importance of international assistance and announced that her country is ready to contribute to helping those who suffer from a lack of safe and sanitary drinking water through combined efforts. She concluded by stating that through constructive discussions and exchanges of opinions the Conference represents a step forward towards the resolution of these challenges and the identification of adequate and sustainable solutions that can directly affect millions of human lives and, in the long term, the fate of the entire planet.

The President of the United Nations General Assembly H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis stated that water is the essence of life and drives progress across every sphere- social, economic and environmental. He recalled that the United Nations 2023 Water Conference ignited a powerful new narrative recognizing the priceless value of water and fostering novel and innovative models of cooperation to conserve it. He indicated that the Dushanbe Water Process is a radiant symbol of promise and acknowledged that the Water Action Agenda has laid the bedrock for monumental change. He stressed that the challenges ahead are considerable and expressed deep concern that lack of access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for women perpetuate cycles of oppression and trap women in the abyss of gender inequality. He emphasized that the efforts in Dushanbe must build on the success of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference and pave a robust pathway towards the upcoming 2026 and 2028 United Nations conferences on water. He underlined the importance of considering water in the broader context, noting the grave challenge of sea-level rise that was highlighted during the recent Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4). He urged Member States and stakeholders to leverage the outcomes of the Dushanbe Water Process and the forthcoming United Nations Summit of the Future in September 2024. He concluded by reciting the Tajik proverb "*Ob obro meyobad*" – "*Water finds its own level*" as a reminder of the innate harmony of nature and the quest for balance and progress in achieving water sustainability and preserving the planet for succeeding generations.

The Opening Ceremony of the Conference was addressed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Gabon, H.E. Mr. Raymon Sima who highlighted the challenges Gabon faces from too much, too little and too polluted water. He explained that Gabon is a country well-endowed with natural resources and therefore should not have problems with access to water. However, current challenges are largely due to insufficient infrastructure for water treatment and transport, which no longer meet the needs of its growing cities. He affirmed that the Transitional Government has made access to drinking water for all by 2030 a national priority. He provided a snapshot of the actions the Government is taking to achieve the SDGs by 2030 including through an emergency programme to increase access to drinking water in urban areas, especially for the capital Libreville as well as to ensure access to basic services in rural areas and capacity building.

The First Vice President of Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr. Chiwenga Constantino welcomed the opportunity to take stock of progress made in the implementation of voluntary commitments of the Water Action Agenda, and outcomes of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference. He provided an overview of how Zimbabwe has localized SDG 6 into its National Development Strategy, including the recognition of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as a Constitutional right. He announced that a total of US\$2 billion has been committed thus far and the Presidential Rural Development Programme will ensure that all 35,000 villages and 10,000 schools

in the country are water secure for human consumption and productive uses.

The Vice President of Angola, H.E. Mrs. Esperanza Dakoshta encouraged participants to identify the real reasons that hinder the achievement of SDG 6, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Water Action Decade to create effective mechanisms that will allow responsible management of water. She explained that Angola has adopted a National Water Plan to support the national implementation of SDG 6. To address drought, the President has approved the Southern Angola Drought Program, which aims to improve water supply capacity to meet the needs of 225,000 inhabitants and to water livestock and to irrigate approximately 5,000 hectares of agricultural land that will provide greater sustainability to the population. She informed that investments in drinking water will make it possible to increase access from 58 per cent in 2023 to 70 per cent by 2027. Angola considers cooperation and multilateralism to be fundamental to the implementation of various projects and programmes.

The Vice President of Zambia, H.E. Mrs. Mutale Nalumango appreciated the historic opportunity to address pressing challenges of our time and to reflect on the required actions to attain our collective targets on water and sanitation as outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In taking stock of the measures that have been undertaken to enhance common efforts in support of the implementation of voluntary commitments under the Water Action Agenda, Zambia is steadily implementing the Freshwater Challenge that will play a notable role in accelerating national, regional and global efforts to protect and restore freshwater ecosystems such as rivers, lakes, springs, wetlands and headwaters. She noted that Zambia has been implementing several programmes and projects that relate to water supply, sanitation and hygiene interventions, including the establishment of the Zambia Water Investment Programme and the Blue Economy Strategy, among other initiatives. She encouraged participants to have firm resolve to implementing the appropriate actions as one global family.

The Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), H.E. Mrs. Audrey Azoulay spoke about Tajikistan's efforts on the frontlines to preserve the common goods of humanity by protecting its rich ecosystems, mobilizing to fight the melting of glaciers, and committing to protect water. She outlined UNESCO's actions to support scientific research and collaboration, to train water professionals and enhance public awareness, and to mainstream climate and environmental education across curricula and teacher training programmes. She announced UNESCO's commitment to a regional glacier monitoring and surveillance system covering the transboundary Pamir and Tien Shan mountain ranges to anticipate the consequences of melting ice on river systems, such as Amu Darya and Syr Darya, and the Aral Sea.

The President of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, H.E. Mrs. Paula Narvez Oyeda spoke about water as a pivotal cross-cutting priority across the SDGs. The commitment to water sustainability extends beyond SDG 6. It intersects with other SDGs, including SDG 2 on Zero Hunger, SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being, SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Goal 13 on Climate Action. She urged greater recognition of the indispensable roles of women, youth, and other key stakeholders in shaping the future for water. She emphasized the essential contributions of Indigenous Peoples in the quest for sustainable water management. She strongly encouraged participants to look ahead to the upcoming United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2024 in July and the Summit of the Future in September to set ambitions that are reflective of the needs of people and planet in an increasingly challenging multilateral landscape.

The President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), H.E. Mr. Muhammad Al-Jasser commended the Government of Tajikistan's efforts to organize biennial conferences under the Dushanbe Water Process. He stated that integrated water resources management is a pillar of IsDB's Water Sector policy. In Tajikistan, IsDB is investing in modernizing irrigation systems and introducing drip irrigation in the Danghara Valley with a total investment of US\$36.7 million. Since its inception, IsDB has invested over US\$24 billion in agriculture and rural development and US\$8.2 billion in water supply and sanitation in urban and rural areas. In April 2024, IsDB approved US\$150 million financing for the Rogun Hydropower Plant Project in Tajikistan in partnership with several financial institutions that will leverage renewable energy sources to address not only Tajikistan's increasing energy needs but also those of the whole Central Asia region. He affirmed that the achievements of the Water Action Decade thus far are a testament to what can be accomplished through the rational use of water resources and global solidarity and cooperation.

In his opening statement, H.E. Mr. Li Junhua, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and Co-Chairman of the Dushanbe Water Conference, expressed gratitude to President Rahmon and

the Government of Tajikistan for driving the Water Action Decade forward and hosting this important conference. He recalled the second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference in 2022 that was instrumental in the preparatory process for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference and noted that the launch of the Water Action Agenda was widely promoted as the key conference outcome. He emphasized that this Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will amplify commitments to the United Nations 2026 Water Conference and become a critical milestone leading to the end of the Water Action Decade in 2028.

Vatican Secretary of State, His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, noted that water has been the subject of interest from many religious traditions, which have ascribed to it a number of “spiritual” and “symbolic” meanings. He emphasized that a long-term vision for water is needed that covers many aspects, including legislation, institutions, politics, economics, technology, ethics, education and culture. He called for integrated approaches and reinforced efforts to be implemented with the utmost urgency, where “the human person must be the central point of convergence of all issues pertaining to development, the environment and water”.¹¹

Mr. Saroj Kumar, representative of the World Bank and co-chair of the International Advisory Committee of the Dushanbe Water Process, stated that business as usual in water management is no longer an option. He stressed that fundamental changes are needed in how water resources are managed at local, basin, national, and regional levels. Given the magnitude of the water challenge and an investment gap of US\$1 trillion per year, he announced that the World Bank has launched a fast-track water security and climate adaptation global challenge program to increase support to countries facing water crisis. As the world’s largest external financier for water with a portfolio of almost US\$30 billion, World Bank programs are currently benefiting about 30 million people annually. He reiterated the joint statement made by multilateral banks at UNFCCC COP28, that working with partner organizations, the World Bank has committed to double the number of people benefiting from investments, reaching 160 million people annually.

The distinguished speakers expressed their gratitude to the Government of Tajikistan for initiating the Dushanbe Water Process to provide a platform for countries and stakeholders to discuss progress and challenges and work together towards solutions to local, regional and global water challenges for current and future generations.

Plenary Sessions

The plenary sessions, co-chaired by the Prime-Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairman of the National Organizing Committee, H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda, and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, H.E. Mr. Li Junhua, provided an opportunity for heads of official delegations to deliver a statement. Over 75 delegations made statements during the two plenary sessions that took place on both days of the Conference. The list of plenary statements is provided in Annex 1.

Throughout the plenary sessions, world leaders affirmed ambitious commitments to prioritize water resources management, water supply and sanitation in policies, plans and investments. Heads of delegations highlighted their current efforts to advance implementation towards the achievement of water and sanitation-related goals and targets. They discussed water-related challenges and innovative solutions, shared updates on the results achieved within the framework of the Water Action Decade, and showcased progress made since the United Nations 2023 Water Conference including on the implementation of their respective voluntary commitments registered in the Water Action Agenda. New commitments for actions and partnerships were announced to close the gap towards the achievement of SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets. These commitments and actions demonstrate political will at the highest level to accelerate progress towards achieving water-related goals, further amplifying the momentum of the Water Action Decade.

Progress on existing commitments and new commitments announced during the opening ceremony speeches and plenary session statements are consolidated in a separate outcome document of the Conference entitled “Dushanbe Commitment” (see Annex 3).

Interactive Dialogues

Five interactive dialogues were organized over the two days of the Conference. The topics mirrored the themes from the United Nations 2023 Water Conference. The same co-chairs presided over the interactive dialogue sessions of the Third Dushanbe Water Conference to ensure continuity: (1) United Kingdom and Dominican

¹¹ Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Note on Water, an essential element for life, 2003.

Republic; (2) European Union and China; (3) Japan and Egypt; (4) Switzerland and Senegal; and (5) United States and Singapore.

The Dushanbe sessions of the Interactive Dialogues were designed to build on the discussions, key messages and recommendations from the New York Conference sessions. Speakers and panellists were invited to discuss progress since the United Nations 2023 Water Conference including challenges and opportunities for the implementation of their Water Action Agenda commitments, to share best practices and innovative solutions, and to strengthen partnerships among stakeholders to accelerate implementation of water-related goals and targets and the Water Action Decade. The key messages and outcomes of the Interactive Dialogues were presented at the Closing Session and are reflected in the final Dushanbe Declaration (see Annex 2). Progress on existing commitments and new commitments announced during the Interactive Dialogues are consolidated in the outcome document entitled “Dushanbe Commitment” (see Annex 3).

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

Interactive Dialogue 1 was opened by the co-chairs H.E. Ambassador Jose Blanco, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations and H.E. Ambassador Tim Jones and the co-organizers, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), represented by Mr. Octavian Bivol, Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and the World Health Organization (WHO), represented by Oliver Schmoll, Programme Manager (Water and Climate) WHO Regional Office for Europe. The keynote speech was delivered by H.E. Mr. Jamoliddin Abdullozoda, Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Population, Republic of Tajikistan. The session consisted of a multi-stakeholder panel that included representatives from the World Bank, private sector, development partners, civil society, United Nations, and philanthropy and was moderated by the representative from the Sanitation and Water for All partnership and a United Nations Volunteer.

The speakers affirmed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) as the foundation of public health, people’s dignity and sustainable development. They emphasized that the human rights to water and sanitation must be enjoyed by everyone without discrimination. It was noted that preventive approaches are better than curative ones, and it was highlighted that progress on WASH is more cost effective than trying to deal with the problem of curing people of disease later. Panellists expressed concern that climate change is putting progress on WASH at serious risk and that the climate crisis is a water crisis. WASH in health care facilities was identified as an essential core pillar for securing maternity and newborn health, infection prevention and control, and quality of care. The experience of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes was presented by WHO as a promising example that demonstrates how a multilateral agreement can support countries to drive national progress on water, sanitation, hygiene and health at national level.

The keynote speakers and panellists identified ‘leadership’ as an essential element to drive progress on WASH that is built on cooperation and trust – but it was noted that there is currently not enough leadership and prioritization of WASH by governments. To address this gap, it was suggested that more high-level commitments are needed, particularly from governments, as part of the Water Action Agenda. Additionally, it was discussed that WASH services need greater transparency in how they are financed and operated, including their true cost, if they are to be understood and then improved. To be effective, WASH programmes need to be community-centric, where local people are involved in the programme design and implementation. Women and young people must be empowered far more to lead WASH services, as they are the local experts who know their area and use these services the most.

Interactive Dialogue 1 recommended the following actions and areas of focus:

1. *Transparency of public utilities:* Greater emphasis from public authorities to make utility performance and financing more transparent, so that they can be improved and attract more financing.
2. *Systematic approach to technical assistance:* Public authorities and governments should organise more technical briefing sessions for experts to come and explain issues before projects are planned and to ultimately increase the pipeline of WASH projects.
3. *Prioritisation to Operation and Maintenance (O&M) for all WASH systems, whether large urban or small rural systems:* O&M is simply not being given adequate consideration when projects are designed.

4. *Community-centric projects*: Ownership and management by communities is essential as is a much more leadership from local women.
5. *Honest Dialogue*: Public authorities and governments need to be clear with users about the costs of water services. Once it is clear to people that water cannot be run like a charity, then systems last much longer.

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

Interactive Dialogue 2 was opened by H.E. Ambassador Terhi Hakala, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia together with co-chair Commissioner Zu Leiming, Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources, China and co-organizers United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Ambassador Hakala invited the participants to collaborate in more transformative ways, to deepen management of water resources from community to transboundary levels and to preserve ecosystems by integrating nature or ecosystem-based solutions for agriculture.

The session featured a lively discussion among water experts that was moderated by UNDP. The session was divided into four panels following the five SDG 6 Global Accelerators:¹² (i) data and information, (2) capacity development, (3) innovation, (4) governance and financing. The first panel on ‘data and information’ explored how to better collaborate in collecting and sharing water-related data and information. Experts advocated that data be considered a public common good to facilitate sharing and encourage integration among sectors of the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus. Climate services were identified as an example of an effective tool to translate data into actionable information for decision makers. This type of practical information is needed at all levels, especially at the local level, as well as to inform decision-making about future investments that affect water. Another crucial topic discussed was the dissemination of data. It was noted that a lot of data exists, but it still does not reach all water users.

The second panel on ‘capacity development’ reflected on how to turn conference debates into concrete actions on the ground through capacity development, especially during 2024 that is a year with Meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COPs) of three United Nations “Rio Conventions” related to climate change.¹³ biodiversity loss,¹⁴ desertification and drought.¹⁵ Experts shared experiences of water saving projects, valuing water, and invited participants to stop focusing on the same themes often duplicated in many platforms, but rather expand to new subjects and merge platforms. The topic of ‘land management’ was stressed as an opportunity for the three Rio Convention COPs to work together due to the interrelated impacts of soil-water storage, climate change and biodiversity. Capacity development is also needed for everyone in the water sector to become more knowledgeable about the other sectors to enable more efficient outreach and cross-learning, as well as to better understand how to include the private sector in meaningful ways. Finally, panellists also shared the source of their passion for water with the hope to motivate young generations to join in the initiative of intergenerational exchanges on water.

The third panel on ‘innovation’ called for a revolution in water management. Panellists called for a revolution through innovative technologies. Examples were shared on the use of remote sensing for water management to support systemic approaches and consideration of ecosystems as well as innovative nature-based solutions that often have a much lower cost than traditional approaches. They also called for a revolution through social innovations to better facilitate the inclusion of women and local communities and achieve social justice outcomes. There was also a call for the reform of project-based approaches and to shift towards financing innovation for long-term results and sustainable development. Finally, the fourth panel on ‘governance and finance’ discussed ways to bridge water governance across levels and across the global water processes. The panel experts invited conference participants to unify actions on water and join forces through the *United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation*¹⁶ and other global mechanisms. Accountability and building trust are of particular importance for both water management and water finance to be cohesive and work together. Open transparent processes enable good cooperation with the private sector, including for sustainable urban development.

¹² UN-Water SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, 2020 (<https://www.unwater.org/our-work/sdg-6-global-acceleration-framework>).

¹³ United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), <https://unfccc.int/>.

¹⁴ United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (<https://www.cbd.int/>).

¹⁵ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (<https://www.unccd.int/>).

¹⁶ United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation, July 2024 (<https://www.unwater.org/publications/united-nations-system-wide-strategy-water-and-sanitation>).

Commissioner Zu Leiming closed the dialogue by emphasizing the symbiotic relationship between global water security and sustainable development. China also encouraged the continuation of Interactive Dialogue 2 to feed into the United Nations 2026 Water Conference and ensure the sustainable development of the economy, society and the environment.

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

Interactive Dialogue 3 was opened by co-chairs H.E. Mr. Hani Sewilam, Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt and H.E. Mr. Joji Nakano, Assistant Vice-Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan. The session started with a series of keynote speeches delivered by H.E. Mr. Hani Sewilam; H.E. Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, Foreign Minister of Japan (video); H.E. Ms. Lidia Brito, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO; H.E. Ms. Meike van Ginneken, Water Envoy for the Kingdom of The Netherlands; and H.E. Ms. Zulfiya Suleimenova, Special Representative of the President on International Environmental Cooperation of Kazakhstan (video). A panel discussion took place between experts from government, the United Nations system, women and youth that was moderated by UNESCO.

Keynote speakers and panellists highlighted numerous actions that have been taken since the New York session of Interactive Dialogue 3 that took place during the United Nations 2023 Water Conference and shared progress updates related to the implementation of their respective Water Action Agenda voluntary commitments. The *Action on Water Adaptation and Resilience*¹⁷ (AWARe) initiative led by Egypt, which was recognized during the United Nations 2023 Water Conference as a game changer idea, is gaining more support and the Pan-African Center for Water Climate Adaptation is building capacities of developing countries to manage water challenges. Within the framework of the *Kumamoto Initiative for Water*¹⁸ led by Japan, flood risk mapping using both observed and satellite data is being deployed to developing countries. Linkages with an initiative on hybrid dam-operations and the *Water Cycle Integrator*¹⁹ initiative were discussed. *Cleaner Rivers - Cleaner Seas* is a source-to-sea initiative that aims to raise awareness at the grassroot level-Romania, Bulgaria and among other countries.

The initiative to provide *Better global water information through the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System* (HydroSOS)²⁰ led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has supported 18 countries with existing standardized data and an additional 36 are currently being supported. The *State of Global Water Resources* report prepared by WMO is supported by 40 countries. The *Water at the Heart of Climate Action*²¹ initiative supported by the Kingdom of the Netherlands is being replicated in several African countries. Efforts are also being made to strengthen disaster risk reduction through improved communication of early warning systems, capacity building and testing infrastructure resilience using stress testing tools.²²

The following key messages emerged from the keynote speeches and panellist interventions:

1. There is a need to establish a group of active countries that attach high priority to water for climate issues domestically and who have leadership roles in global water and/or climate processes. This would be an important step towards the creation of “inter-conference of the parties” process to connect, integrate and fully implement water- related decisions made at global assemblies, conventions and frameworks dedicated to climate, resilience, and the environment.

¹⁷ Water Action Agenda, *Action on Water Adaptation and Resilience* (AWARe), The Arab Republic of Egypt, COP27 President (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-water-adaptation-and-resilience-aware>).

¹⁸ Water Action Agenda, *Kumamoto Initiative for Water - Promoting both climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and measures to improve people's basic living environment*, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and relevant Ministries, Japan (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/kumamoto-initiative-water-promoting-both-climate-change-adaptation-and-mitigation>).

¹⁹ Water Action Agenda, *Water Cycle Integrator* (WCI), International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) under the auspices of UNESCO, Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/water-cycle-integrator-wci>).

²⁰ Water Action Agenda, *Better global water information through the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS) & Reporting*, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/better-global-water-information-through-global-hydrological-status-and-outlook-system>).

²¹ Water Action Agenda, *Water at the Heart of Climate Action*, Netherlands, #SDGAction50574 (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/water-heart-climate-action>).

²² Water Action Agenda, *Leveraging the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure and UNDRR's Stress-testing tool to advance water infrastructure resiliency*, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), #SDGAction50852 (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/leveraging-principles-resilient-infrastructure-and-undrrs-stress-testing-tool-advance>).

2. The need for a global water information system was reiterated to improve water management, climate resilience, early warning, and risk-informed decision-making.
3. Transboundary water cooperation in accordance with the applicable principles of international law could help countries to face significant and increasing pressures on water resources due to population increase, growing water demands, ecosystem degradation and climate change.
4. Climate resilient water management is a fundamental part of adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Pro-activeness in pre-disaster investments is key for advancement of the Water Action Agenda, including through early warning systems and early action processes.
5. It is urgent to create synergies and forge alliances to bridge the financing gap for water. The ‘One Water Summit’ could be leveraged to prioritize investments to address water-related challenges led by France and Kazakhstan.
6. There is an opportunity to strengthen the framework to review and assess the progress of existing and new Water Action Agenda commitments made by countries and partners, including through increased support to UN DESA initiatives and recommendations.

Looking ahead towards the United Nations conference on water in 2026, the speakers recommended to bring more progress reporting on the state of the AWARe initiative, HydroSOS, Early Warning for All²³ (EW4All), gender mainstreaming, and the technologies deployed thus far. There was a call for greater inclusiveness of youth in the institutionalization of the Water Action Agenda across all levels and to better optimize and create synergies with existing initiatives.

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 4 was opened by Dr. Mohamed C.B.C. Diatta, Coordinator of the Follow-up and Promotion of Recommendations from the 9th World Water Forum, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Republic of Senegal and Mr. Simon Zbinden, Head of Section Water, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of the Swiss Cooperation. The co-chairs emphasized that water cooperation across borders and sectors has proven to generate significant shared benefits that accelerate progress across the SDGs. The United Nations 2023 Water Conference affirmed that effective and sustainable transboundary water cooperation can catalyse regional integration, drive cooperation in other areas, and build sustainable peace. Considering that transboundary waters constitute 60 per cent of the world’s freshwater flows and the unprecedented impact of the climate crisis and urbanization on the global water cycle, cooperation in most transboundary basins and aquifers was considered inadequate and progress too slow. The New York session of Interactive Dialogue 4 during the United Nations 2023 Water Conference recommended strengthening water cooperation, particularly at the cross-border level and among corresponding basin organizations, while boosting related cooperation arrangements and increasing funding for action.

Building on the United Nations 2023 Water Conference recommendations, the Interactive Dialogue 4 session in Dushanbe examined the prerequisites to reach robust operational arrangements and joint bodies for water cooperation. Particularly, it addressed how river basin organizations can be strengthened to enable inclusive and coordinated governance arrangements that ultimately lead to benefits for all.

Keynote speakers, panellists and contributors from the floor shared their insights at global and regional levels. They emphasized the need to effectively expand transboundary water cooperation in the face of climate change is critical to reach the SDGs. All indicators show the need to work harder in this regard, as operational transboundary agreements are still lacking in many countries that share water resources. They affirmed that legal frameworks provide an important basis which can be further enabled if there is cohesion between international agreements and national policies. The United Nations Conventions on Water/Watercourses²⁴ offer crucial tools and a unique global platform to exchange experiences and accelerate cooperation. It was highlighted that enhanced transboundary water cooperation can only be built and succeed in an environment characterized by trust and transparency across multiple levels, sectors, and stakeholders. Implementing the

²³ United Nations, Early Warnings for All (<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/early-warnings-for-all>).

²⁴ United Nations, [Convention on the Law of Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses](#) (1997), and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, [Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes](#) (1992).

related frameworks and governance arrangements requires strong political will and commitment. Finally, fostering trust and stakeholder commitment were identified as the basic requirements for increased water cooperation most frequently mentioned by all participants, which are aspects that have perhaps not yet been widely discussed in this context.

In this regard, the following key messages were emphasized from Interactive Dialogue 4:

1. Various mechanisms can help to build trust and facilitate the implementation of different cooperation agreements. River basin organizations in particular provide an effective solution by offering platforms for the exchange of information, experiences and good practices while building capacities.
2. Comprehensive water information systems based on multidisciplinary data integrating domains such as land use and ecosystems are needed for operational agreements to perform fruitfully, while mechanisms for effective data sharing and democratizing data are essential in water cooperation.
3. Joint projects, shared infrastructure and cost-sharing are recommended ways to generate tangible commitments that bring different stakeholders together for water cooperation. Joint production of the relevant data and knowledge further helps to build mutual trust and commitment.
4. Water cooperation is a means to an end. It is not just about water, but about people and for people, for stability and prosperity. All frameworks and actions must be inclusive and ensure genuine involvement of women, youth and local communities, from knowledge generation to decision-making.

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

Interactive Dialogue 5 was opened by co-chairs Mr. Chua Soon Guan, Deputy Chief Executive for Policy and Development, National Water Agency (PUB), Singapore and Ms. Nancy Eslick, Senior Deputy Administrator and Global Water Coordinator for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The session started with a series of opening statements from H.E. Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA, H.E. Mr. Alvaro Lario, Chair of UN-Water and President of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and H.E. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and a presentation by UN-Water.

Two panel discussions took place between experts from governments, the United Nations system, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and youth that were moderated by the United States and the Global Commission on the Economics of Water. The keynote speakers, panellists and contributors from the floor discussed recent international efforts including the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, and noted updates, best practices, and lessons learned from the four workstreams of the United Nations Secretary General's Action Plan for the Water Action Decade 2018-2028. The event also looked forward by sharing a diversity of views on actions needed for the future.

The key messages and recommendations from Interactive Dialogue 5 are summarised below:

1. Water must stay high on the political agenda to keep the momentum going and continue to facilitate the open exchange of best practices and case studies, whether through meetings, online platforms, or other initiatives by a wide variety of institutions and communities. There is also a need for capacity building to be targeted and rigorous, leveraging available science and technology, and deepening understanding of natural water systems.
2. Considerations of the previous Water Action Decades are useful and can be used to translate such reflections into key lessons and actions that make a difference looking forward. For example, leveraging progress while recognizing that the dynamics (e.g. finance) surrounding water have become more challenging and urgent, or taking advantage of unexpected progress on water in areas such as regional and global monitoring and early warning systems. Plans to advance the international water agenda from now until 2028 and beyond should be developed collectively through intergovernmental processes and action-oriented partnerships.
3. Stakeholders at all levels must be involved. There is a need to develop effective leadership at all levels and build trust amongst all stakeholders. This recognition is key as water is growing on the international agenda and is increasingly prevalent in other international environmental processes and platforms. Importantly, the youth have a crucial role to play in the global water agenda. They are not just the next generation but today's generation, with the creativity, innovation and energy that can take knowledge and expertise to greater heights.

4. Implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Action Plan and System-Wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation will be very important to achieve further coherence and coordination between various institutional mechanisms to continue efforts discussed during this conference, and subsequent intergovernmental meetings, events and dialogues.

The Dushanbe session of Interactive Dialogue 5 served as another stepping stone to further elevate actions at the global level and to explore how regional events, conferences, meetings, and projects can work effectively in coordination to achieve SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets.

Conference Forums

Nine high-level forums were held before the opening ceremony of the Conference. The Forums convened multi-stakeholder discussions on water-related topics of interest for Africa, Central Asia, basin organizations, glaciers, science and technology, women, youth and children, parliamentarians and the private sector. They provided an opportunity to engage diverse stakeholders, including governments, women, youth, professional groups, academia, private sector and other major groups to reflect on the outcomes of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference and Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference, discuss challenges and opportunities, explore potential partnerships, and make joint plans for the future for their respective context. For the first time, a forum was organized with a specific focus on Africa, which made the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference even more inclusive and globally relevant. The key messages and outcomes of the Forums were presented during the Closing Session and are included in the Conference outcome documents (see Annexes 2 and 3).

African Water Forum: “Reviewing Progress and Framing the Agenda for Post-2025 Africa Water Vision”

The African Water Forum was co-organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Senegal. The Forum aimed to review progress on the implementation of Africa’s common position and key messages at the 2023 UN Water Conference, as well as serve as input in the formulation of a post-2025 Africa Water Vision that responds to real needs in Africa. The Forum brought together a wide range of stakeholders including decision makers and representatives from Member States, political leaders, youth groups, women, civil society organizations, development partners and the private sector.

The Forum started with framing presentations on the International Water Action Decade and related global and continental commitments. The representative from Senegal presented the *Dakar Declaration: A Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development*²⁵ that was the outcome of the 9th World Water Forum. The representative from Egypt presented the Sharm El-Sheikh decisions taken during the 27th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) of UNFCCC and the AWARe²⁶ initiative launched during COP27 that promotes cooperation between water and climate action and emphasizes capacity building, training, and clear guidelines for implementing climate adaptation projects.

The Forum emphasized raising the profile of water as an essential ingredient for economic growth and social transformation, and therefore requiring commensurate investments for resources development, equitable utilization and management at all levels, while preventing the infliction of any potential transboundary significant harm. Participants discussed releasing the untapped potential of the water and sanitation economy and developing bankable projects to attract private sector involvement, participation and investment in the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene services for all. The Forum focused on expanding economic opportunities for underserved populations in vulnerable situations to ensure inclusivity, strengthening governance systems, and addressing factors like unemployment, migration, and regional insecurity. The latest agreed Continental Position on water was shared and discussed. The common goal is the development of a Continental Water Policy Framework for integrated water resource management and related approaches.

The Forum participants agreed on four main follow-up actions:

1. *Resource Mobilization and Sector Financing*: Develop bankable projects to attract financial institutions and donor funding for the advancement of water and sanitation projects and initiatives.

²⁵ Water Action Agenda, *A Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development*, Senegal's Ministry of Water and Sanitation (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/blue-deal-water-security-and-sanitation-peace-and-development>).

²⁶ Water Action Agenda, *Action on Water Adaptation and Resilience (AWARe)*, The Arab Republic of Egypt, COP27 President (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-water-adaptation-and-resilience-aware>).

2. *Data, knowledge management and capacity development*: Strengthen capacity at Member States level to provide accurate and legitimate data for use in knowledge sharing and policy related decision-making.
3. *Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion*: Involve gender and youth as change agents to drive behaviour change and innovation at all stages of project development from design through implementation and management.
4. Integrate the ‘Water Action Agenda’ as a key element of the post-2025 Africa Water Vision for coordinated implementation and effective resource management.

The African Water Forum emphasized the need to establish a robust mechanism for implementation of the post-2025 Africa Water Vision. This mechanism would facilitate coordination of efforts, resource allocation, and monitoring of progress toward achieving the vision’s goals.

Central Asia Forum: “Water and Climate Change”

The “Water & Climate Change” Central Asia Forum was co-organized by UNDP and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan on 10 June 2024. Given the concerns related to increasing impacts of the changing climate in the five countries of Central Asia, the Heads of Delegations to the Forum called on all stakeholders to take the following actions:

1. Work together to enhance regional preparedness to the current and future impacts of climate change and reduce negative impacts of disasters.
2. Strengthen institutional frameworks for implementing existing and new strategies, frameworks and plans involving cross-sectoral coordination between disaster risk reduction, water resources, and climate change adaptation sectors.
3. Enhance the enabling environment for increased investments focused on building resilience to climate change, including improving partnerships and collaboration with the private sector.
4. Further enhance and facilitate better sharing of hydrological data, research, and best practices among Central Asian states as well as with all other stakeholders, including the United Nations entities, development partners and with other regional and international institutions.
5. Increase investment in infrastructure and technology that enhance water efficiency and resilience against climate change impacts, supported by international development partners and financial institutions.
6. Engage actively with global initiatives such as the United Nations Secretary-General’s “Early Warning for All” and the Green Central Asia initiative, ensuring alignment with broader international efforts to mitigate climate and water-related risks.
7. Invite development partners and the international community to continue their support directed to enhancing regional cooperation, partnership and building resilience to climate change of the most vulnerable communities in Central Asia.
8. Consider development of a new phase of the “Climate Change and Resilience” project including the expansion of project activities from Ferghana Valley to all five Central Asian countries.

The Central Asia Forum participants and organizers expressed gratitude to the European Union and UNDP for their continuous technical and financial support in strengthening regional cooperation on the vital issues related to climate change adaptation and enhanced water resources management in Central Asia. Participants of the Conference appreciated the importance of these regional dialogues that play a significant role in further strengthening regional cooperation between governments and key stakeholders in Central Asia. Furthermore, the participants expressed commitment to continue their engagement, and invite the European Union, the United Nations system and other development partners to continue their valuable support for enhancing regional cooperation in Central Asia.

Forum on Science and Technology

The Science and Technology Forum was organized jointly by the USAID regional project on water resources and environment, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the International Institute of Water Resources Management and the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. The purpose of the Forum was to strengthen international and regional cooperation between research institutions through the exchange of knowledge and the promotion of innovative approaches. It was composed of three sessions: (1) role of science and technologies for the

promotion of water innovations; (2) nexus-related technology and innovations; (3) innovations and solutions for Aral Sea eco-systems restoration. It also included presentations from the winners of the research competition 2023-2024 and an intergenerational dialogue between young and senior scientists and practitioners.

Based on the presentations and discussions of the experts at the Forum on Science and Technology, five recommendations are summarized below:

1. In accordance with the ongoing stages of water reforms in the countries of Central Asia, given the high uncertainty in the context of increasing water shortages and global climate change, a coordinated government policy is needed aimed at developing research potential in the region for the study and implementation of advanced technologies, innovative methods and tools to accelerate sustainable development of the water sector. This requires an increase in the number of regional programs for the introduction of innovative technologies, in particular in agriculture, increasing the economic interest of countries and attracting investments in the implementation of such projects.
2. Sharing knowledge and promoting innovative approaches is one of the key factors in reducing gaps in the use of digital and innovative technologies, relevant data and the implementation of hydrological forecasting systems and knowledge in the field of water resource management in Central Asia. To do this, it is necessary to develop cooperation between research institutes, climate and hydrometeorological centers, educational institutions in order to exchange information, data and transfer experience in the field of science, promote innovative technologies and methodologies that will allow finding synergy and consistency between existing national, regional and global water management initiatives.
3. It is necessary to promote and apply the nexus approach when analysing the situation and long-term planning, which gives more comprehensive results and allows taking into account various factors - both external and internal. There is a need to build local capacity to use innovative tools through a nexus approach to optimize water use, reduce waste and promote sustainable water practices.
4. The Aral Sea disaster, coupled with climate change, continues to have a negative impact on the development of the Central Asian region. The dried bottom of the Aral Sea is one of the main sources of dust and salt storms in the region, affecting not only the development of agriculture, but also the health of the local population. The use of innovative science-based approaches to solve problems arising from the dried bottom of the Aral Sea to turn the disaster into opportunities for a new stage of development is another task for scientists not only in Central Asia, but also throughout the world.
5. It is noted that the development of science is based on personnel, starting with students who will become the future specialists that will work in various sectors of the economy. In this regard, there is a huge need to increase their potential by training a new generation of experts and by involving young professionals and youth in science to understand and apply innovative approaches, as well as to make science-based decisions. The transfer of experience and knowledge between generations and the involvement of young scientists from Central Asian countries in science as well as in the implementation of practical solutions should also become the basis for both preserving the knowledge available in the region and introducing new innovative ideas to solve the region's water problems.

International Glacier Forum - dedicated to the International Year of Glacier Preservation 2025

The International Glaciers Forum was co-organized by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, UNESCO and United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) in partnership with the Committee on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan and in collaboration with WMO. This Forum was dedicated to the International Year of Glaciers Preservation 2025 (IYGP2025), proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/158 adopted on 14 December 2022 following the initiative of Tajikistan. The Forum was opened by the Deputy Prime-Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Sulaimon Ziyozoda, and the Director-General of UNESCO, H.E. Mrs. Audrey Azoulay, followed by opening remarks from several high-level representatives.

The Forum included four different sessions and gathered international experts and participants from Central Asian countries representing different national agencies, research institutions and civil society organizations. A session was dedicated to the Roadmap for International Year of Glacier Preservation 2025 and the ways to foster cooperation of its implementation. A technical session presented case studies and lessons learned from the projects implemented by GIZ, UNESCO and other international partners in the field of glaciers monitoring and integrated water resources management in the changing climate. Statements of the Central Asian countries

outlined respective national priorities and ways to improve regional cooperation. National agencies and research institutions involved in the work on cryosphere presented their work and highlighted key challenges they are facing. New initiatives were also presented, including a proposal from the Republic of Tajikistan for establishment of a regional coordination centre on glaciology and a new international scientific glaciological station on the Vanjyah (Fedchenko) glacier.

The participants of the Forum recognized the important role that glaciers play in water supply, sustaining the livelihoods of both the mountain communities and millions of people downstream, while also being among the most sensitive ecosystems to climate change. A need for enhanced collaboration at international, regional and national levels was emphasized to create synergies between ongoing and planned projects, including through the integration of cryosphere-focused activities and projects into broader water and climate related interventions and initiatives. Further integration of the climate change lens into the work was also discussed. Capacity-building and raising awareness about the state of the cryosphere was emphasized, with a need to enhance science communication and public engagement.

The following areas were highlighted where additional efforts are needed:

1. Develop and integrate climate change projections into water management-related policies and adaptation plans and develop early warning systems for glacier-related hazards.
2. Leverage climate services and the Water-Energy-Food-Environment Nexus approach as a tool for adaptation to complement cryosphere interventions.
3. Improve understanding of how climate change impacts on the cryosphere affect communities differentially.
4. Use of available technologies to their full capacity was highlighted as a possible solution, including enhancing utilization of remote sensing technologies, advanced modelling tools, and community-based monitoring approaches.
5. Use innovative technology for climate services to drive and incentivize cooperation across cryosphere-relevant institutions that ultimately benefits water users.
6. Support integration and uptake by national partners of the technologies and capacity building provided by international development partners.
7. Increase funding for national institutions working on the cryosphere to increase their capacity and ensure that they have the necessary equipment.

The International Glacier Forum concluded with a call to foster cooperation for the successful implementation of IYGP2025, bridge the data-knowledge gap with focus on the cryosphere and change the mindset at all levels. A need for additional support for the Trust Fund for the Preservation of Glaciers was highlighted as a vital element that is fundamental for the successful implementation of IYGP2025 and the work beyond.

Parliamentarians' Forum on ICPD30- "Water resources and demographic sustainability in the interests of youth"

The Parliamentarians' Forum was hosted in Dushanbe on 10 June 2024. It was co-organized by the Parliament of Tajikistan (Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) through the Japan Trust Fund (JTF).

The meeting brought together more than 450 participants from 15 countries representing parliaments, governments, international organizations, youth organizations and academia to share and discuss good practices in policies, legislation and programmes on demographic shifts that address gender equality, investing in youth, water scarcity and climate change.

The discussions focused on policies, systems, and services that could strengthen investment in youth and eliminate gender inequality, including through empowering women and girls and engaging young people in decision-making processes. The outcome of the Parliamentarians' Forum is a 'Statement of Commitment' and pledge to help achieve the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, fostering a resilient and equitable future (see the box below).

Statement of Commitment

In line with our role as parliamentarians, we:

- A) Reaffirm our commitment to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as pathways to achieve an equitable future for all;
- B) Advocate for governments to use population data and analysis, including disaggregated data, to analyze, anticipate and adapt to demographic changes, to design evidence-based solutions tailored to specific national contexts in order to ensure demographic resilience. Whether in high or low fertility contexts, experience around the world has shown that solutions work best when they are people-centered, human capital-oriented and expand people's choices;
- C) Commit to building resilient individuals, communities and societies, and investing in emergency preparedness, anticipatory actions, and targeted disaster risk reduction plans. This includes prioritizing the protection of women, girls and adolescents, migrants, minorities and refugees in all their diversity in all ages, and other groups in vulnerable and marginalized situations during emergencies, including those relating to climate change. We actively support youth leadership in promoting peace, conflict prevention and in humanitarian action;
- D) Recall that 'leaving no one behind' is the key principle of the SDGs, and that more resilient and sustainable health systems, as part of ensuring universal health coverage, are critical to achieving the SDGs and a key element of addressing demographic challenges;
- E) Highlight the importance of promoting women's empowerment, including by increasing women's access to employment and services, addressing unpaid care work, and ensuring that policies address and redress gender inequalities;
- F) Work with national parliaments to address harmful social and gender norms that limit the potential of women, girls and adolescents in all their diversity, and other groups in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including through strengthened engagement of men and boys and the mobilization of community activists, faith-based organizations, and traditional and religious leaders;
- G) Highlight the importance of young people's empowerment and participation by ensuring the development and strengthening of public policies to accelerate human capital investments supporting young people to attain their highest potential through access to education and decent work and social safety packages;
- H) Promote enabling environments that eliminate discrimination against young people and empowers them to make informed decisions about their lives and bodies;
- I) Recognize the invaluable contributions of young people, women and girls to address the impact of climate change, and the need to leverage their experiences in disaster recovery and climate strategies keeping in mind that young people, in particular girls, are vulnerable to being disproportionately affected by climate change;
- J) Reaffirm that we parliamentarians and policymakers must pay careful attention to the needs and rights of all people, including women and young people everywhere, especially in disaster zones;
- K) Take affirmative action to develop a model or common legislation that places solidarity with the young people at the center with respect to their rights;
- L) Recommit to working with all stakeholders, including development partners: civil society; local, national, and regional governments; the private sector; multilateral organizations; national parliamentary bodies and regional and global fora on population and development; to implement the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda;

Our pledge

We, parliamentarians from different countries gathered in Dushanbe, pledge to:

- **Advance legislative action:** Develop and expand the legislative and policy framework for strengthening demographic resilience to the target climate changes, that is comprehensive, based on evidence, and centered on people and their rights and needs
- **Support gender equality and youth empowerment:** Support for the initiatives that empower women and young people and promote gender equality as part of efforts to build human capital and foster inclusion as key elements of demographic resilience strategies
- **Enhance Climate and Water Resilience:** Collaborate on developing policies and strategies to address climate change and water scarcity, leveraging the contribution of young people in resilience-building efforts.

Source: Report of the Parliamentarians' Forum, 10 June 2024, Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Private Sector Forum: Enabling private sector mobilization to achieve the SDG 6

Building on the momentum and outcomes of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference and other water-related platforms, the Private Sector Forum was held for the first time as part of the Third High Level International Conference “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 in Dushanbe on 10 June 2024. The Forum was organized jointly by the World Bank Group, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Development Association and International Finance Corporation, the 2030 Water Resources Group hosted by the World Bank, the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management and the International Federation of Private Sector Operators (AquaFed). The Forum engaged 120 participants from Central Asia, including representatives of government, international financial institutions (IFIs), public sector, private sector and civil society.

The Forum’s objective was to serve as a catalyst for creating business opportunities and markets that directly lead to progress on SDG 6 targets in the Central Asian region. The Forum was organized in two interactive panel sessions, enabling participants to discuss potential opportunities for structuring public-private-partnerships, innovative financing mechanisms, and opportunities for private capital mobilization. Currently, total annual spending in the water sector is estimated at US\$164.6 billion, encompassing four subsectors: water supply and sanitation, irrigation, water transport, and hydropower. However, there's a significant imbalance in the sources of this funding. Public spending, also accounting for State-Owned Enterprises, makes up a massive 91.4 per cent of the total, while private spending only accounts for about 2 per cent. Without diversifying financing sources beyond public resources and bringing in other stakeholders, the sector will not be able to meet projected infrastructure investment needs, estimated at US\$6.7 trillion by 2030 and \$22.6 trillion by 2050.

The Forum provided a unique opportunity to demonstrate the value of private sector investments in the region and other ongoing initiatives undertaken by the Governments in scaling up financing in the sector through the mobilization of private capital. Achieving water security for all requires coordinated action and a massive increase of investments in the sector. Through the discussions at the Forum, participants identified key priorities for scaling up financing in the sector.

The key recommendations from the Private Sector Forum are summarised below:

1. Develop strategic national-level investment programs in collaboration with IFIs, with a focus on (a) using public and concessional resources to crowd in the private sector, (b) developing high-quality feasibility studies with an assessment of technical and financial aspects as the basis to support adequate risk allocation between the public and private sector, and (c) developing a pipeline of bankable projects, in consultation and with consideration of the priorities of the private sector.
2. Support improvements to the enabling environment for private sector participation through improved policies, institutional and regulatory frameworks; robust governance; and focus on creditworthiness and financial sustainability.
3. Explore, assess, and diversify the range of financial solutions available to each country depending on its context.
4. Establish strategic partnerships with IFIs in the region to scale up partnerships and financing. One of the possible solutions would be to use long-term adaptable platforms that allow standardization of approaches to financing.
5. Prepare case studies of private sector mobilization for different areas and models in Russian language.
6. Mobilize private sector expertise to improve operational efficiency, technical capacity and financial viability of service providers.
7. Support public awareness and training programs for stakeholders on private sector participation options such as public-private-partnerships (PPPs), different types of contracts, different models of financing, insurance, and other products that are geared towards decision makers and non-technical specialists.
8. Establish a platform for regular public-private sector dialogue in the water sector of Central Asia, potentially as part of the Dushanbe Water Process to encourage knowledge exchange and showcase successful examples from the region on narrower topics: (i) wastewater to energy technologies; (ii) digitalization of water sector (including billing, leak detection, etc.); (iii) energy efficiency in water; (iv) water saving technologies.

Third Regional Forum of Basin Organizations

The Third Regional Forum of Basin Organizations was organized jointly by the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity and the GIZ /SDC Climate Sensitive Water Management in Central Asia Programme in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. It took place on 10 June 2024 and gathered more than 140 participants.

The Forum included four thematic sessions: (i) legislative aspects of water resources management at the basin level; (ii) available institutions, tools and mechanisms for the development of basin organizations; (iii) best practices of bilateral cooperation at the basin level; and (iv) international experience in promoting the basin management principle.

Summarizing the presentations and expert discussions, the following recommendations were proposed:

1. As part of the ongoing reforms in the water sector, the governments of the Central Asian countries are establishing basin management structures of different types and scales - basin organizations and basin councils. However, due to the novelty of the process, not all roles and responsibilities of the newly established structures are clearly defined and understood, and there is an urgent need for further capacity building of both civil servants and staff of the newly established structures.
2. To support the process of transition of the Central Asian countries to basin management, the countries are updating and developing policies, regulations, tools and mechanisms to improve basin management and strengthen the capacity and skills of basin organizations. This ongoing process should receive continued support, including from the international community. To ensure the efficacy of these efforts, it is important to study, analyse, adapt to the region's specificities, and replicate international and regional best practices and experiences.
3. The region needs to develop a long-term vision for the development of basin management and cooperation. This is particularly important because the region shares water resources. To achieve this, a unified regional approach is necessary to ensure that every voice and need is acknowledged and addressed. The countries in the region should establish strategies to exchange experiences and encourage cooperation at the basin level.
4. It's important to note that water resources are not only a link between countries, but also they must be considered in connection with other essential areas like agriculture, energy, and ecosystems. Only a nexus-oriented vision (nexus approach) will bring mutual benefit, development, and prosperity to the region.

To develop further cooperation at the basin level in Central Asia, the Forum organizers proposed a draft roadmap, which includes four blocks of activity directions. This roadmap is designed to support basin structures in the region to implement their mandates and objectives and to establish public involvement in water resources management. The roadmap is open to all interested international development partners who work at the basin level to collectively address the needs and actions required to strengthen the basin structures of the countries in the region. This will contribute to the development of local territories and communities.

Women and Water Forum

During the 2024 Women Water Forum, 180 partners from 25 countries and different sectors, including women diplomats, activists, scientists and water sector professionals, gathered alongside representatives from State agencies, grass-roots organizations and development partners. They shared their views and experiences on empowering women in leadership in water diplomacy and decision-making platforms to contribute to human security from a gender equality perspective and to strengthen the resilience of societies to crises. At the Forum, partners underlined the need for gender-centred solutions and gender-responsive financing to ensure transformative changes for all by leaving no one behind. The Forum produced an outcome statement building on the outcomes of the previous Women Water Forums since 2013 and the collective wisdom and commitments of the numerous participants and their constituencies and highlighting that using the full potential of women and girls benefits our societies and our planet.

Participants shared concerns about ongoing wars and conflicts, polarized politics, a continuing global economic crisis and the increasing impacts of a changing climate are destabilizing peace and security for all societies; heighten risk of water crisis as a potential trigger of disputes and conflicts; increased water insecurity because of conflicts, climate change and man-made and natural disasters are having negative impacts, especially on marginalized and vulnerable segments of society; continuing underrepresentation of women in political decision-making at various levels lack of space for women's agency and contribution to solutions building; and ongoing shrinking of safe spaces for civil society organizations and new barriers for their operations.

The Forum called for increased collaboration based on the following principles:

- recognition of the benefits of equitable water and sanitation for a wide range of policy goals, such as those in the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs;
- application of water diplomacy to prevent new conflicts from arising and ensure that women in all their diversity equally and meaningfully participate at all levels of decision-making, including on themes of conflict resolution, peace and security;
- support for women's participation, which is a key element to enhance women's agency that requires identifying and addressing discriminatory structures, social norms and gender stereotypes that are the root causes of gender inequalities and create barriers to women's meaningful participation and leadership;
- recognition of women water diplomats as mentors and role models for young women seeking to influence global water policy and budgets and,
- recognition of the important contributions of women in science and their full incorporation in water security processes.

Looking at SDG 17 and the 'means of implementation' for the SDGs through a gender and water lens, and taking into consideration the urgent need to strengthen and tailor the means of implementation to the lowest appropriate level, the Forum strongly recommends the following:

1. *Knowledge-sharing and cooperation:* Women's access to science, technology and innovation is needed to promote awareness and the exchange of knowledge on the cryosphere, hydrology and climate change in relation to sustainable development; and invest in the production of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics, integrating gender data in national statistical planning and recognizing the importance of local and Indigenous knowledge.
2. *Science, technology and innovation capacity:* The development of scientific research is required as the basis for achieving the SDGs (and engage more women scientists in this process); invest in science, including long-term research on the melting of glaciers and possible threats to their disappearance; support the capacities of least-developed countries; introduce affirmative action measures to attract girls to STEM fields; and engage youth about thinking and devising innovative solutions to emerging water and development challenges.
3. *Capacity-development:* Support is needed for the employment of female staff (to attract, recruit, retain and promote women) in regional- and local-level water institutions; provide training opportunities tailored to women's professional advancement in water governance, including technical, leadership and management skills; include men and boys in gender-transformative programmes to challenge gender norms, promote equality and change power dynamics, relationships and community norms to support gender justice in water management; invest in attracting and recruiting more women in water sector institutions, particularly at regional/local levels, and particularly youth; and invest in internship programmes at provincial and local levels and in tackling negative gender norms through advocacy campaigns using positive women role models.
4. *Financing:* It is necessary to ensure gender-responsive public investments such as gender-sensitive water infrastructure; make clear distinctions between grants and loans, enhance flexibility in funding mechanisms to adapt to changing circumstances, and improve transparency to support women's and girls' needs in crisis and post-crisis settings; ensure a dedicated and substantial budget for the empowerment of women and support to the work of local women's groups, both in national development budgets and through official development assistance; invest in introducing gender strategies and policies in regional and local institutions; replicate practices of the gender bonds as a solution for direct financing towards credible strategies, programmes, and policies that tackle gender inequality; and deploy resources to local governments for the joint development of local action plans, including the means to facilitate the participation of women and other marginalized groups.
5. *Partnerships:* Conditions in public and private sectors need to be created for attracting young women and men as water professionals, scientists and practitioners; promote collaboration among peacebuilding practitioners to develop integrated definitions and theories of change; and creating comprehensive monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the gender-water-climate-security nexus.

Youth and Children's Water and Climate Forum

The Youth and Children's Water and Climate Forum was organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), World Bank and international youth networks. The Forum focused on the critical issues of global water stress and the active involvement of youth in climate and water initiatives. The event commenced with opening speeches from various high-level speakers representing government bodies, international organizations, and NGOs. These speeches emphasized the urgency of addressing water stress, highlighting that by 2030, 50 per-cent of the global population will reside in water-stressed regions. The Forum had a four-point agenda that aimed to review progress, address key questions and main challenges, and showcase youth-led success stories.

The main outcomes from the four sessions are summarised below:

1. The progress review of the Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda²⁷ (YDPA) was a main outcome of the Forum. The YDPA, initiated during the 2022 Dushanbe Process and presented at the 2023 UN Water Conference, serves to collect official consolidated inputs of the youth for the 2023 UN Water Conference. It integrates existing policies and reports on water and climate, reflecting how the youth sector perceives these issues both regionally and globally. Despite its endorsement at the UN Water Conference, it was discussed that the Youth Development Plan for Action (YDPA) has encountered significant challenges, notably it remains unfunded and lacks a designated mechanism for progress review, presenting an obstacle to effectively mobilizing youth and harnessing their potential to address the needs in the water sector.
2. A review of the status of progress against the voluntary commitments made for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference and other national commitments by Tajikistan, India, Pakistan, Netherlands and Uzbekistan was presented by the youth delegates of these countries. Critical questions, such as “*Where do we stand, and how do we need to move forward?*” were discussed to find solutions to issues hindering the achievement of SDG 6 and youth leadership.
3. A key highlight of the Forum was the endorsement of the Tajikistan Youth for Water and Climate Plan by the Committee of Youth Affairs and Sport which was presented by the recently established Youth for Water and Climate Network followed by a funding commitment by Dholakia Foundation, India for the implementation of this plan.
4. Global innovators came to Tajikistan to share innovative life-changing solutions to some of the most critical Water and Climate problems, including from Innovation30²⁸ a UNICEF-led initiative. Presentations by youth innovators, such as turning air into water (HurRain), deployable foldable concrete tanks (Deploy), and recycling grey water into potable water under the sink (Cycleau) highlighted the potential for innovative solutions to address water and climate challenges. These presentations inspired innovation and collaboration among the youth. This also led to exploring opportunities with the private sector for piloting and upscaling these solutions. The Forum concluded with reflections from youth delegates and a facilitated Q&A session.

The Youth and Children's Forum demonstrated a strong commitment from decision makers and youth delegates to collaborate on advancing the water agenda. The willingness of decision-makers to engage with youth and the readiness of young people to make a difference were prominent themes throughout the discussions. The collective efforts, innovative solutions, and collaborative spirit showcased at the event underscore a promising path forward for advancing the global water agenda.

Youth participants emphasized their desire for continued involvement in various water processes and called for their contributions to be acknowledged and reflected in this year's declaration. They urged Member States and stakeholders to prioritize youth inclusion in water and climate related processes, gatherings, and conferences through funding and resources support to enable effective mobilization.

²⁷ Water Action Agenda, Implementation of the Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda (YDPA) United International Federation of Youth for Water and Climate (Civil society organization) (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/implementation-water-and-climate-youth-development-plan-and-agenda-ydpa>).

²⁸ UNICEF, Innovation30: Young Climate Innovators Shaping the Future (<https://www.unicef.org/innovation/climate/innovation-30>).

Closing Session

The closing session was co-chaired by the Prime-Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairman of the National Organizing Committee, H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda, and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, H.E. Mr. Li Junhua.

H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda expressed his gratitude to all attendees for their active and constructive participation in the work of the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference. In particular, he thanked the co-chairs of the Interactive Dialogues: United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, European Union, China, Japan, Egypt, Switzerland, Senegal, United States and Singapore.

A closing speech was made by H.E. Mr. Alvaro Lario in his capacity as the Chair of UN-Water. He highlighted key actions taken by the United Nations system to follow-up on the United Nations 2023 Water Conference including the preparation of the *Blueprint for Acceleration: SDG 6 Synthesis Report for Water and Sanitation 2023*²⁹ and preparation of the first *United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation*. He encouraged participants to capture the momentum of this week and direct it to action towards the preparation for the upcoming United Nations conferences on water in 2026 and 2028. He stressed that with only six years to go, it is vital to meet milestones towards achieving the water and sanitation-related targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Rapporteurs from the nine forums and five interactive dialogues were invited to report back to the plenary on the key messages from their respective sessions. H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda and H.E. Mr. Li Junhua thanked those involved in the preparation of the Forums and Interactive dialogues for their significant contributions.

H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda introduced the outcome of the Conference - the “Dushanbe Declaration”. The final Declaration calls on United Nations member states and stakeholders to take action in various areas, such as protecting human health; strengthening leadership and collaboration on drinking water supply, sanitation, and hygiene; delivering on the promise to leave no one behind; developing concrete actions for sustainable water resources management, water supply and sanitation, and calls for putting sustainable management of water and sanitation at the centre of the sustainable development agenda, including mainstreaming water within intergovernmental processes. In addition, the Declaration calls for increased financing from the public and private sectors through the creation of an enabling environment, improved efficiency and institutional mechanisms needed to attract significant new investment, the preparation of national climate change adaptation plans to significantly reduce climate-induced water scarcity and increase climate resilience to water-related hazards and strengthening integrated water resources management as well as transboundary cooperation.

The Russian Federation made a statement supporting the final declaration and expressing their position on the paragraph *‘encouraging the United Nations Secretary-General to appoint a Special Envoy for Water’* indicating that this should take place through a consultative process with Member States and that the representative should be from one of the countries of the Global South.

The “Dushanbe Declaration” was adopted by acclamation by all Conference delegations and participants. H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda thanked Member States and international organizations, members of the International Advisory Committee of the Dushanbe Water Process, members of the United Nations Group of Friends of Water in New York, and all other stakeholders for their valuable contribution to the preparation of the Dushanbe Declaration. He expressed confidence that the results of the Dushanbe Conference will make a significant contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2024, the preparatory process for the United Nations Water Conference in 2026 and in 2028, which will be held in Dushanbe.

In his closing remarks, H.E. Mr. Li Junhua stressed that the Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conferences will continue to play an important role in promoting water high on the international agenda and this Third Conference contributed to maintaining the political momentum of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference by following up on its outcomes. He reiterated that the Conference has adopted the “Dushanbe Declaration” as the outcome document and emphasized that the outcome of the Dushanbe Conference will pave the way for the preparatory process of the United Nations 2026 Water Conference leading to the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the Water Action Decade in 2028. He noted that while the Conference has come to an end, the efforts as one big water family will never stop.

H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda officially closed the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference.

²⁹ UN-Water, *Blueprint for Acceleration: Sustainable Development Goal 6: Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023* (Geneva, United Nations, 2023) (<https://www.unwater.org/publications/sdg-6-synthesis-report-2023>).

Additional Conference Activities and Events

Side Events

Fifteen Side Events were organized by global, regional and national actors. These activities created an additional platform for wider discussion on various water-related issues and priority themes of the conference:

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| Side event 1: | <i>Building Momentum – From COP 28 to COP 29: Advancing Water Outcomes for Climate Action.</i> Co-organized by the Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of the Netherlands), and SIWI. |
| Side event 2: | <i>Human mobility in the context of climate change in mountain areas – Evidence, gaps, and priorities.</i> Co-organized by the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and International Organization for Migration. |
| Side event 3: | <i>Cooperative strategies for Central Asian transboundary water management</i> Co-organized by International Water Management Institute and Tajik Agrarian University ‘S. Shotemur’ (TAU). |
| Side event 4: | <i>Intergenerational leadership for a Water-Secure Future</i> Co-organized by Dholakia Foundation. |
| Side event 5: | <i>Water for climate, sustainable development and the environment: water-food nexus, climate and glaciers, determining the value of groundwater resources”</i> Co-organized by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. |
| Side event 6: | <i>“Towards the One Water Summit”</i> Co-organized by the Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of France. |
| Side event 7: | <i>Finance and investment for water, energy and land-use nexus in Central Asia</i> Co-organized by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Scientific-Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia (SIC ICWC), and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). |
| Side event 8: | <i>SDG 6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS) Asia Pacific Regional Workshop</i> Co-organized by United Nations Office on Sustainable Development (UNOSD) / UN DESA. |
| Side event 9: | <i>The impact of the risk of glacial lake outburst on the socio-economic development of Central Asian countries.</i> Co-organized by the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. |
| Side event 10: | <i>Strengthening benefit sharing in Central Asia: Role of water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus approach.</i> Co-organized by the International Water Management Institute and Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. |
| Side event 11: | <i>Fostering cooperation in education and science to promote IWRM: Novel approaches to capacity building and development.</i> Co-organized by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), OSCE, Tajik Agrarian University ‘S. Shotemur’ (TAU), Kazakh-German University (DKU) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). |
| Side event 12: | <i>Role of Tajikistan’s water sector reform in achieving the goals and objectives of the international water decade “water for sustainable development”, 2028-2028, as well as water-related sustainable development goals.</i> Co-organized by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, UNDP, GIZ, and EU. |
| Side event 13: | <i>Ministerial Roundtable with the World Bank and the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EB IFAS): Achieving greater water-use efficiency in Central Asia region.</i> Co-organized by World Bank and EC IFAS. |

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| Side event 14: | <i>Optimizing the use of water resources is a common path to sustainable development of regions.</i> Co-organized by Federal State Budgetary Scientific Institution “Federal Scientific Center for Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation named after A.N. Kostyakov” |
| Side event 15: | <i>Water from Source to People: Investing in freshwater quality monitoring to reduce environmental risks.</i> Co-organized by Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke), and International Secretariat for Water. |

Exhibitions

An important highlight of the Conference was the International Exhibition “*Rethinking the Value of Water.*” The exhibition aimed to raise awareness of the measures taken and progress achieved in the implementation of the Water Action Decade (2018-2028) and the outcomes of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, including the Water Action Agenda. The focus of the exhibition was 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; and hydropower development as an environmentally friendly and renewable source of energy.

Exhibits were presented by organizations at the international, regional and national level showcasing their experience, advanced knowledge, best practices and scientific achievements in the field of water resources. The exhibition also further strengthened and developed cooperation among stakeholders. It also introduced innovative methods, practices, techniques and technologies for sustainable water resources management. Furthermore, the exhibition established close professional and business relationships among various stakeholders. The Conference participants also had the opportunity to visit the Exhibition of Industrial and Agricultural Products of the Republic of Tajikistan at the Dushanbe International EXPO Center, where they were acquainted with the achievements and export potential of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Cultural Program

The Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference also featured a rich cultural programme including for the first time the “*Dushanbe Water and Glacier Festival*”. The Festival was organized by the Government of Tajikistan on the 10th of June at the cultural and entertainment park “Javonon”. The Festival celebrated water and glaciers as the foundation of life, well-being, prosperity, and sustainable development. The main objective of the Water and Glacier Festival was to raise public awareness of the value of water as a vital resource and glaciers as the main sources of clean drinking water, as well as the need to treat them with care and preserve them for future generations.

The Festival showcased Tajikistan’s policy and practice as a leading country in promoting water issues on the global agenda, as well as to draw attention to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/158 declaring 2025 the International Year of Glacier Preservation and March 21 as World Glacier Day. The Water and Glacier Festival demonstrated the depth of Tajik hospitality and provided participants with a venue to get acquainted with the rich history, cuisine, culture, art, and traditions of the Tajik people. The Water and Glacier Festival featured folk crafts and creativity, Tajik national cuisine, various types of drinking water, a concert program featuring the country’s leading Masters of Art, a fashion show of Tajik national clothing, and other programs.

Excursions

The National Organizing Committee organized excursions on the last day of the conference for international participants to explore potential solutions to water-related issues, as well as to learn more about the history and experience the friendliness of the Host Country. The Conference participants were provided with opportunities to observe the current challenges Tajikistan is facing from the source of water in the upper catchments in mountainous parts of the country to the level of multiple water users in the lowlands where water contributes to food production, is used for drinking and local development, and is a powerful engine for the generation of clean energy. The excursion destinations included the City of Dushanbe, Safed-Dara Ski Resort, Hissor Fortress, Siyoma Gorge in Varzob valley, Rammit Gorge, Rogun Hydropower Plant, and Nurek Hydropower Plant.

Media Coverage

The Conference was widely covered by domestic and international media, including social media. Millions of people in Tajikistan and across the world were able to follow this important international event, obtain the necessary information, and keep abreast of the global water agenda. The events were covered by over 100 different media outlets including Al Jazeera, BBC, Reuters, Russia Today, Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty, Voice of America, and Xinhua News Agency among many others, including those from Angola, China, France, Gabon, Germany, Japan, Korea, The Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, United States, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The official hashtags of the Conference in social media were #DushanbeWaterConf, #DWaterProcess and #WaterActionDecade.

3. Outcomes of the Conference

Outcome Documents

The Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference produced three outcome documents: this Co-Chairs' Summary, the final *Dushanbe Declaration*, and the *Dushanbe Commitment*.

The final *Dushanbe Declaration* reflects the key messages that emerged from the preparatory process, Interactive Dialogues, Forums, as well as other important conclusions and recommendations from the Conference. The document provides forward-looking key messages for decision makers and stakeholders and identifies important opportunities ahead to advance the objectives of the Water Action Decade and follow-up on the United Nations 2023 Water Conference. It calls for water and sanitation issues to be elevated within the international agenda and calls on the relevant actors to take action within their respective capacities. The *Dushanbe Declaration* document is included in Annex 2.

The *Dushanbe Commitment* expresses the collective determination of the Conference participants to translate commitments into results to achieve water-related goals and targets. This document compiles the key actions, partnerships and other initiatives- existing and new- that were presented during the Conference sessions as a contribution towards the achievement of (i) Water Action Agenda voluntary commitments, (ii) water-related goals and targets, including those in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and (iii) Water Action Decade through the four workstreams of the *United Nations Secretary-General's Action Plan: Water Action Decade 2018-2028*. In the spirit of solidarity, Member States, United Nations and its entities, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, youth and other stakeholders are called upon to contribute to their implementation, based on their respective capacities. Delegations are encouraged to register their actions and partnerships as voluntary commitments to the Water Action Agenda through the United Nations SDG Actions Partnership Platform and to provide periodic progress updates. The *Dushanbe Commitment* document is included in Annex 3.

Main Conclusions

1. The Conference successfully galvanized high-level political commitment for water-related goals.

- The Conference convened Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers, senior officials of the United Nations and international financial institutions, as well as leaders of international organizations, civil society, academia, and stakeholder groups to discuss the most pressing issues of today's water problems in a rapidly changing world, underscoring the centrality of water in the international agenda.
- Leaders and high-level representatives affirmed commitments to prioritize water resources management, water supply and sanitation in policies, plans and investments. These commitments clearly demonstrate political will at the highest level to accelerate progress towards achieving water-related goals, further amplifying the momentum of the Water Action Decade.
- These commitments have been compiled as part of the *Dushanbe Commitment* outcome document.

2. The Conference was a timely and effective platform to follow up on the United Nations 2023 Water Conference and support implementation of the Water Action Agenda and Water Action Decade.

- One of the main objectives of the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference was to review the progress catalysed by the United Nations 2023 Water Conference with a specific focus on implementing the Water Action Agenda.
- From the onset, the Government of Tajikistan worked with relevant stakeholders during the preparatory process to embed the follow-up from the New York Conference and the Water Action Agenda into the

Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference programme, notably through the design of the plenary sessions, interactive dialogues, forums, and side events.

- As a result, the Conference sessions provided a unique opportunity for Water Action Agenda commitment holders to share progress updates, discuss challenges and possible solutions, and seek partnerships to accelerate implementation. The Interactive Dialogues fostered continuity with the discussions that took place during the New York Sessions. Interactive Dialogues and Forums reviewed progress and discussed future plans for specific Water Action Agenda commitments, and also identified gaps where more action and new commitments are needed. Interactive Dialogue 5 specifically reflected on lessons learned, areas for improvement, and future considerations for the Water Action Decade and upcoming United Nations Water Conferences.
- New developments catalysed by the United Nations 2023 Water Conference were also discussed, notably strengthened engagement on water and climate during UNFCCC COP processes (COP27, 28 and in preparation for 29), the efforts to develop a United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation, and preparations for upcoming United Nations conferences on water in 2026 and 2028. Continued engagement on the four workstreams of the United Nations Secretary-General’s action plan was also discussed throughout the Interactive Dialogues and Forums.
- Overall, the Water Action Agenda commitments are at various stages of implementation. Main challenges are related to financial constraints, lack of expertise, and difficulties fostering an enabling environment. There were calls for more high-level commitments to close the gaps by 2030 and increased support for UN DESA’s initiatives to promote the Water Action Agenda and to conduct periodic analyses and assess progress towards the implementation of the voluntary commitments registered therein.

3. Five interactive dialogues examined solutions to strengthen interlinkages across the sustainable development agenda and within global processes, and emphasized the need for inclusivity, honest dialogue, transparency and trust to improve cooperation and accelerate implementation.

- Building on the key messages and recommendations from the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, the Dushanbe sessions of the Interactive Dialogues deepened the examination of the five themes: water for health; water for sustainable development; water for climate, environment and resilience; water for cooperation; and the Water Action Decade.
- Speakers highlighted progress made and provided specific examples of promising solutions. The need was underscored for additional efforts to standardize and share data and build capacity to work more effectively across sectors.
- Discussions centred on the need to better connect, integrate, and implement water-related decisions at global assemblies and conventions and frameworks dedicated to climate, biodiversity, drought and desertification, disaster risk reduction and resilience. Specific opportunities were identified in 2024 related to the HLPF, Summit of the Future, Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties for the United Nations Conventions on climate (e.g., UNFCCC COP29), biodiversity (e.g., CBD COP16), and desertification and drought (e.g., UNCCD COP16), the United Nations Special Thematic Session on water and disasters among other high-level meetings including the “One Water Summit”.
- Honest dialogue, transparency and trust building emerged main key messages across the Interactive Dialogue sessions that are of particular importance for water management and financing, including cooperation with the private sector. The importance of inclusivity was also emphasized across all interactive dialogue sessions, in particular the involvement of women, youth, and local communities from knowledge generation to decision-making using community-centric approaches.
- Conference participants acknowledged the value of continued dialogue on these same five thematic topics to jointly review progress and learn, address persistent challenges, accelerate implementation and maintain the momentum from the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, while forging a connection with future United Nations water conferences in 2026 and 2028.

4. Nine forums convened multi-stakeholder discussions on specific water-related topics of interest and delivered action-oriented outcomes.

- The Nine forums successfully engaged different types of stakeholders, including women, youth, professional groups, academics and researchers, private sector and others to discuss specific topics and produce an action-oriented outcome. For the first time an African Water Forum was organized as part of the Dushanbe Water Process, which made the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference even more inclusive and globally relevant.

- Five forums developed common agreed positions and roadmaps. The African Water Forum consulted on the formulation of an agreed Continental position for the post-2025 Africa Water Vision. The Glaciers Forum developed a roadmap of the preparatory process for the International Year of Glacier Preservation in 2025 (IYGP2025). The Women Water Forum developed an outcome document building on previous Forums since 2013. The Parliamentarians’ Forum produced a statement of commitment and pledge to support the achievement of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the 2030 Agenda. The 3rd Regional Forum of Basin Organizations proposed a draft roadmap to further develop cooperation at the basin level in Central Asia.
 - Two forums reviewed progress and made future plans. The Youth and Children’s Forum undertook a review of progress on the implementation of the Youth Development Plan of Action³⁰ and the endorsement of the Tajikistan Youth for Water and Climate plan. The Central Asia Forum reviewed progress on the “Water and Climate Change” programme in Ferghana Valley and developed recommendations to address increasing impacts of the changing climate on five Central Asian countries.
 - Two forums developed recommendations for acceleration of high priority topics. The Private Sector Forum demonstrated the value of private sector investments in Central Asia and identified key priorities for scaling up financing in the sector. The Forum on Science and Technology strengthened international and regional cooperation between research initiatives and concluded by proposing recommendations to further reinforce and systematize the exchange of knowledge and promotion of innovative technologies.
- 5. The Conference stimulated partnerships and networking among participants and raised awareness globally about water issues and the actions being taken to address them.**
- The fifteen side events, exhibitions, cultural programmes, social events, and excursions provided an additional opportunity for exchanges of experience and stimulating partnerships across cultures and spheres of work.
 - The extensive media coverage of the Conference by over member of the press from over 100 media organizations representing all regions of the world further enabled the discussions from Dushanbe to be broadcast to a global audience.
 - Conference participants expressed appreciation of the approach of the host county to provide unique opportunities to learn about and explore water-related issues and solutions in a specific context of Tajikistan and Central Asia.
- 6. The Conference was organized through an inclusive and carefully planned preparatory process.**
- The planning and organization of the Conference was coordinated through different platforms, including the technical International Advisory Committee co-chaired by the Government of Tajikistan and the World Bank as well as the members of the steering committee of the Group of Friends of Water in New York. The National Organizing Committee chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan led the preparatory process.
 - The active engagement and strong dedication of a diverse group of Member States, United Nations entities, development partners, national and international organizations, and stakeholders in the design and organization of the programmes for the Conference sessions was instrumental to the successful outcomes. As previously mentioned, the same ten Member States that co-chaired the Interactive Dialogues of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference participated as co-chairs of the Dushanbe sessions.
 - The final ‘Dushanbe Declaration’ was developed in consultation with stakeholders and Member States coordinated through the International Advisory Committee of the Dushanbe Water Process and United Nations Group of Friends of Water in New York. The Declaration document was developed based on the key messages of the Conference sessions. It was adopted by acclamation during the closing session.
- 7. The Dushanbe Water Process is an important asset for the Water Action Decade and other global processes to maintain momentum and regularly follow-up to accelerate implementation.**
- The Dushanbe Water Process is an initiative of the Government of Tajikistan to support the implementation of the objectives of the Water Action Decade through a series of biennial conferences

³⁰ Water Action Agenda, Implementation of the Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda (YDPA), United International Federation of Youth for Water and Climate (Civil society organization) #SDGAction50317. <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/implementation-water-and-climate-youth-development-plan-and-agenda-ydpa>

hosted by the Government of Tajikistan in close cooperation with the United Nations. The Dushanbe Water Process and Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference were instrumental in the preparatory process for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference. And, through its national Water Action Agenda commitment, the Government of Tajikistan has committed to use the Dushanbe Water Process a follow-up mechanism up to the end of the Decade in 2028.

- Building on the success and momentum from the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference, the Dushanbe Water Process can be leveraged to support the preparatory process for the upcoming United Nations conferences on water, including the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of SDG 6 and in 2028 the United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in addition to other international water-related events.

Next steps and follow-up opportunities

The Conference successfully achieved its objectives due to the coordinated efforts and close collaboration of all parties. In terms of next steps, the Government of Tajikistan will present this Co-Chairs’ Summary, the final *Dushanbe Declaration*, and the *Dushanbe Commitment* during the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other events. Participating Member States and organizations are encouraged to disseminate the Conference outcome documents through their respective networks and to act on the key messages and recommendations within their different roles and responsibilities and respective capabilities. Conference participants are encouraged to register new commitments in the Water Action Agenda (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water>). Member States and other organizations that have already registered commitments in the Water Action Agenda are encouraged to submit a progress report.³¹

The Dushanbe Water Process will continue to support the implementation of the Water Action Decade and support the preparation of future Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conferences. Member States have invited the United Nations Secretary-General to submit a report to assess progress on the Water Action Decade for the consideration of the United Nations General Assembly at its eighty-first session.³² In 2028, the United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, will be convened to promote the implementation of water-related actions and to take stock of the progress catalysed by the International Decade. The Government of Tajikistan has offered to host this Conference in Dushanbe.

Expression of appreciation

The Co-Chairs sincerely thank all Member States, partners, and participants for their respective contributions to make Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference a full success. An international event of this magnitude can only be possible through strong partnerships and collective efforts – large and small, local and global. Solving the world’s water challenges is a formidable task, but one that is most worthy of our continued efforts for current and future generations.

³¹ For questions on how to submit a progress report for a Water Action Agenda commitment, see FAQs Voluntary Commitments / SDG Actions (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/faq>).

³² United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/334, adopted on 1 September 2023 (<https://www.undocs.org/A/RES/77/334>).

Annexes

Annex 1. List of Opening Speeches, Plenary Statements, Closing Remarks

Member States and Observers

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Angola | Kuwait |
| Azerbaijan | Kyrgyzstan |
| Bahrain | Libya |
| Bangladesh | Netherlands |
| Belarus | Oman |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Pakistan |
| Burundi | Palestine |
| Chili | Romania |
| China | Russia Federation |
| Cuba | Saudi Arabia |
| European Union | Sierra Leone |
| Fiji | Singapore |
| France | South Africa |
| Gabon | Switzerland |
| Germany | Tajikistan |
| Guyana | Thailand |
| Holy See | Tunisia |
| Hungary | Türkiye |
| India | Turkmenistan |
| Indonesia | United Arab Emirates (UAE) |
| Iran | United Kingdom |
| Iraq | United States |
| Japan | Uzbekistan |
| Jordan | Yemen |
| Kazakhstan | Zambia |
| Korea | Zimbabwe |

United Nations entities

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

World Bank Group (WBG)

World Food Programme (WFP)

Others- United Nations

President, United Nations General Assembly

President, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Chair, United Nations Water inter-agency coordination mechanism (UN-Water)

International and Regional Organizations

Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)

ECO Regional Electricity Market

Geneva Water Hub

Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW)

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

World Water Council (WWC)

Annex 2. Dushanbe Declaration

Annex 3. Dushanbe Commitment