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**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

**Information for participants**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**I. Background**

1. By its resolution [75/212](#), the General Assembly decided that 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, would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 24 March 2023, coinciding with World Water Day, and also decided on the proposed organization of work of the Conference.

2. The Assembly also decided that the Conference would:

(a) Assess the progress made in the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including the Secretary-General’s Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028, while reaffirming the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Identify possible challenges and obstacles related to the achievement of the objectives of the Decade, as well as opportunities and innovative ways and means to support their implementation and acceleration of progress, in order to help to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Exchange views and develop actions and initiatives needed for accelerating progress towards the achievement of the objectives during the second half of the Decade;

(d) Support further action, initiatives and success, and enhance means of implementation and partnerships as well as cooperation at all relevant levels, including international cooperation, as appropriate, to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development



Goal 6, and promote the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including with regard to sustainable development and integrated management of water resources, including through collaborative approaches;

(e) Share ongoing efforts, best practices and experience gained in the implementation of the objectives of the Decade;

(f) Involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as support further action to implement, the objectives of the Decade and the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(g) Invite States and other relevant stakeholders to announce voluntary commitments contributing to the implementation of the objectives of the Decade;

(h) Contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with resolutions [67/290](#) of 9 July 2013, [70/1](#) of 21 October 2015 and [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016, unless otherwise agreed in line with the aforementioned resolutions.

3. The Assembly also decided that the Conference would result in a summary of the proceedings of the Conference, to be prepared by the President of the General Assembly, as its outcome document, that would feed into the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

4. Additional information on the Conference is available on the Conference website (<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>).

## II. Secretariat of the Conference

5. In its resolution [75/212](#), the General Assembly decided that the Secretary-General of the Conference would serve as focal point within the Secretariat to provide support for 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, Li Junhua, as Secretary-General of the Conference.

6. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, Movses Abelian, will serve as the Secretary of the Conference.

## III. Organization of work of the Conference and seating arrangements

7. The proposed organization of work of the Conference is available in document [A/CONF.240/2023/3](#).

8. The opening plenary meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 22 March, in the General Assembly Hall,<sup>1</sup> to consider procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of the

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<sup>1</sup> A cultural event marking the opening of the Conference hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan is tentatively scheduled to be held at 8.30 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall.

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.

9. 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.

10. At the opening of the Conference and at subsequent plenary meetings, the delegation of each State participating in the Conference and that of the European Union will be assigned six seats: three at the table and three behind. Delegations will be seated in English alphabetical order. Seating will also be available for the representatives of accredited intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities (including specialized agencies, funds and programmes), accredited NGOs, major groups and other stakeholders, who will each be assigned two seats: one seat at the table and one advisory seat behind.

11. The interactive dialogues will be held in Conference Room 4. The delegation of each participating State and the European Union will be assigned two seats: one seat at the table and one advisory seat behind. There are an additional 50 seats for observers at the table. Details on how to register expressions of interest in the interactive dialogues will be provided on the e-deleGATE portal (<https://edelegate.un.int>) in advance of the Conference. Expressions of interest from NGOs and other stakeholders will be compiled through a dedicated form to be shared with registered participants by the Conference secretariat.

#### **IV. Agenda, programme of work and list of speakers**

12. The provisional agenda, the provisional rules of procedure and the provisional organization of work of the Conference are contained in documents [A/CONF.240/2023/1](#), [A/CONF.240/2023/2](#) and [A/CONF.240/2023/3](#), respectively.

13. The programme of meetings, including the list of speakers for the general debate, will be made available daily in the Conferences and Summits section of the *Journal of the United Nations* and will include such details as daily activities, titles, times and locations of meetings, agenda items to be considered and relevant documentation. A link to the programme of side events for the Conference will also appear daily in the *Journal*.

14. There will be six plenary meetings, including the opening and closing meetings. The list of speakers for the general debate 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. Requests for inscription from States participating in the Conference and the European Union should be made through the e-deleGATE portal before 5 p.m. (New York time) on Friday, 10 March 2023. The list of speakers will be announced on the e-deleGATE platform as well as in the Conferences and Summit section of the *Journal of the United Nations* prior to the Conference.

15. In addition, representatives of the following may, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/212](#), and time permitting, make a statement in the general debate: (a) 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 all international conferences convened under its auspices

(rule 60 of the provisional rules of procedure); (b) associate members of regional commissions (rule 61); (c) specialized agencies and related organizations (rule 62); (d) other intergovernmental organizations and other international bodies (rule 63); and (e) interested United Nations organs (rule 64). These representatives may contact the Secretariat ([galindo@un.org](mailto:galindo@un.org)) to be inscribed on the list of speakers.

16. Representatives of accredited NGOs and other stakeholders, including major groups (rule 65), may also, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/212](#), and time permitting, be added to the list of speakers for the general debate. Representatives of eligible organizations are invited to indicate their interest in speaking during the plenary meeting through a dedicated form that will be communicated to registered participants by the Conference secretariat.

17. In addition to the discussions in the plenary and the interactive dialogues of the Conference, other parallel events will be held, including side events and special events. Information about those events will be posted on the Conference website.

## V. Interactive dialogues

18. Five interactive dialogues will be held in Conference Room 4, in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

- Wednesday, 22 March, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: “Water for health: access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all, 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 and 6.6 and Goals 7, 11.5, 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”

19. 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](#).

20. Each interactive dialogue will be presided over by two Co-Chairs at the ministerial level and 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: one delegate seat at the table and one advisory seat behind for States and the European Union, and one seat at the table for all other observers.

21. The interactive dialogues will be collaborative and multi-stakeholder in nature, with due regard for gender and geographical balance. They will begin with a panel discussion, followed by an interactive dialogue among participants. The panel discussion will be opened by the Co-Chairs, who will deliver remarks for five minutes each. The moderator will welcome the participants and deliver introductory remarks for three minutes and give the four panellists seven minutes each for their presentations. This will be followed by two lead discussants who will each intervene for five minutes. The moderator will then open the floor for interventions. After the interventions, the moderator will ask the panellists for final comments, and the Co-Chairs will officially close the meeting. Interventions from the floor in the interactive dialogue will be limited to three minutes. In their interventions, participants are encouraged to announce and register partnerships and voluntary commitments for the Water Action Agenda at <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water>.

22. 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, NGOs, major groups and other relevant actors. It is envisaged that approximately 22 States (three minutes each), 4 intergovernmental organizations and associate members of the regional commissions (three minutes each), 2 United Nations system entities (three minutes each) and 3 NGOs, including major groups and other stakeholders (two minutes each), will be accommodated to speak in the interactive debate of each dialogue.

23. There will be no pre-established lists of speakers for the five interactive dialogues. Delegations will be invited to press the microphone button to indicate their wish to speak when the floor is opened for interventions. For planning purposes, participating States and the European Union are encouraged to express their interest in making an intervention in up to three interactive dialogues in the order of their preference by clicking on the “Register” button on the e-deleGATE portal, before 5 p.m. (New York time) on Friday, 10 March 2023. Representatives of accredited intergovernmental and other entities as well as associate members of the regional commissions are invited to indicate to the Secretariat ([maranan@un.org](mailto:maranan@un.org)) three interactive dialogues in which they would like to have a speaking slot, including the order of preference, name, title and level of participation, before 5 p.m. (New York time) on Friday, 10 March 2023. The list of participants in each dialogue during the interactive debate will be made available prior to the Conference.

24. Representatives of the United Nations system are also invited to indicate to the Secretariat (using the online form available at <https://forms.office.com/e/NM0gs7FWDw>) three interactive dialogues in which they would like to have a speaking slot, including the order of preference, name, title and level of participation, before 5 p.m. (New York time) on Friday, 10 March 2023. Representatives of NGOs, major groups and other stakeholders will also be requested to indicate their interest in having a speaking slot, through a dedicated form to be shared with all registered participants, by the deadline of Friday, 10 March 2023.

25. 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.

## VI. Interpretation

26. The official languages of the Conference are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Statements made in any of the languages of the Conference will be interpreted into the other languages. Speakers are requested to deliver the statement at a speed that is interpretable. While delegations are generally given a time frame in which to deliver their statements, they are kindly requested to do so at a normal speed, to enable the interpreters to provide an accurate and complete rendition of their statements. When statements are delivered at a fast pace, the quality of the interpretation may suffer. It is suggested not to exceed the speed of about 100 to 120 words per minute (as a guide for statements delivered in English) in order to ensure that the statement is delivered at a normal pace.

27. Any speaker may also make a statement in a language other than the official languages. In such cases, the delegation in question must provide an interpreter from the non-official language into an official language. However, there will be limited facilities to accommodate non-official language interpreters on site. Delegations seeking to provide their own interpreters for non-official languages are requested to inform the Meetings Management Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management well in advance by email ([gmeets@un.org](mailto:gmeets@un.org)) and to copy the Interpretation Service ([is-unhq@un.org](mailto:is-unhq@un.org)). The Meetings Management Section will provide further instructions.

28. In order to facilitate the provision of interpretation and other services, delegations are requested to submit their statements (in PDF format) by email to [estatemts@un.org](mailto:estatemts@un.org). The title of the meeting, the name of speaker and the agenda item should be indicated in the subject line of the email and in the heading of the statement. The statement should be submitted well in advance of the meeting, no later than two hours before delivery, and not in hard copy. The statements will remain embargoed until their delivery.

## VII. Documentation

29. The official documentation of the Conference will be issued in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

30. All Conference documents will be published on the Conference website. The Conferences and Summits section of the *Journal of the United Nations* will be produced in all six official languages and will also be available on the Conference website. Requests for limited hard copies of official documents should be made to [ChiefMSS-DGACM@un.org](mailto:ChiefMSS-DGACM@un.org).

## VIII. Bilateral meetings

31. For bilateral meetings between Member States at the Head of State or Government or ministerial level, temporary booths will be available on the 2nd and 3rd floor balconies in the General Assembly Building during the Conference. Seating capacity is limited to two principals and six advisers in total.

### Reservation system for bilateral meetings

32. An electronic reservation system will be activated through gMeets (<https://conferences.unite.un.org/gMeets>) on 12 March 2023 to provide for the equitable and efficient use of the facilities. Delegations are requested to submit reservations electronically by accessing <https://conferences.unite.un.org/gMeets>

using their gMeets account username and password and clicking on the “Bilateral” tab. Delegations that require a gMeet account can email [gmeets-helpdesk@un.org](mailto:gmeets-helpdesk@un.org). The date and time of the bilateral meeting and the name of the other delegation participating in the meeting should be specified in the request. Reservations will be accepted for bilateral meetings of 20 minutes duration, on the hour and half hour. To prevent double bookings, only the delegations initiating the bilateral meeting(s) should submit the request.

33. Information about booth assignments will be provided one day prior to the meeting. Depending on the programme, every effort will be made to keep a delegation’s consecutive appointments in the same booth. Late requests will be accepted until 6 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting, and every effort will be made to assign a booth on the basis of the availability of space at that time. Delegations requiring further information regarding bilateral meeting requests should send their questions or enquiries to [bilats-msu@un.org](mailto:bilats-msu@un.org) with a copy to [tongx@un.org](mailto:tongx@un.org) and [gmeets@un.org](mailto:gmeets@un.org). When sending an email, the wording “Water Conference-bilats” must be included in the subject line.

## IX. Registration of participants and credentials

34. As specified in General Assembly resolution [75/212](#), the Conference will be open to the delegations and representatives of the following:

- (a) States;
- (b) The European Union;
- (c) Associate members of the regional commissions;<sup>2</sup>

(d) 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 all international conferences convened under its auspices, and relevant intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and international bodies that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

- (e) Specialized agencies and related organizations;
- (f) Other intergovernmental organizations and other international bodies;
- (g) Interested United Nations organs;

(h) NGOs and major groups as identified in Agenda 21, those in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, those that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and those that have received ad hoc accreditation to the 2023 Water Conference in accordance with resolution [75/212](#).

35. Registration of the official delegations of participating States and the European Union, intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and other international bodies accredited to the Conference in accordance with Assembly resolution [75/212](#), associate members of the regional commissions, as well as specialized agencies and related organizations, is handled by the Protocol and

<sup>2</sup> American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

Liaison Service through the online eRegistration system, which is available through the e-deleGATE portal (<https://edelegate.un.int>).

36. To register for the Conference, official delegations must go through the designated eRegistration focal points of their respective permanent or observer mission or liaison office in New York, who have access to the eRegistration system. Registration for the Conference is now open, and the deadline for registration is close of business, 5.30 p.m. (New York time), Wednesday, 15 March 2023. Delegations are advised to register as early as possible to ensure timely registration.

37. Delegations wishing to obtain information on the eRegistration system may refer to the updated guidelines on e-registration and the frequently asked questions on the Protocol website at [www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/protocol/meetings](http://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/protocol/meetings).

38. Representatives of accredited intergovernmental organizations and entities, associate members of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations without an office in New York or who have not enrolled in the eRegistration system that wish to participate in the Conference should follow the registration procedure specified in the guidelines on the e-Registration system for IGOs away from New York on the Protocol website to submit a registration package (request for a United Nations grounds pass). The deadline for submitting the registration package to the Protocol Office (at email: [unprotocol@un.org](mailto:unprotocol@un.org)) is close of business at 5.30 p.m. (New York time), Wednesday, 8 March 2023.

39. Following past practice, Heads of State or Government, Vice-Presidents and Crown Princes or Princesses and their spouses will be provided with a VIP pass without a photograph. Delegates at the level of Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet Minister and their spouses will be issued a VIP pass with a photograph.

40. Members of the national security details accompanying the VIP groups participating in the Conference must be registered and have appropriate Conference badges issued by the Security and Safety Service. For additional information, please send an email to Captain Eric Bramwell, Special Services Unit ([bramwell@un.org](mailto:bramwell@un.org)).

41. Delegations are kindly reminded that the Protocol Office will not register representatives of NGOs who do not form part of the official delegations of participating States, intergovernmental organizations, associate members of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations. Participants attending side events in the margins of the Conference should not be included in the official credentials or official delegation lists.

### **Credentials**

42. The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of the European Union, by the President of the European Commission. The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers should be addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered to the Office of Legal Affairs, located on the 36th floor of the Secretariat building, if possible, no later than 15 March 2023. A scanned copy of the credentials, as well as other communications containing the names of representatives to the Conference (such as letters and notes verbales from the permanent missions), should be submitted only through the online e-Credentials module, which is accessible through the e-deleGATE platform (<https://edelegate.un.int>).

### **List of participants**

43. To facilitate the compilation of the list of participants, delegations of States, the European Union, intergovernmental organizations and specialized agencies and related organizations are requested to submit a comprehensive list of the members of their

respective delegations to the Secretariat, with the functional titles and designations of the delegates, using the e-List of participants module on the e-deleGATE portal.

### **Funding for participating States**

44. To facilitate the participation of States in the Conference, limited funding will be available from the voluntary contributions made by Member States and other donors to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, with priority being given to representatives of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in the meetings of the Conference as outlined in General Assembly resolution [75/212](#), on a first-come, first-served basis and subject to the conditions outlined by the donors. The funding will cover economy-class round-trip air tickets, as well as daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations, for one delegate per participating State.

45. Limited funding will also be available from the voluntary contributions made by Member States to support the participation of representatives of stakeholder participants from developing countries to the Conference. The funding will cover economy-class round-trip air tickets, as well as daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations. Further information will be disseminated by the Conference secretariat in due course and made available on the conference website.

## **X. Participation of non-government actors**

46. Representatives of the Secretariat, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, regional commissions and other entities who wish to attend the Conference in person must register using the online registration system at <https://indico.un.org/event/1001067>.

47. NGOs, major groups and other relevant stakeholders accredited to the Conference are invited to participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution [75/212](#). Requests and questions from civil society participants and other stakeholders should be directed to [water2023@un.org](mailto:water2023@un.org).

### **Registration for the Conference**

48. NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1003774/>.

49. Organizations that have been specially accredited or that were accredited to previous related United Nations conferences must pre-register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1003854>.

50. For details and information about the registration of NGOs and other stakeholders, please check the Conference website (<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/participate>). (The deadline for registration was 10 February 2023.)

51. There will be no on-site registration for representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector or philanthropic organizations.

52. United Nations grounds passes for approved in-person stakeholder participants, as well as secondary access cards, will be issued and distributed from 21 to 24 March 2023 at the office of the Pass and Identification Unit of the Security and Safety Service, located on the ground floor of the FF Building at 320 East 45th Street.

53. A total of 24 seats (of which 12 are with microphones) on the floor of the General Assembly Hall, and 12 seats in Conference Room 4, will be allocated to the major groups and other stakeholders for the duration of the Conference. The use of these seats will require special tickets, to be distributed by the Conference secretariat. Additional seating for the major groups and other stakeholders will be made available in the 4th floor balcony section of the General Assembly Hall but will also require special tickets. For the gallery of Conference Room 4, a special ticket is required for 22 March; however from 23 to 24 March, seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Further details on access and distribution will be communicated to all registered stakeholders and also made available on the Conference website.

54. Pre-registered participants without a valid United Nations grounds pass must come to the office of the Pass and Identification Unit of the Security and Safety Service, at 320 East 45th Street, with a copy of the confirmation letter and valid government-issued photographic identification (i.e., passport, driver's licence) in order to receive a temporary grounds pass for the conference. For opening hours, please see paragraph 63 below.

## **XI. Security arrangements**

### **General considerations**

55. Members of NGOs, major groups and other stakeholders will be required to be in possession of a valid United Nations grounds pass at all times. In addition, special event tickets will be required for entry into the premises for non-United Nations pass holders.

56. Grounds passes will be issued for all delegations and members of NGOs, major groups and other stakeholders at the office of the Pass and Identification Unit, at 320 East 45th Street. For grounds passes for national security officers accompanying Heads of State or Government, contact Captain Eric Bramwell, Special Services Unit (telephone: 212 963 7531), [bramwell@un.org](mailto:bramwell@un.org). See annex for a copy of the grounds pass request form for security staff.

57. To avoid last-minute difficulties, all Governments are requested to ensure the proper accreditation of their delegations. Within United Nations premises, all persons are required to comply with safety and security regulations, as well as the rules and procedures of the Organization and of events in which they are taking part. Any act that disrupts the normal functioning of the Organization's programmatic activities, such as public displays of any form, including, but not limited to, clothing, banners, placards or other written or visual means, as well as vocal/audio sounds, gatherings or demonstrations of any kind, including passive, are not allowed. Refusal to comply with these and any other applicable regulations may result in temporary detention or removal from or denial of access to the premises in accordance with Section 10 of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement and [ST/AI/2019/5](#), entitled "Authority of United Nations security officers".

58. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Chief of the Security and Safety Service, United Nations Headquarters, by contacting the Security Event Planning Unit (Inspector Charlene Wilson, telephone: 212 963-7028, email: [security\\_service\\_coordinator@un.org](mailto:security_service_coordinator@un.org)), or through Inspector Paula Goncalves (telephone: 212 963 3694, email: [goncalvesp@un.org](mailto:goncalvesp@un.org)).

**Access to the United Nations Headquarters complex**

59. The opening hours of the pedestrian entrances are as follows:

42nd Street and First Avenue 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

46th Street and First Avenue 7.30 a.m. to close of business

60. Please be aware that all packages brought onto the premises by all categories of persons, including delegates and staff, will be subject to security inspection.

61. Prior arrangements are required to be made through notification to the Security Operations Centre at extension 3-6666 for after-hours access to the premises by the press and affiliates.

**Pass and identification office: issuance of grounds passes**

62. In preparation for the Conference, the Pass and Identification Unit, located on the ground floor of the FF Building, at 320 E. 45th Street, will be open to staff members and members of delegations.

63. The days and hours of operation of the office will be as follows:

Monday and Tuesday, 20 and 21 March 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday to Friday, 22 to 24 March 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Access to restricted areas**

64. In accordance with the established procedures, it should be noted that the 2nd floor of the General Assembly Building is reserved for members of delegations and staff who are conducting official business. In all cases, valid United Nations grounds passes. Owing to the space constraints on the 2nd floor of the General Assembly Building, members of delegations are requested not to congregate within that area and instead to utilize the 2nd floor of the Conference Building.

65. Registered staff members of United Nations funds, programmes, regional commissions and other entities holding a laissez-passer will require either a secondary pass or a secondary ticket for the balcony of the General Assembly Hall and the gallery of Conference Room 4 to enter. Information on the distribution of tickets will be provided separately.

**Escorted motorcade drop-off**

66. Escorted motorcades will be authorized to enter the United Nations Headquarters complex at the 43rd Street and First Avenue vehicular entrance and drop off their passengers at the delegates' arrival tent. Thereafter, they will be required to exit the premises through the 45th Street and First Avenue gate. All escorted motorcade movements on the premises will be established by the Security and Safety Service and coordinated in conjunction with the host country.

**Traffic in the Secretariat Circle and through the 43rd Street gate**

67. In order to avoid undue obstructions and delays of delegation vehicles and the motorcades of high-level government officials in the very limited operating space in the Secretariat Circle and delegates roadway areas, strict controls in respect of access to these areas will be in place.

### **Parking**

68. All vehicles entering the Headquarters complex will be subject to search. Thus, it is highly recommended that members limit the contents inside their vehicles in order to expedite the physical security clearances.

69. Bicycles, scooters and other portable personal carriers, including battery operated versions, are permitted only at the specially built bicycle-docking area of the premises, located at the corner of 48th Street and First Avenue.

## **XII. Media access arrangements and services**

70. Registration of media representatives accompanying the delegation, including journalists and official photographers and videographers, will be carried out by the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit. Missions and offices are required to submit their registration requests by using the online e-Registration system, available through the e-deleGATE portal (<https://edelegate.un.int>). Instructions on requesting media passes are available at [www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/pdf/eRegistration\\_guide\\_media\\_passes.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/pdf/eRegistration_guide_media_passes.pdf). Spokespersons, press officers and communications staff members other than photo or video staff should be registered as delegates.

71. Members of the media who wish to apply independently should follow the instructions listed on the MALU website: [www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/request.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/request.shtml).

72. The designated entrance for media pass holders is at 46th Street. Accredited media will be escorted by Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit staff to the designated booths and galleries in the meeting rooms. Media representatives must be escorted by Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit staff at all times in the restricted areas, including the second floor of the Conference Building. The Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit office is S-0250 on the second floor of the Secretariat Building.

73. Official media representatives interested in covering photo opportunities before bilateral meetings with the Secretary-General must be at the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit office at least 30 minutes ahead of the meeting time.

74. Live video feeds and downloadable files and photographs will be available from the Department of Global Communications (see the section entitled “United Nations audiovisual materials” below).

75. Members of the media can request documents, statements and press releases from the Media Documents Centre by emailing [mdc@un.org](mailto:mdc@un.org).

76. A list of in-person and online meetings, briefings and other events open to the media will be posted daily at [www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/alert.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/alert.shtml).

77. Information relevant to the media is available at [www.un.org/malu](http://www.un.org/malu). For any questions, contact the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit by emailing [malu@un.org](mailto:malu@un.org) or calling 212 963 6934.

### **Audiovisual services**

78. Audiovisual services for meetings and events at the United Nations complex in New York are provided by the Broadcast and Conference Support Section of the Office of Information and Communications Technology (email: [request-for-services@un.org](mailto:request-for-services@un.org); telephone: 212 963 9485; room: CB-1B-79).

79. Clients should initiate all requests for meetings or events requiring audiovisual services through the meetings planning and resource allocation system (gMeets) or One-Stop Shop (please refer to the related user guides). For audiovisual services, please select the Broadcast and Conference Support Section to identify the services required. Following the approval of the meeting or event, clients should engage the services of the Section, if required.

#### **United Nations audiovisual materials**

80. Photographs in digital format (JPG) will be available for download free of charge on the United Nations photo website (<https://dam.media.un.org>). Photo enquiries and requests should be addressed to the United Nations Photo Library (email: [photolibrary@un.org](mailto:photolibrary@un.org)).

81. Digital files of meetings during the Conference can be downloaded from the United Nations Audiovisual Library website ([www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary](http://www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary)) in MPEG-4 (H.264) format free of charge. Delegations may request high-resolution broadcast-quality video files, such as MOV files, through the Audiovisual Library (email: [avlibrary@un.org](mailto:avlibrary@un.org)).

82. Audio files of meetings in digital format (MP3) will also be available for download free of charge from the United Nations Audiovisual Library website. Audio enquiries and requests should also be addressed to the United Nations Audiovisual Library.

83. Live television pool feeds will be available through commercial carriers (see [www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/pdf/UNTV\\_Transmission\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/pdf/UNTV_Transmission_Guide.pdf)). For more information and daily schedules, contact Ingrid Kasper ([kasper@un.org](mailto:kasper@un.org)) or Cesar Martin Redi (telephone: 917 367 9231; mobile: 914 393 1072; email: [redi@un.org](mailto:redi@un.org)) at United Nations Television .

84. The United Nations webcast service will provide daily live and on-demand streaming coverage of the Conference, including meetings, press conferences and media stake-outs, through the United Nations Web TV website ([webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)) in all six official languages, plus the original language of the speaker. Queries about webcast coverage should be directed to the United Nations webcast service (telephone: 212 963 6733; email: [damianou@un.org](mailto:damianou@un.org) or [justin@un.org](mailto:justin@un.org)).

#### **Internet and social media**

85. The Meetings Coverage Section, through its portal websites (English: [www.un.org/press/en](http://www.un.org/press/en); and French: [www.un.org/press/fr](http://www.un.org/press/fr)), will provide coverage of the official meetings of the Conference in both English and French. Copies of press releases will also be available on demand, from the Media Documents Centre.

86. The United Nations News website ([news.un.org/en](http://news.un.org/en)) serves as the main portal for United Nations news and will be continuously updated in the six official languages, as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese. In addition, select highlights of the Conference will be featured on the United Nations News web page in Urdu. Readers can also subscribe to a free email news alert service that will deliver stories on the latest United Nations developments straight to their mailboxes or desktops. Daily updates will continue to be provided through the United Nations News social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube).

87. Two free smartphone applications are available to enable delegations and the media to follow the proceedings on their mobile phones. The United Nations News Reader app (for Android and iOS devices in the six official languages, as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese) provides constantly updated multimedia stories from the United Nations News platforms. Users of the app can also watch meetings

live and link to the daily press briefing of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, as well as receive news alerts. United Nations Audio Channels (for iOS and Android devices in the six official languages, as well as Kiswahili and Portuguese) provide selected audio from the General Assembly Hall, in addition to United Nations News audio programmes in eight languages – the six official languages and Kiswahili and Portuguese. For any urgent matters related to United Nations News, please contact Victor Evans-Harvey ([evans-harvey@un.org](mailto:evans-harvey@un.org)).

88. Regular social media updates will be posted to the flagship accounts in the six official languages, as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, which are managed by the Department of Global Communications and are listed at [www.un.org/social](http://www.un.org/social). Member States are encouraged to post social media updates using the hashtag #WaterAction. Questions about social media coverage may be directed to the Social Media Section (email: [orantes@un.org](mailto:orantes@un.org)).

#### **Briefings and press conferences**

89. Daily briefings for the media will be given by the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General at noon in room S-0237. Press conferences by senior United Nations officials, delegations and the permanent missions will be held in the same room, unless otherwise indicated. The list of press conferences will be announced daily by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General. It will also be available on the website of the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit ([www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/alert.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/alert.shtml)) and on Twitter (@UNMediaLiaison).

90. Delegations can book press conferences by calling the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General (telephone: 212 963 7707, 212 963 7160 or 212 963 7161).

91. Briefings and press conferences are open only to members of the media.

#### **Coverage of bilateral meetings**

92. Photo opportunities may be available for bilateral meetings. Media representatives interested in covering the meetings will need to contact the relevant delegations to obtain permission to attend.

### **XIII. Side events**

93. Side events sponsored by Governments, NGOs and other major groups, as well as other stakeholders and United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations will be held from 22 to 24 March 2023. A link to the programme of side events for the Conference will also appear daily in the Conferences and Summits section of the *Journal of the United Nations*. Further details on the side events will be made available on the Conference website.

### **XIV. Medical services**

#### **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)**

94. All attendees who are unwell should immediately leave the complex and seek medical support from an external provider. Any attendee who becomes ill with COVID-19-like symptoms or who tests positive for COVID-19 after attending an event at the United Nations complex is strongly encouraged to notify their sponsoring entity or permanent mission, who will determine whether this information is to be shared with other attendees according to their own protocols. COVID-19 testing is

available at street-side booths throughout the City, and rapid tests are available without prescription from pharmacies.

95. United Nations staff are to follow the current United Nations guidance on reporting positive cases via the EarthMed portal, after which the United Nations Headquarters medical clinic will undertake a risk assessment and determine next actions.

#### **Emergencies/other care**

96. During the Conference, an immediate medical response capability for emergencies will operate from the Headquarters medical clinic in the Secretariat Building and, depending on the circumstances, may be supported by New York City emergency response services. Attendees with any other illness are encouraged to see a local physician for further care, but may seek support from the Headquarters medical clinic on the fifth floor of the Secretariat Building for first aid for minor physical injuries.

97. Delegations with questions relating to medical issues, including support arrangements for Heads of State, are requested to send their enquiries by email to [unhqclinic@un.org](mailto:unhqclinic@un.org).

## **XV. Sustainability**

98. The United Nations is taking a number of measures to minimize its environmental impact and maximize social, economic and environmental sustainability. All participants are encouraged to contribute to sustainability efforts.

99. Waste management is a particular concern, and the United Nations is determined to reduce and dispose of its waste sustainably. To this end, United Nations Headquarters implements measures to eliminate single-use plastics from the complex to reduce the impact of plastic pollution. Participants are urged to comply with relevant procedures and waste separation signage. More information is available at <http://greeningtheblue.org/unhq>, and questions can be directed to [Greeningunhq@un.org](mailto:Greeningunhq@un.org). Participants are also encouraged to bring reusable bottles and mugs and to avoid disposable cups and plastic water bottles.

100. Participants are encouraged to minimize paper consumption. Participants are urged to use portable devices as the main way to access documentation, including the daily *Journal of the United Nations*, to limit demand for printed materials and reduce paper consumption. Participants are also encouraged to distribute non-official documentation electronically.

101. The Government of the Netherlands has provided funds for the purchase of carbon offsets related to air travel of participants in the Conference. The Conference Secretariat kindly requests all participants to cooperate in providing information about their means of arrival to and departure from New York. Further details will be made available on the Conference website.

## **XVI. Accessibility: arrangements for persons with disabilities**

102. Delegations are requested to inform the Secretariat of the accessibility requirements of delegates in order to facilitate participation in meetings. Upon request, adjustments can be made to seating arrangements with a view to enabling the participation of persons with disabilities, in accordance with paragraphs 33 and 34 of General Assembly resolution [73/341](#). For individual requests, please contact the

Meetings Support Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (email: [accessibilitycentre@un.org](mailto:accessibilitycentre@un.org); telephone: 212 963 7348/9) no later than three working days prior to the meeting.

103. The United Nations Accessibility Centre offers assistive information and communications technology to support those with auditory, visual or physical impairments. The assistive devices are available on-site or as a loan to participants with disabilities. The Accessibility Centre is located in the Conference Building (first basement level, by the Secretariat Building escalators). Please contact the Centre at [accessibilitycentre@un.org](mailto:accessibilitycentre@un.org) for enquiries regarding available assistive tools and other requests related to accessibility accommodations. More information is available at [www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/accessibility](http://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/accessibility).

## **XVII. Focal points for arrangements related to the Conference**

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| General Assembly Affairs             | Ruth de Miranda<br>Email: <a href="mailto:demiranda@un.org">demiranda@un.org</a><br><br>Sangeeta Sharma<br>Email: <a href="mailto:sharma7@un.org">sharma7@un.org</a>   |
| Protocol and Liaison Service         | Beatrix Kania<br>Telephone: 917 367 6166<br>Email: <a href="mailto:beatrix.kania@un.org">beatrix.kania@un.org</a><br><br>Fariz Mirsalayev<br>Telephone: 212 963 7177<br>Email: <a href="mailto:mirsalayev@un.org">mirsalayev@un.org</a>  |
| Delegation registration and access   | Wai-Tak Chua<br>Telephone: 212 963 7181<br>Email: <a href="mailto:chuaw@un.org">chuaw@un.org</a>   |
| For e-Registration technical issues: | Information and communications technology help desk<br>Telephone: 212 963 3333<br>Email: <a href="mailto:missions-support@un.int">missions-support@un.int</a>  |
| For Indico technical issues:         | Online support and FAQ: <a href="https://indicohelp.unog.ch/">https://indicohelp.unog.ch/</a>  |
| Documents Management Section         | Deirdre Durrance<br>Telephone: 917 367 5409<br>Email: <a href="mailto:durrance@un.org">durrance@un.org</a><br><br>Masud Rana<br>Telephone: 917 367 2141<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rana@un.org">rana@un.org</a><br><br>Manuel Abraham<br>Telephone: 917 367 5793<br>Email: <a href="mailto:dms@un.org">dms@un.org</a> |
| Meetings management                  | Xin Tong-Maywald<br>Telephone: 917 349 2427<br>Email: <a href="mailto:tongx@un.org">tongx@un.org</a> , <a href="mailto:gmeets@un.org">gmeets@un.org</a>  |
| Journal of the United Nations        | Meena Sur<br>Telephone: 917 238 1973<br>Email: <a href="mailto:journal@un.org">journal@un.org</a> , <a href="mailto:surm@un.org">surm@un.org</a>   |

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| Interpretation services                      | Sergey Kochetkov<br>Telephone: 212 963 8233<br>Email: <a href="mailto:kochetkov@un.org">kochetkov@un.org</a>  |
| Meetings support and logistics               | Narendra Nandoe<br>Telephone: 212 963 1807<br>Email: <a href="mailto:nandoe@un.org">nandoe@un.org</a>   |
|  | Kefentse Ndonga<br>Telephone: 917 667 3674<br>Email: <a href="mailto:ndongak@un.org">ndongak@un.org</a>   |
|  | Statements submission<br>Telephone: 212 963 7349<br>Email: <a href="mailto:estatements@un.org">estatements@un.org</a>   |
| Security                                     | Assistant Chief Salvador Monroy<br>Telephone: 212 963 3933<br>Email: <a href="mailto:monroy2@un.org">monroy2@un.org</a>   |
|  | Inspector Paula Goncalves<br>(Security Operations)<br>Telephone: 212 963 3694<br>Email: <a href="mailto:goncalvesp@un.org">goncalvesp@un.org</a>  |
|  | Inspector Charlene Wilson<br>(Security Event Planning Unit)<br>Telephone: 212 963 7028<br>Email: <a href="mailto:security_service_coordinator@un.org">security_service_coordinator@un.org</a> |
| Media  | Mugeni Badjoko<br>(Meetings Coverage Section)<br>Telephone: 212 963 2131<br>Email: <a href="mailto:badjoko@un.org">badjoko@un.org</a>   |
|  | Tal Mekel (Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit)<br>Telephone: 212 963 1504<br>Fax: 212 963 4642  |
|  | Ingrid Kasper<br>(Broadcast and United Nations Television)<br>Telephone: 212 963 0128<br>Email: <a href="mailto:water2023@un.org">water2023@un.org</a> (Conference website)                   |
|  | Jamille McCord<br>(Press conferences)<br>Telephone: 212 963 7707<br>Email: <a href="mailto:mccord@un.org">mccord@un.org</a>   |
| Facilities and Commercial Activities Service | Andrew Nye<br>Telephone: 212 963 7453<br>Email: <a href="mailto:nye@un.org">nye@un.org</a>  |
| Broadcast and Conference Support Section     | Patrick Morrison<br>Telephone: 212 963 0407<br>Email: <a href="mailto:morrisonp@un.org">morrisonp@un.org</a>  |

Medical

Dr. Mike Rowell  
Telephone: 212 963 7090  
Email: [rowell@un.org](mailto:rowell@un.org)

Nursing Officer, Petra Javanainen  
Telephone: 212 963 7090  
Email: [petra.javanainen@un.org](mailto:petra.javanainen@un.org)

Non-governmental organizations,  
major groups and other stakeholders  
support

Email: [water2023@un.org](mailto:water2023@un.org)

Non-Governmental Liaison Service  
(Civil Society Unit, Department of  
Global Communications)

Kathryn Good  
Email: [good@un.org](mailto:good@un.org)  
Email: [ngls@un.org](mailto:ngls@un.org)

Civil Society Resource Centre  
(Civil Society Unit, Department of  
Global Communications)

Email: [undgccso@un.org](mailto:undgccso@un.org)

