



Distr.: General
16 March 2023

Original: English



**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**

New York, 22–24 March 2023

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Organization of work, including the establishment of
subsidiary organs, and other organizational matters**

Organizational and procedural matters

Note by the Secretariat

1. The proposals set out in the present note have been prepared on the basis of General Assembly resolution [75/212](#).

I. Election of officers

2. The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Presidents, one from Tajikistan and one from the Netherlands, each of whom shall preside separately. The Conference shall also elect 13 Vice-Presidents,¹ one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General, as well as a chair for the Main Committee if established in accordance with rule 46. The officers shall be elected with a view to ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

II. Adoption of the rules of procedure

3. The Conference shall adopt its rules of procedure. The provisional rules of procedure, as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution [75/212](#), are contained in document [A/CONF.240/2023/2](#).

* [A/CONF.240/2023/1](#).

¹ Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the two presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of vice-presidents allocated to the regions from which each of the presidents is elected.



III. Adoption of the agenda

4. The Conference will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda (A/CONF.240/2023/1), as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 75/212.

IV. Organization of work

A. Dates and venue

5. The Conference will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023.

B. Plenary meetings

6. The Conference will consist of a total of six plenary meetings, to be held as follows:

Wednesday, 22 March: from 9.30 a.m.² to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 23 March: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 24 March: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m.

7. All plenary meetings will be held in the General Assembly Hall.

8. At the opening of the Conference, to take place during the first plenary meeting to be held on Wednesday, 22 March, from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m., consideration will be given to all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of the two Presidents of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of subsidiary organs, as appropriate, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference and other matters. At the first plenary meeting, statements will be made by the Presidents of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Chair of UN-Water.

9. The plenary meetings will then be devoted to statements in the general debate. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established on a first-come, first-served basis, with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The European Union will be included in the list of speakers. It is proposed that a time limit of five minutes be established for each statement. The live list of speakers will be announced in the “Conferences and Summits” section of the *Journal of the United Nations* and circulated through the e-deleGATE portal.

10. The plenary meetings, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/212, will also hear statements from representatives of intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, international bodies, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as major groups and other stakeholders accredited to the Conference as observers in accordance with the practices of the Assembly.

² In accordance with General Assembly decision 77/552 of 7 March 2023.

11. At the final plenary meeting, to be held on the afternoon of Friday, 24 March, the Conference is expected to conclude with, inter alia, reporting on the interactive dialogues, to be followed by the adoption of the report of the Conference.

C. Interactive dialogues

12. The Conference will include five interactive dialogues, to be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Wednesday, 22 March: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 23 March: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 24 March: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

13. All interactive dialogues will be held in Conference Room 4.

14. The interactive dialogues will address the following themes:

- Wednesday, 22 March, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: “Water for health: access to water, sanitation and hygiene, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation” (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 and Goals 1, 3, 4, 5 and 17)
- Wednesday, 22 March, from 3 to 6 p.m.: “Water for sustainable development: valuing water, water-energy-food nexus and sustainable economic and urban development” (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 and Goals 2, 8, 9, 11 and 12)
- Thursday, 23 March, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: “Water for climate, resilience and environment: source to sea, biodiversity, climate, resilience and disaster risk reduction” (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.5, 6.6 and 11.5 and Goals 7, 13, 14 and 15)
- Thursday, 23 March, from 3 to 6 p.m.: “Water for cooperation: transboundary and international water cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and water across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.5 and 6.b and Goals 16 and 17)
- Friday, 24 March, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: “Water Action Decade: accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the United Nations Secretary-General’s Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028”

15. The concept papers for the interactive dialogues are contained in documents [A/CONF.240/2023/4](#), [A/CONF.240/2023/5](#), [A/CONF.240/2023/6](#), [A/CONF.240/2023/7](#) and [A/CONF.240/2023/8](#).

16. Each interactive dialogue will be presided over by two Co-Chairs at the ministerial level or above – one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to be appointed by the Presidents of the Conference – and will be facilitated by a moderator. The dialogues will be open to all conference participants, with designated seating.

17. The interactive dialogues shall be collaborative and multi-stakeholder in nature, with due regard for gender and geographical balance. Each dialogue will begin with a panel discussion, followed by an interactive debate among participants. Interventions from the floor in the interactive dialogue will be limited to three minutes. Participants are encouraged to register partnerships for and voluntary

commitments to the Water Action Agenda online³ and to announce them in their interventions.

18. The order of speakers for each interactive dialogue will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, bearing in mind equitable geographical distribution while allowing for some flexibility, with priority given to States according to the level of representation, followed by intergovernmental organizations and other entities, associate members of regional commissions, United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders. It is envisaged that around 22 States and nine other participants will be accommodated to speak in the interactive debate of each dialogue.

19. Summaries of the interactive dialogues will be presented by the respective Co-Chairs to the Conference at its closing plenary meeting and included in the final report of the Conference.

D. Main Committee

20. The Main Committee, if established in accordance with rule 46, will meet, if necessary, in parallel with plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing meetings, and will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

E. Timetable for the work of the Conference

21. A proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present note. Updated information will be posted on the Conference website⁴ and announced in the “Conferences and Summits” section of the *Journal of the United Nations*.

F. Organization of meetings, parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

22. Meetings will be held from 9.30 a.m. (on the first day) and from 10 a.m. (other days) to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. To ensure the most efficient use of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly.

23. Parallel meetings and other events, including those of major groups and other stakeholders, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and interactive dialogues, space permitting. Interpretation services will be provided for such meetings, as available.

24. Side events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, will be organized by participants in the Conference. Guidelines for organizing such events and the calendar of those events are available on the Conference website.

³ At <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water>.

⁴ See <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>.

V. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

25. Rule 4 provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

VI. Participants

26. The General Assembly, in its resolution [75/212](#), encouraged participation in the Conference at the highest possible level. States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of the Assembly, associate members of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations, other intergovernmental organizations and other international bodies, United Nations organs, non-governmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

VII. Secretariat

27. The Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the representatives of the two Presidents. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has nominated the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the Secretary-General of the Conference.

28. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management will serve as the Secretary of the Conference.

VIII. Documentation

29. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

30. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences and set out in annex II to General Assembly resolution [75/212](#), it is recommended that the Conference adopt a report consisting of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

31. Summaries of the plenary meetings and interactive dialogues and a list of voluntary commitments announced at the Conference should also be included in the report of the Conference.

32. All Conference documentation will be available on the Conference website and in the “Conferences and Summits” section of the *Journal of the United Nations*.

IX. Media coverage

33. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings, interactive dialogues and other events. All relevant documentation will be made available on the Conference website.

34. The plenary meetings, the interactive dialogues and the press conferences will be broadcast live to the media area and made available on United Nations Web TV.⁵ A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

⁵ Available at <http://webtv.un.org>.

Annex

Proposed timetable for the work of the 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

New York, 22–24 March 2023

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
Wednesday, 22 March	
1st plenary meeting	
9.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	1 Opening of the Conference
	2 Election of the two Presidents
	1 Opening statements
	3 Adoption of the rules of procedure
	4 Adoption of the agenda of the Conference
	5 Election of officers other than the Presidents
	6 Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary organs, and other organizational matters
	7 (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
	8 General debate
Interactive dialogue	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	9 Interactive dialogue 1, on “Water for health: access to water, sanitation and hygiene, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation” (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 and Goals 1, 3, 4, 5 and 17)
Wednesday, 22 March	
2nd plenary meeting	
3–6 p.m.	8 General debate
Interactive dialogue	
3–6 p.m.	9 Interactive dialogue 2, on “Water for sustainable development: valuing water, water-energy-food nexus and sustainable economic and urban development” (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 and Goals 2, 8, 9, 11 and 12)

<i>Date/time</i>		<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
Thursday, 23 March		
3rd plenary meeting		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	8	General debate
Interactive dialogue		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	9	Interactive dialogue 3, on “Water for climate, resilience and environment: source to sea, biodiversity, climate, resilience and disaster risk reduction” (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.5, 6.6 and 11.5 and Goals 7, 13, 14 and 15)
4th plenary meeting		
3–6 p.m.	8	General debate
Interactive dialogue		
3–6 p.m.	9	Interactive dialogue 4, on “Water for cooperation: transboundary and international water cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and water across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.5 and 6.b and Goals 16 and 17)
Friday, 24 March		
5th plenary meeting		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	8	General debate
Interactive dialogue		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	9	Interactive dialogue 5, on “Water Action Decade: accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the United Nations Secretary-General’s Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028”
6th plenary meeting		
3–5 p.m.	8	General debate
	9	Interactive dialogues
	7 (b)	Report of the Credentials Committee
	10	Outcome of the Conference
	11	Adoption of the report of the Conference
	12	Closure of the Conference