



United Nations



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



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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. The UN's Deputy Secretary-General will launch the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation. Throughout the day, attendees will have opportunities to engage in discussions about the new UN System-wide Strategy, 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.

Draft Agenda

Moderator 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 launched by the UN's Deputy Secretary-General.

- **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **Mr. Alvaro Lario**, UN-Water Chair and President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development
- **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- **Ms. Astrid Schomaker**, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (tbc)
- **Ms. Ko Barrett**, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization

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, the Republic of Senegal and the United Arab Emirates**

- Reflections on the UN 2023 Water Conference from the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Representative from the Republic of Indonesia, co-host of the 10th World Water Forum
- Representative from the Republic of Tajikistan, host of the Third International High-Level Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028
- Representative from the French Republic, co-chair of the One Water Summit
- Representative from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Indigenous Peoples Representative

Note that speakers for this session are tbc

Interventions from the floor, including from the Kingdom of Belgium, the Dominican Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, the Republic of India, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Peru, the Portuguese Republic, the United Mexican States, the Republic of Singapore, the Swiss Confederation, and the Republic of Türkiye.

Moderator 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 accelerated 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 discussion¹

- Mr. **Thor Chetha**, Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology of The Kingdom of Cambodia
- Representative from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (tbc)
- Mr. **Petr Hladík**, Minister of Environment of Czechia
- Representative from the UN Economic Commission for Europe (tbc)
- Representative from The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (tbc)
- Representative from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (tbc)

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

Q&A from the floor

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 (TBC)
- 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
- Ms. **Grethel Aguilar**, Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), partner of commitment holders 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.