
UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE
Interactive dialogue 3: Water for Climate, Resilience and
Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and DRR

CO-CHAIR'S REPORT AT 6TH PLENARY MEETING

The Interactive dialogue 3 yesterday addressed water-related climate challenges that we face. Various potential countermeasures have been discussed. Most importantly, concrete actions and commitments have been reiterated. I will highlight here the key challenges and the actions stressed during our interactive dialogue today to overcome these challenges:

- 1- The Global water scarcity challenge has been compounded by climate change leading to multidimensional negative consequences on the vital human needs of water and every other dimension of human development. Thus, decoupling water consumption and economic activity is indispensable and a prerequisite to achieve water sustainability and climate resilience.
- 2- A key challenge to build climate-resilient water management is the internal fragmentation and external isolation of the current water management systems. Two interlinked actions have been stressed to overcome this compound challenge:
 - First: Mainstreaming integrated policy frameworks which combine integrated water resources management (IWRM) with other holistic water-related approaches that link the interconnected ecosystems of the hydrological cycle with the associated socioeconomic processes.
 - Second: developing and adopting national mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination and mutually-agreed mutually-beneficial no harm-based policies for cooperative water-related adaptation.
- 3- The lack of robust information is a key challenge to climate action and resilience. Thus, having a Global Water Information System is a prerequisite for climate action and disaster risk reduction, and should be among the top priorities of water-related climate action.
- 4- Finance mobilisation and allocation for climate-resilient water management and water-related climate action is still a major challenge. Therefore, there is an urgent need to facilitate finance allocation and cost-effective implementation.
- 5- COP27 achieved a breakthrough agreement to provide “loss and damage” funding to the most vulnerable countries impacted by the effects of climate change.. Creating a specific fund for loss and damage marked an important point of progress. To continue and build on this COP27 achievement, there is a need to adopt an “Inter-COP” process to connect, integrate and fully implement water-related decisions at the global assemblies, conventions and frameworks, which are dedicated to climate, resilience and the environment, while building on COP27 in particular, as it brought water discussions to the centre of the climate discourse.
- 6- The participants in this interactive dialogue stressed the importance of a follow-up mechanism for the actions and commitments that will result from this conference, as a key step to achieve concrete advances in the field of water and climate in the coming years.
- 7- A number of tangible commitments were made to endorse Game-changers, including AWARE the Kumamoto Initiatives and Coalition, Early Warning for All, PREPARE program, UN action

program on water scarcity and national water grid. In association with the commitments, useful recommendations were proposed to galvanize transformative actions. These include:)", promoting Environmental Economic Accounting; Hydro SOS; signing on Fair Water Footprint Declaration; joining World Drought Resilience Network, supporting Special Envoy for Water, strengthen water inclusion in the COP processes and commitments, creating thematic platforms such as those on "from source to sea" and "water, culture and heritage"; and establishing symbolic days on specific subjects such as cryosphere and lakes. Co-Chairs will review today's interventions to identify more commitments and recommendations.

- 8- The Action Workflow that consist of critical steps with risk awareness and identification, designing countermeasures, and financing, multi-stakeholder participation and on-site implementations were proposed by co-chairs to realize true action-oriented solutions.
- 9- Connecting climate change, resilience, and environment in discussion and actions at all levels is of urgent priority. Globally, the outcome of ID3 should be fed into future key processes of Mid-term Review of Sendai, HLPF, SDG Summit, and COP28- by, inter alia, establishing focused dialogue on the issue. Regularizing existing processes such as UN Special Thematic Sessions on Water and Disasters was proposed. PGA Office is encouraged to work with Members to propose a UN Water platform to discuss policy and prepare joint programming to be discussed in preparation of the SDG summit.
- 10-Throughout the dialogue, many stressed the importance of science and technology for water transformation. The key for breakthrough is, among other things, the Open Science Policy, facilitation between science and decision making, end-to-end approach, and water cycle integration.

I conclude that this dialogue was a big success with many commitments and action proposals. It paved the way towards our common future on water.

Thank you.