

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



Peer Learning Round Table

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Water and Sanitation for all

The round table will take place on **30 March 2023 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and will be organised in a hybrid format both in presence at conference room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva and online, with interpretation into English, French and Russian.

Guiding questions for round table

Question 1	Where do we stand and which are the greater challenges for the achievement of SDG 6 targets in the UNECE region? What are the key outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference and next steps at the regional level?
Question 2	What are the priority policy actions to accelerate the achievement of sustainable water management targets by 2030, addressing both long-standing and emerging challenges?
Question 3	What are effective, game-changing, and scalable solutions to support availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation in the UNECE region?

Background

Over the last years, the Pan-European region has made important progress towards SDG 6 on water and sanitation for all, but efforts need to be accelerated to address the significant challenges that persist: in the WHO European region* alone, **around 16 million people still lack access to basic drinking-water services** and approximately **29 million people in the region lack access to basic sanitation**, with significant differences between the subregions and urban and rural population. Women are disproportionately affected by inadequate sanitation, including due to their specific hygiene needs. Efforts to protect and restore essential water-related ecosystems are disparate across the continent with **considerable degradation of lakes, rivers and wetlands** occurring in many countries, including the fragmentation of river systems, and increasing pollution to water bodies. The availability of freshwater resources is changing, driven by climate change. **Diffuse pollution** and **wastewater discharges** remain significant, and some pollutants are of public health

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concern. **Floods and droughts** in 2022 have shown the severity of climate change impacts on water. Progress is needed on implementing **integrated water resources management** as well as **transboundary water cooperation**, especially on aquifers and in some basins particularly in South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

This peer-learning session will bring together a variety of stakeholders to share the outcomes of the global **UN 2023 Water Conference** (New York, 22-24 March 2023) and discuss the next steps at the regional level, including how to take forward commitments from the region made at the global conference and good practice examples aimed at accelerating efforts to meet SDG 6 related targets.

**the WHO European region includes 53 of the 56 UNECE member States (not included: Canada, Liechtenstein, United States of America); find further details [here](#).*

Agenda

Opening and brief overview of progress and key challenges on SDG 6 implementation	
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome by co-moderators <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Ana Luiza Massot Thompson-Flores, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe• Mr. Marco Keiner, Director of the Environment Division, UNECE
10:05 - 10:15	Overview of the status of SDG 6 implementation in the UNECE region <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. William Reidhead, Global Monitoring Officer, UN-Water
10:15 - 10:25	Outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands (<i>virtual</i>)• Mr. Sulton Rahimzoda, Special Envoy of the President to the Water and Climate Coalition Leaders, Republic of Tajikistan (<i>virtual</i>)
Water for Health: make drinking water and sanitation available, safe, and affordable for all	
10:25 - 10:45	Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Montenegro: <i>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in health care facilities in Montenegro</i>; Mr. Borko Bajic, Medical Director of the Institute of Public Health, Montenegro○ Serbia: <i>From assessment to action: ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation for all</i>; Ms. Biljana Filipovic, Senior Advisor for Coordination of International Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia (<i>tbc</i>)
10:45 - 11:00	Open discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lead discussant: Ms. Alice Bouman-Dentener, DiploriA
Water for Environment: tackle water pollution, conserve ecosystems and biodiversity and apply circular economy policies	

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	Case studies:
11:00 - 11:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ European Union: <i>Reducing pollution within the EU</i>; Ms. Veronica Manfredi, Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV), European Commission ○ Israel: <i>Advanced wastewater treatment for irrigation in Israel</i>; Ms. Dganit Eichen, Ministry of Health, Israel (virtual) ○ Suez Group: <i>Creating and implementing a circular scheme for sanitation</i>; Mr. Laurent Brunet, Technical Director, Eau France – Suez Group
11:20 - 11:35	Open discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lead discussant from civil society
Water for Cooperation: reinforce collaboration among countries and sectors for peace and sustainable development	
11:35 - 11:55	Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finland: <i>Transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention</i>; Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Chief water resources specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland (virtual) ○ Georgia: <i>Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems nexus assessment in the Alazani River Basin</i>; Mr. Nikoloz Kholodov, Chief Specialist at Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy Promotion Division, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia (virtual) ○ International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC): <i>Transboundary water cooperation in the Sava River Basin</i>; Ms. Jovana Rašeta Bastić, Deputy Secretary for Integrated River Basin Management and Water Planning, ISRBC
11:55 - 12:10	Open discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lead discussant from civil society
Water for Climate: strengthen water resilience to climate change and disasters	
12:10 - 12:30	Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Czech Republic: <i>Implementing the integrated water and drought management policy to support the 2030 Agenda</i>; Mr. Jan Daňhelka, Director of Hydrology of the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, Czech Republic (virtual) ○ IUCN: <i>Mobilizing Nature Based Solutions to Build Resilience</i>; Mr. James Dalton, Head of Water and Land Management, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ○ Lavazza Group: Mr. Mario Cerutti, Chief Institutional Relations and Sustainability, Lavazza Group (virtual)
12:30 - 12:45	Open discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lead discussant: Ms. Emily Lorra Hines, UNESCO Groundwater youth network
Closing remarks	
12:45 - 13:00	Wrap-up by co-moderators

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Co-moderators

- Ms. Ana Luiza Massot Thompson-Flores – UNESCO
- Mr. Marco Keiner – UNECE

Organizers

Lead organizers	UNECE Water Convention, UNESCO
Contributors	WHO, IOM, UNEP, UNOPS, WMO