HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2024

SDG 6 AND WATER ACTION AGENDA SPECIAL EVENT

With launch of United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation and SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Studies

16 July 10:00–13:00 and 15:00–18:00 EDT
Conference Room 11, UN HQ, New York

Background

The fourth annual SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event during the High-level Political Forum marks a significant evolution in the UN's efforts around water and sanitation since the beginning of the 2030 Agenda. Building on the momentum from the 2023 UN Water Conference, which resulted in the adoption of resolution A/RES/77/334 and saw over 800 commitments from governments, civil society, and the private sector under the Water Action Agenda, the Special Event is poised to further accelerate global action.

The centerpiece of this year's SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event is the launch of the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation. This strategy, a result of extensive collaboration among all 36 UN-Water Members, the Development Coordination Office, Country Teams, and other UN entities, is designed to enhance the coordination and delivery of water priorities across the United Nations system. The strategy unifies the UN system's approach to water and sanitation, promoting joint programming and inter-agency collaboration across sectors and geographies.

The 2024 SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event offers a space to inspire and drive global action on water and sanitation. This year's Event will feature Indigenous People's voices and perspectives including an opening keynote address by a representative of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Throughout the day, attendees will have opportunities to engage in discussions about the new UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, the global water discourse, and progress on Water Action Agenda commitments. The Special Event will also include the launch of the 2024 SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Studies from Cambodia, Czechia, and Jordan.

The event will be livestreamed on UN Web TV. The link will be shared on the event page shortly.

Draft Agenda

Master of ceremonies for morning session: Ms. Nanette Braun, Director of Campaigns at the UN Department for Global Communications

10:00 – 10:10 Keynote speaker

The fourth annual SDG 6 Special Event during the High-level Political Forum will be opened with a keynote address delivered by a representative of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, setting the stage for the day's discussions on water and sanitation challenges and opportunities.

- Mr. **Keith M. Harper**, Vice-Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

10:10 – 11:10 High-level opening, launch and presentation of the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation

During this session the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation will be presented and launched along with reactions from a UN-Water Member and Partner.

- Mr. **Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- Mr. **Alvaro Lario**, UN-Water Chair and President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Ms. **Astrid Schomaker**, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity – *UN-Water Member*
- Ms. **Grethel Aguilar**, Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – *UN-Water Partner*

11:15 – 13:00 Shaping the global water discourse: UN Member State discussion

UN Member States will engage in a discussion to shape the global water discourse, with insights from various representatives, focusing on upcoming international water events and initiatives.

- Representatives from the UN 2026 Water Conference co-hosts:

H.E. Mr. **Abdulla Lootah**, Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness and Experience Exchange, Chair of the UAE National Committee on the SDGs, United Arab Emirates

Dr. **Mohamed C.B.C Diatta**, Coordinator of the Follow-Up Unit of the 9th World Water Forum, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Republic of Senegal

- Reflections on the UN 2023 Water Conference from Ms. **Meike van Ginneken,** Special Envoy for Water of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Outcomes of the Third International High-Level Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, from Mr. **Daler Jum'a**, Minister of Energy and Water Resources Republic of Tajikistan
- Outcomes of the 10th World Water Forum from H.E. Mr. **Arrmanatha C. Nasir**, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations
- Update on the One Water Summit, H.E. Mr. **Nicolas de Rivière**, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. **Abdulaziz M. Alwasil**, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations
- Ms. **Margaret Froh**, President, the Métis Nation of Ontario

Open discussion, advanced requests for interventions, including from the Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Switzerland, and Türkiye.

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Master of ceremonies for afternoon session: Ms. **Mary Matthews**, UNDP Water Lead a.i.

15:00 – 16:25
Launch of the 2024 SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Studies: Cambodia, Czechia and Jordan

This session will feature the launch of three 2024 SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Studies from Cambodia, Czechia, and Jordan, followed by a panel discussion on achieving progress on SDG 6 at the country level, including representatives from these nations and UN regional commissions.

Presentation of the 2024 SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Studies

- Ms. **Mary Matthews**, UNDP Water Lead a.i. and UN-Water Senior Programme Manager

Accelerated progress on SDG 6 at the country level: Panel discussion[1]

- H.E. Mr. **Thor Chetha**, Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology of The Kingdom of Cambodia

[1] *Member States are invited to speak to the case studies in alphabetical order, with Economic Commissions providing a regional perspective on the findings.*

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- Representative from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (tbc)
- H.E. Mr. **Petr Hladík**, Minister of Environment of Czechia
- Ms. **Tatiana Molcean**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Representative from The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (tbc)
- Dr. **Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Q&A from the floor

Moderator for Water Action Agenda session: Prof. **Kaveh Madani**, Director United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health

16:30 – 17:30
Water Action Agenda: Q&A discussion

The panel of Water Action Agenda commitment holders and a DESA representative will discuss the progress and commitments of the Water Action Agenda established during the UN 2023 Water Conference.

- Ms. **Madhushree Chatterjee**, Chief of Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch at the Division for SDGs of UN DESA, Secretariat of the UN 2023 Water Conference and producer of the report '[Mapping and Progress of the UN 2023 Water Conference Water Action Agenda]'
- Ms. **Austin Alexander**, Vice President of Sustainability & Social Impact at Xylem, commitment holder of the Water Action Agenda
- Ms. **Emily Hines**, Director of the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW), commitment holder of the Water Action Agenda
- Mr. **Fred van Heems**, President of Aquafed, commitment holder of the Water Action Agenda
- Mr. **Roberto Borrero**, Communications Program Coordinator at the International Indian Treaty Council, commitment holders of the Water Action Agenda
- Mr. **Henk Ovink**, Executive Director of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, commitment holder of the Water Action Agenda

Interventions from the floor

17:30 – 18:00 Closing reflections

The SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event will close with reflections on the day's sessions with an emphasis on views from Indigenous Peoples.

Please note that due to budget constraints, the Special Event will be conducted in English only.

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