



**Dushanbe Water Process**  
**Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action**  
**“Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028**

Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
6-9 June 2022

## **CALL FOR ACTION AND PARTNERSHIP**

The second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, organized by the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations and other partners, met in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 6-9 June 2022. The Conference sought to discuss the ways in which the Member States, the United Nations and its entities, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, as well as civil society and other stakeholders, can contribute to the Decade and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/212 of 21 December the Second Dushanbe Water Decade Conference also aimed to support an effective preparation for 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 (the UN 2023 Water Conference), to be held from 22 to 24 March 2023 at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

This document collects the key actions, partnerships and other initiatives that were proposed during the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference, calling Member States, the United Nations and its entities, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, as well as other stakeholders, to contribute to their implementation, as appropriate. These initiatives are taken directly from the speeches delivered during the Opening Ceremony and Plenary Sessions, as well as from the reports of the Thematic and Interactive Panels and the Conference Forums. Together with the Call for Action and Partnership of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dushanbe Water Conference, it will contribute to the UN 2023 Water Conference, and the Third High Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028.

The Final Declaration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference recommends registering the actions and partnerships proposed during the Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conferences, as well as during all other relevant conferences and events, as voluntary commitments on the UN Partnership Platform, and providing updates on their progress.

The Final Declaration also envisages the development of a Water Action Agenda mechanism as an outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference that brings together all voluntary commitments - from Member States, stakeholders and coalitions across the world from within and beyond the water sector – that accelerate and scale water actions across the 2030 Agenda and support, track and deliver on the 2030 Agenda and beyond 2030. Actions and partnerships from this document could be also registered in the Water Action Agenda as a contribution to the success of the UN 2023 Water Conference.

The proposed activities and partnerships are presented here following the work streams that were identified in the United Nations Secretary-General’s plan for the Water Action Decade 2018-2028.

### **WORK STREAM 1: FACILITATING ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES**

**Activity 1.2: Improve access to knowledge for Member States and other relevant actors through coordinated policy support, capacity development and improved access to reliable water data to effectively model and plan for the future**

- Compile open data sources (data, information, practices) and create a sectoral information map (Panel WHP3)

- Encourage and promote the use of measurement indicators on water quality and ecosystem functioning related to Nature Based Solutions, so that data availability is enhanced and evidence base is built (Panel WEC1)
- Establish Global Water Futures Agreements with countries for hydrologic model training and deployment (Panel ETAK3)
- Implement, under Bahrain's National Water Strategy 2030, the project "Development of an Enabling Environment for Water Demand Management" funded by the Green Climate Fund, performing *inter alia* water audit exercises, building the technical and institutional capacity of the Water Resources Council to use results of scientific data collection, analysis and modelling to manage water demand and disseminating all knowledge generated through via a knowledge management platform (Bahrain)
- Support the implementation of the "Global Process for the Analysis and Evaluation of Sanitation and Drinking Water 2021-2022 (UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water - GLAAS)" (Romania)
- Provide support to the UN Capacity Development initiative of the SDG6 Acceleration Framework, based on long experience in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, as this is key for adapting technical and management capacities of water management institutions and stakeholders to achieve SDG6 (Spain)

**Activity 1.3: Improve international scientific cooperation in fresh and marine water research, resources management, education and capacity-building through enhanced access to knowledge**

- Follow-up with the Science for a Water-Secure World Initiative, a multi-stakeholder dialogue and conference on science-based policy and action for 21st century water security (Panel WEG3)
- Support Member States in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare a guidebook on the application of scientific research and knowledge products, innovative approaches and tools in addressing water resources challenges (Panel ETAK1)
- Further promote research and capacity development activities, including on the issue of climate change's influence on glaciers melting, water resources and associated risks (Mountains Forum)
- Strengthen the science-policy-practice interface at all levels (local, national, transboundary, and regional) through increased dialogue and networking among scientists, policymakers and practitioners, providing better evidence to inform decision making process and facilitating proactive involvement of the science community in the water and climate sectors. (Mountains Forum)
- Identify better pathways and new approaches to integrate the science-based understanding of climate impacts on water security into mitigation and adaptation policies and enhancing water and climate dialogue at various levels (Mountains Forum)
- Monitor crop production global water use by satellite remote sensing through FAO's innovative and global water program, which can have a role in modernizing irrigation systems and in making them more efficient and transparent for water cooperation (Food and Agriculture Organization)
- Assist national counterparts in more than 100 Member States to provide answers to questions such as where does our groundwater come from, and where is it going, how long has our groundwater been there and how quickly is it being depleted, how vulnerable it is to pollution and where is that pollution coming from, to understand how sustainable their groundwater resources are, not just now but also into the future (International Atomic Energy Agency)
- Join the efforts of the Asia Water Council with UNESCO's Strategic Plan for the 9<sup>th</sup> phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, with all Asia Water Council members take part to ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation (K-Water)

**Activity 1.4: Promote and enable the exchange of good practices and environmentally sound technology transfer**

- Creation of mechanisms/channels to further consolidate best practices in water service management (e.g. website/platform continuously updated with new and innovative practices) (Panel WHP3)
- Exchange best practices and experiences on sound water management and governance through platforms such as the Dushanbe Water Process, the Asia Pacific Water Forum and the Singapore International Water Week and through collaboration with United Nations agencies such as UN-Water, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme (Singapore)

- Support countries to make more direct linkages between the provision water services with environmental and water management, such as in Costa Rica, which is using a “hydrological tariff” to support the protection and restoration of ecosystems (United Nations Development Programme)
- Help countries to adapt to the effects of a changing climate: of the 120 countries supported through the UNDP Climate Promise, over 95% of them have raised their adaptation ambition, Such as Sri Lanka, where the United Nations Development Programme is currently working with the Green Climate Fund to help small-scale farmers restore a network of ancient water tanks, helping to boost resilience through improved access to drinking water and irrigation (United Nations Development Programme)
- Provide integrated water resources management solutions in the transboundary context: with the Global Environment Facility, UNDP is advancing ecosystem-based approaches in 30 internationally shared water basins (United Nations Development Programme)
- Support countries in developing and implementing adaptation strategies in several transboundary basins, through guidance, projects on the ground and exchange of experience (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

## **WORK STREAM 2: IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND DISSEMINATION, INCLUDING NEW INFORMATION RELEVANT TO WATER-RELATED SDGs**

### **Activity 2.1: Develop guidelines, financing mechanisms, policy advice and integrated monitoring of progress in support of Member State implementation of water-related Sustainable Development Goals**

- Assist countries in explicitly integrating water values into their water-related decision-making frameworks through the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, which is operated by the Global Water Partnership under the leadership of the United Nations Environment Programme and in collaboration with UNEP-DHI Centre and UNDP Cap-Net (Panel WEG1)
- Support the idea of voluntary national water plans/roadmaps based on a national dialogue of all stakeholders and continue the dialogue around the Water Action Agenda and discuss our possible commitments (Panel ETAK2)
- Achieve the water related SDG goals well before the specified deadlines and stands with the international community to achieve the goals of the Water Action Decade (India)
- Share knowledge and experience with others and together find the right, suitable solution for any place on Earth: MASHAV, Israel’s agency for international development cooperation, is already active in many regions of the world, inviting professionals to Israel, assisting the small projects of our alumni, forming dialogue with governments and international organizations and much more (Israel)
- Share with other countries knowledge and technology accumulated through experience and support the realization of quality infrastructure development from the viewpoints of governance, finance and science and technology (Japan)
- Combine resources: along with EU Member States, put together a Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate in Central Asia, aiming to promote transboundary and integrated water management as well as effective water governance in the region (European Union)
- Use innovative financing tools to bring in the private sector such as the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus, which will cover up to 40 billion euros in guarantees (European Union)
- Support countries and stakeholders in the implementation of the Water Action Decade and accelerate global action on water (United Nations)
- Propose the volunteer development of National Water Roadmaps as part of a national process towards the achievement of the SDGs (Food and Agriculture Organization)

### **Activity 2.2: Conduct scientific research projects aiming to advance sustainable development**

- Encourage the combination of knowledge systems and local governance in the implementation of Nature Based Solutions; both scientific knowledge systems and traditional ecological knowledge systems about ecosystem functioning need to support Nature Based Solutions implementation; contextualization and governance need to be locally and culturally appropriate (Panel WEC1)

- Promote a transformative approach and work with a systemic perspective rather than a sectoral approach, including a new attitude in developing the water and climate sectors in order to bridge the remaining gaps in addressing water security challenges by providing innovative methods and tools, in particular, in areas such as monitoring and data collection, taking into account gender aspects, youth and community participation (Mountains Forum)
- Work with Kazakhstan on strategic programs to improve the ecosystems of the Ural and Irtysh river basins: there is a unified roadmap for conducting research and an inventory of objects with a negative impact on the environment is underway (Russian Federation)
- Ensure worldwide awareness for new waves of possible future pandemics using Water, Sanitation and Hygiene studies such as Waste-water Based Epidemiology as an early warning tool: Türkiye has been conducting waste-water based epidemiology studies since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and maximizing potential of studies which were developed in response to COVID-19 pandemic to ensure access to safe water for all by 2030 must be a common target for all (Türkiye)

### **WORK STREAM 3: PURSUING ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND PROMOTING PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTION**

#### **Activity 3.1: Pursue advocacy campaigns in cooperation with public and private stakeholders and Major Groups including establishing thematic years in line with other water related observances**

- Promote and use more intensively water diplomacy to foster transboundary water cooperation, in particular by building the understanding of shared benefits from such cooperation and sharing experience among regions and basins (Panel WEG2)
- Mobilize and enhance the recognition of climate resilient water resource management in the COP process, as well as contribute to the UN 2023 Water Conference, with COP26 having had a strong focus on adaptation, resilience, and nature-based solutions (Panel WEC3)
- Keep supporting the Call for Action on Gender Equality in the Water Sector (Panel ETAK2)
- Engage with Member States to provide sponsorship for an International Year on Global Water Prediction to strengthen modelling and prediction capacity and increase awareness of likely water futures (Panel ETAK3)
- Embed the “30 30 30” goal into the Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda, which will form part of the Water Action Agenda to be presented at the UN 2023 Water Conference (Youth Forum)
- Identify the needs of women and their communities and to develop solutions and actions that root in the gender reality on the ground (Women Forum)
- Develop a road map for the collective actions in connection with the Rio/Dublin Principles for IWRM, Action Coalition “Feminists Action on Climate Justice” and science-based solutions (Women Forum)
- Develop a roadmap for the inclusion of more Indigenous Peoples and for their active participation in the midterm review of the Water Action Decade (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forum)
- Further develop targeted and substantive messages for the UN 2023 Water Conference and remaining preparatory forums on how land and water management can be adapted to protect more effectively water and ecosystem integrity in the long run, and on how Indigenous Peoples’ aspirations, needs, rights and knowledge can be more equitably woven into the global water agenda (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forum)
- Advocate for a membership in the Water and Climate Coalition to reaffirm commitment in the fight against climate change and the strengthening in the adherence to the ten principles described in the United Nations Global Compact, work in favor of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the United Nations Agenda on Sustainable Development (Dominican Republic)
- Remain a strong advocate to the peaceful settlement of disputes related to the use of international transboundary rivers through mutually acceptable and binding agreements (Egypt)
- Strengthen of UN-Water and the operationalization of the SDG6 Global Acceleration Framework, as water needs good, strong governance: UN-Water plays a key role within the UN, improving system-wide coherence

and coordination of water-related UN system actions and should therefore be strengthened in its mandate and capacities (Germany)

- Encourage the appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water, which can contribute to amplifying the role of UN-Water, giving water a stronger voice, keeping it high on the political agenda and mobilizing additional action and funding, particularly for vulnerable countries (Germany)
- Raise awareness to the importance of hygiene for improving health care services and avoiding infections during medical treatment both internationally and at national level, as co-chair of the informal Group of Friends for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in healthcare facilities (Hungary)
- Sustain the efforts for Solid and Liquid Waste Management, after India set a five-year target to make communities open defecation free and, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019, the people of the country declared themselves Open Defecation Free by constructing 105 million toilets and through a massive behavior change campaign (India)
- Provide a functional household tap water connection to every rural household of India by 2024 through the Jal Jeevan Mission, launched in 2019, with focus on quantity, quality and reliability of safe drinking water: more than 50% of the target was achieved by providing tap water connections to more than 96 million households (India)
- Put forward a resolution on the announcement of the “Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions” at the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly this year, taking into account that the mountains have unique ecosystems and are water towers that are subject to the negative effects of climate change (Kyrgyz Republic)
- Implement the “Green Heritage” campaign, designed to preserve nature for future descendants, restore forest plantations, expand tree planting in cities and villages, in the light of the announcement of 2022 as the year of protection of mountain ecosystems and climate resilience (Kyrgyz Republic)
- Declare 2025 the International Year of Glacier Preservation (Tajikistan)
- Continue to work in multilateral fora to promote the human right to drinking water and sanitation (European Union)
- Support the creation of a United Nations Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Water (European Union)
- Establish tools to ensure inclusive, informed and effective participation of civil society (European Union)
- Make sure there is gender parity in all forums and panels of future water conferences, following the lead of the UN Secretary General (UN Women)
- Identify adjustments that promote risk-informed development, while sustainably managing water resources and associated ecosystems, taking the opportunity of the coinciding midterm reviews of the Water Action Decade and the Sendai Framework in 2023 (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)
- Accelerate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, as they save lives: the Protocol on Water and Health, jointly serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, provides a unique legal framework for setting and achieving national objectives on water, sanitation, climate and health in line with the SDGs, as well as a practical tool for translating into action the human rights to water and sanitation (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

- Run 200 marathons (...) committed to concrete actions in the field of water (Mina Guli)

### **Activity 3.2: Promote partnerships and actions through multi-stakeholder platforms, agreements and partnerships**

- Engage in and contribute to the Group of Friends of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities, the World Health Organization / United Nations Children’s Fund Hand Hygiene for All Partnership and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – World Health Organization / Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health and contribute to the SDG 6 Action Agenda (Panel WHP1)
- Link with multi-stakeholder engagement process for the UN 2023 Water Conference to provide content for preparatory and main United Nations General Assembly events (Panel WHP2)

- Establish interactive working groups, including government, providers, academia and youth, for the identification of common incentives and development of synergies (Panel WHP3)
- Drive acceleration by strong partnerships, such as the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, a new initiative on capacity development for water under the coordination of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the European Union's Team Europe Initiatives and other partnerships (Panel WEG2)
- Encourage and promote inter-ministerial collaborations on the water-energy-food-environment nexus sharing of information, cross-sectoral approaches, policies, and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders to achieve sustainable development (Panel WEG3)
- Form a high-level partnership to engage with stakeholders and initiatives on Nature-Based Solutions and/or agricultural Nature-Based Solutions that support water availability and quality as well as conservation of ecosystems and soils and climate adaptation/mitigation, in order to enhance and leverage action and commitments, within the framework of the Decade (Panel WEC1)
- Act now to build the post-COVID world back better at all levels: partnership is necessary in order to achieve SDGs and other water-related goals; this should include private institutions and bottom-up approach; public-private partnership can also allow more sustainable investment (Panel WEC2)
- Lead a global Multi-stakeholder Call for Action initiative by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Water Assessment Program in preparation of the UN 2023 Water Conference, in which the Women for Water Partnership is one of the coalition's founding members (Panel ETAK2)
- Continue to advance the work of the Stockholm International Water Institute on moving out of and reaching beyond the water box through Stockholm World Water Week, a global platform whose broad range of water-related topics includes climate, food security, health, technology, biodiversity, and many others (Panel ETAK2)
- Continued collaboration between each of the youth organizations present and engagement of other organizations going forward (Youth Forum)
- Create a Water Reference Group that supports the work of the Water Action Decade and that ensures the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forum)
- Foster cooperation and partnerships: many participants, including Central Asian country delegations, mentioned cooperation as a key; the participants committed to further enhancing collaboration and synergies among various ongoing and planned activities in water and climate sectors for better achievement of water-related goals (Mountains Forum)
- Make efforts to switch to the principles of integrated water resources management in accordance with the Water Framework Directive to solve the problems of transboundary water basins at the regional level, being a party to the Helsinki Convention (Azerbaijan)
- Test new grounds for policy, business approaches and global collaboration to tackle the combined water, sustainability and food and energy security crisis, through the newly launched Global Commission on the Economics of Water, a good example of stakeholder engagement which engages academia, international organizations and government officials (Colombia)
- Become members to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes "Water Convention", because water is more than just a local and national concern: it is an issue that can cross borders (Dominican Republic)
- Coordinate, together with the World Meteorological Organization, a workshop on the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, addressing opportunities for cooperation within the framework of this instrument, where the Dominican Republic was presented as a pilot country for a project on Water and Climate (Dominican Republic)
- Support the Cross Regional Statement on Water, already supported by 168 countries and 11 organizations (Egypt)
- Include the Cairo Water Week 2021 and 2022 within the preparatory meetings of the UN 2023 Water Conference, in order to contribute to the discussions and provide substantive inputs to the Conference (Egypt)

- Address the interlinkages between water and climate agendas and build synergies between them, as COP27 president, because we cannot achieve the future we want on water in isolation from climate discussions (Egypt)
- Make the Baghdad International Water Conference, organized for the second year in a row by the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources, a platform for regional and international dialogue for challenges and solutions related to water resources (Iraq)
- Seek cooperation with riparian countries with Iraq in the Tigris and Euphrates basins and adopt the principle of discussions and understandings in order to achieve agreement for equitable division of shared water resources in accordance with the rules of international law (Iraq)
- Promote education and awareness from kindergarten to senior citizens, as water is a precious resource one must save and protect (Israel)
- Consider creating a regional water and energy consortium that will contribute to the formation of a mechanism for the efficient use of the water and energy resources of the region, taking into account irrigation aspects (Kazakhstan)
- Take an active part in the implementation of the Aral Sea Basin Program and of the Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development in Central Asia (Kazakhstan)
- Develop a regional action plan to combat climate change (Kazakhstan)
- Reflect on the problem of water and how to build this vital commodity as a source of peace and not of conflict, through the “Water, Peace and Security” Initiative, of which Morocco is one of the 15 founding countries (Morocco)
- Forge strong partnerships for a sustainable roadmap to water security, acting on prudence and public accountability (Philippines)
- Facilitate the design and implementation of sound local water policies by generating reliable data, sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices and strengthening collaboration among mayors, through the African Mayors’ Roundtable for Water Security, aimed at giving voice to Africans local authorities on water security (Senegal)
- Set up a High-Level Panel on Water, Peace and Security for Development, in order to support a very ambitious African investment program, aimed at mobilizing at least 30 billion dollars per year to achieve the SDGs (Senegal)
- Support to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Water Convention and in this context highlight the success of the Albufeira Convention, a transboundary agreement signed between Spain and Portugal concluded in 1998 (Spain)
- Participate in the United Nations Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region (Turkmenistan)
- Develop and implement further initiatives through the United Nations Special Program for the Aral Sea Basin (Turkmenistan)
- Strongly support international cooperation on water, transboundary cooperation supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Water Convention, (...) as cooperation and river basin approaches facilitate the work on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers for achieving SDG6 targets and therefore strongly support the globalization of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Water Convention (European Union)
- Strengthen the mandate and capacities of the UN-Water (European Union)
- Continue to offer legal instruments, technical and policy support, and a multi-stakeholder platform to States and to basin and regional organisations in order to jointly accelerate implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, protect our planet and the lives of future generations (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)
- Use the platform of the Interstate Ecological Council to address issues of environmental safety: the holding of annual meetings of the heads of environmental departments contributes to the intensification of interaction in the field of environmental protection, the organization of an interstate environmental information system

and the improvement of environmental management in the interests of present and future generations (Commonwealth of Independent States)

- Strengthen the capabilities of the Member States for the optimal use of water resources, as prioritized by the First and Second Organization of Islamic Cooperation Summits on Science & Technology, held in Astana in 2017, which also adopted the Agenda 2026 that set targets for the Member States, and in the United Arab Emirates in 2021 (Organization of Islamic Cooperation)

- Convene multi-stakeholder dialogues on “science for a water-secure world” to create mission-driven alliances to deliver high-ambition, future-ready innovation and inclusive, science-based solutions for water security with speed and at scale and to take these alliances to the UN 2023 Water Conference in March in New York as a demonstration of ambition and commitment to action (International Water Management Institute)

- Use World Water Week, not only a meeting point discuss the world’s most pressing water issues, but taking advantage of its multi-stakeholder nature to take stock of and maintain steady drumbeat on the many initiatives that will emerge from the 2023 Conference, most notably the actions that will be taken up by stakeholders beyond UN Member States (Stockholm International Water Institute)

- Make water a global political priority at all levels and promote concrete initiatives through the World Water Council, which is a multi-stakeholder platform (WWC)

### **Activity 3.3: Disseminate and put into effect recommendations made by eminent bodies pertaining to the implementation of water-related Goals to the extent possible**

- Develop robust policy that prioritizes provision of services for schools and healthcare facilities and create a normative framework based on a rights-based approach (Panel WHP1)

- Broker, through Regional Working Group under the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, a joint statement of commitment from the five Central Asian countries to take to the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York (Regional Forum)

- Accelerate efforts to realize the transformation towards a quality-oriented society from the perspective of resilience, sustainability, and inclusiveness, stressing the importance of improving governance, closing the financial gap, and engaging the science and technology community, as manifested in the “Kumamoto Declaration” (Japan)

- Operationalize the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework (European Union)

- Integrate disaster risk reduction into the midterm review of the Water Action Decade, duly reflected in the Co-chair Summary of the “Bali Agenda for Resilience”, encouraged by the 2022 Global Platform for DRR, which allowed to voice water community inputs (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)

- Carry out participatory water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus assessments in transboundary contexts through the Transboundary Basin Nexus Assessment methodology, applied in various basins, like the Drin and Drina River Basins and the North-West Saharan Aquifer System (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

## **WORK STREAM 4: STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER-RELATED GOALS**

### **Activity 4.1: Organize regular dialogues, conferences and meetings to facilitate implementation of the water-related Goals**

- Hold a roundtable at the 2022 University of North Carolina Water and Health Conference, focused on developing policy recommendations for the November preparatory meetings for the United Nations High-Level Event on Water (Panel WHP2)

- Ensure that transboundary water cooperation is among the priorities of the UN 2023 Water Conference (Panel WEG2)

- Prompt acceleration of progress on transboundary water cooperation through the UN 2023 Water Conference to meet SDG target 6.5 by 2030: greater efforts should be directed at addressing data and information gaps; capacity development; stakeholder engagement including local authorities, civil society organizations, women and youth; legal and institutional strengthening, by greater use of global UN Water Conventions and bilateral and basin-wide agreements and arrangements and by developing stronger institutional mechanisms to support



cooperation on shared waters; continue the periodic monitoring of SDG indicator 6.5.2, allowing to take stock of progress until 2030 (Panel WEG2)

- Use the COP27 Water Pavilion to engage with stakeholders and initiatives on the Water-Energy-Food-Environment nexus that support water and energy efficiency show-casing best practices and examples of cross-sectoral collaboration (Panel WEG3)

- Co-organize a session at the Groundwater Summit in December 2022 to promote and enabling environment for renewable energy within the Water-Energy-Food-Environment nexus (Panel WEG3)

- Ensure close links between freshwater and salt-water and their respective ecosystems in the UN Ocean Conference (Panel WEC1)

- Contribute to and actively participate in the COP27 Water Pavilion in Egypt, link with all Nature-Based Solutions contributions and promote its benefits in water, agriculture and ecosystems (Panel WEC1)

- Bring further to the UN 2023 Water Conference, COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh and to other relevant processes, such as the United Nations Secretary General's Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals and the High-Level Political Forum, the messages and outcomes of the Water Action Decade (Panel WEC3)

- Use the World Water Week as a platform for further coordination, consolidation and promotion of messages (Panel WEC3)

- Showcase examples of each "key message" at the UN 2023 Water Conference (Panel ETAK1)

- Follow up with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the co-chairs of the UN 2023 Water Conference on stakeholder involvement to ensure that the elements of "Moving Out of the Water Box"-thinking is incorporated in the design of the UN 2023 Water Conference (Panel ETAK2)

- Use planned meetings during 2022 and 2023 (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Global Water Futures, Pacific Water Research Center) to connect the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" (2018-2028), "Ecosystem Restoration" (2021-2030) and "Indigenous Languages" (2022-2032) (Panel ETAK3)

- Commit to joining bi-annual meetings of development partners working in Central Asia, convened by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea to help guide implementation of the Fourth Aral Sea Basin Program (Regional Forum)

- Commit in principle to convening under the Central Asia Water and Energy Program, in partnership with the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia and development partners, a major knowledge sharing conference in the region in the first half of calendar year 2023 (Regional Forum)

- Strengthen the Dakar Water Hub whose vision is to build a reference framework in Africa to catalyze cooperation, inclusive dialogue, governance and the development of innovative responses to water and sanitation in order to foster integrated water resources management based on the strengthening of hydro-diplomacy and peace (Senegal)

- Organizing in Granada the 39<sup>th</sup> World International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research Congress "From Snow to Sea", with conclusions on water governance and capacity development which will be contributed to the UN 2023 Water Conference (Spain)

- Make the UN 2023 Water Conference, which will be held by the United Nations after almost 50 years, a historic event, not only in terms of time, but also with its effective results (Tajikistan and The Netherlands)

#### **Activity 4.2: Produce communication material and reports related to implementation of the water-related Goals**

- Share the messages from the panel through social media, by posting and promoting the video recording along with an article on Global Water Partnership's News Flow, to be replicated by the different participants in the Panel (Panel WEG1)

- Further strengthen communication between multi-stakeholders using a participatory approach and by identifying priorities, capacities and funding needs: building networks and partnerships is important for communication, sharing knowledge and best practices and enabling enhanced partnership among multi-stakeholders (Mountains Forum)

- Communicate publicly annual progress on implementation through a monitoring system established for this purpose by Member States and development partners (Women Forum)
- Collect water community views, experiences and proposals into the midterm review of the Sendai Framework, through a survey questionnaire launched in Dushanbe by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: as a both retrospective and prospective exercise, the survey enables to propose water-related adjustments to risk governance and risk management approaches to support sustainable development towards 2030 and beyond (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)

## **OTHER PROPOSED ACTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Infrastructure**

- Preserve water resources for future generations while ensuring territorial equity in access to water through the implementation of major regional transfers and dam interconnection systems, increasing storage capacity from 8.3 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 2022 to 12 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 2030 (Algeria)
- Embark on a major investment program to secure the water supply of major cities and coastal communities through the construction of 21 seawater desalination plants, 11 of which are in operation, 5 are under construction and 5 will be programmed by 2025-2030 for a global installed capacity of 5.3 million m<sup>3</sup>/day (Algeria)
- Implement large-scale projects to improve the water resources management system, build reservoirs, introduce water saving technologies, reuse and desalination of sea water (Azerbaijan)
- Put in place a relatively complete rural water supply system, comprehensively solving the problem of safe drinking water for those living in poverty: by 2021, the prevalence rate of tap water in rural China had risen to 84% (China)
- Benefit from every drop of water through the implementation of various efficient irrigation improvement programs by shifting to modern irrigation and on-farm water management, rehabilitating of canals, rainwater harvesting and protection of coastal zones: in addition, several mega projects have been implemented in the field of water reuse and treatment so that the total reused water is 45% of the total renewable resources (Egypt)
- Engage in environmentally friendly and efficient hydraulic infrastructure developments that are in the best interest of our continent and the world at large despite the meager financial resources available: the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam should be seen in this perspective, as a natural development project financed locally to meet the urgent needs of our people, while recognizing its importance for regional partnership (Ethiopia)
- Restore wetland ecosystems through the Green Legacy Initiative, which is at the very core of conservation policy measures: since 2019, 18 billion trees were planted in Ethiopia through mobilizing millions of Ethiopians (Ethiopia)
- Develop drip irrigation as the most efficient method for applying fertilizers and deliver nutrients in measured doses (Israel)
- Gradually implement a number of projects for the construction of hydroelectric power plants, which are environmentally friendly sources of energy, unlike traditional thermal power plants, to ensure energy security and promote green growth (Kyrgyz Republic)
- Complete the construction of 15 more large dams with a capacity of more than 19 billion m<sup>3</sup> of freshwater: the national capacity should thus increase to more than 23 billion m<sup>3</sup> within 5 years (Morocco)
- Accelerate efforts to expand seawater desalination projects and the reuse of treated wastewater (Morocco)
- Rebuild the water sector despite the circumstances (Syrian Arab Republic)
- Implement a joint project together with Uzbekistan to build two hydropower plants in Tajikistan with a total capacity of 320 megawatts, which is a good example of cooperation (Tajikistan)
- Scale up the introduction of water from the nearest technology in agriculture, which will significantly save water and at the same time increase crop yields (Uzbekistan)

- Introduce advanced information and communication digital technologies and of automated systems for monitoring and managing water resources, considering the transboundary nature of the main types of resources of Central Asia (Uzbekistan)

- Carry out a national project, within the framework of which at least 200 million tree seedlings are planted annually at the initiative of the President to mitigate the negative consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea for environmental rehabilitation and socio-economic development of the surrounding area in the context of growing climate change problems (Uzbekistan)

### **Financing and investment**

- Implement the National Water Resources Plan (2017-2037), formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, in coordination with all ministries concerned with the management and use of water, based on the concept of integrated water resources management where several measures are being considered to meet the current and future challenges with initial estimates of 50 billion dollars and could reach up to 100 billion dollars (Egypt)

- Implement, in Cabo Verde, a 35 million euros irrigation development project started in 2021, followed by further initiatives in Kenya and Rwanda; in addition, implement water management programs in Laos; in Ghana, the wastewater treatment modernization with Hungarian contribution is aiming to increase living standards, decrease the level of contamination in ground and surface waters and achieve good hygienic conditions for multiple communities (Hungary)

- Commit investments of more than 140 billion dollars by 2024 in the water sector (India)

- Commit to provide developing countries with financial assistance worth approximately 500 billion yen over the next five years, which is included in the “Kumamoto Initiative for Water”, announced by Prime Minister Kishida (Japan)

- Invest around 4.1 billion dollars of our national budget to water, as we recognize water resource management as an important means for our economy to thrive and for our people to survive (Philippines)

- Develop actionable pathways for mobilizing 30 billion dollars annually until 2030 through the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments in Africa for implementing the Africa Investment program and for closing the existing water investment gap in Africa, which is estimated at 11-19 billion by the African Ministers’ Council on Water (Senegal)

- Provide 300 billion euros for the period 2021 to 2027 through the new trusted connectivity strategy, Global Gateway, in climate and energy, transport, digital, education and research and finally health (European Union)

- Achieve an ambitious target for climate change financing of 100 billion dollars by 2030, aiming to closely link efforts on climate change, disaster risk resilience, food and water security (Asian Development Bank)

- Invest another 700 million euros in the next 5 years in water supply and sanitation projects in Central Asia, with the assistance of donors, as part of a green economy (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)

- Expect over 400 million euros in funding for transboundary basin management in Africa, as announced during the basin segment in Dakar by the Team Europe Initiative (European Union and its Member States, European Investment Bank, African Union and the African Ministers’ Council on Water, International Network of Basin Organizations)

### **Policy and institutions**

- Accompany infrastructure development measures with a national program to improve the management of public water supply and sanitation services, in order to achieve goals: the sector has launched an extensive program of construction, rehabilitation and expansion of urban water transport and distribution networks to increase the rate of connection of the population to the public water network from 87% in 2005 to 98% in 2018 and to 99% in 2024 (Algeria)

- Improve water management and coordinate activities in this area, through the newly established State Water Commission (Azerbaijan)

- Promote the River/Lake Chief System and strengthened ecological protection and harnessing of rivers and

- lakes, resulting in historic improvements in their appearances: more and more rivers are coming back to life; more and more watersheds have restored their vitality (China)
- Ensure higher levels of coordination and increase efficiency through optimized water governance, including a newly established Water Cabinet, and an expanded version of the national water pact 2021-2036 (Dominican Republic)
  - Launch the National Hydrological Plan, which aims at sustainable water management, prepared by the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources with the collaboration and financing of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (Dominican Republic)
  - Improve water and sanitation coverage through a WASH Program and by an inter-sectoral partnership approach involving ministries and development partners (Ethiopia)
  - Encourage and support the development of legal and technical regional instruments for transboundary cooperation as well as the accession to the two global water conventions, as per the Bonn Key Messages, currently supported by 63 governments (Germany)
  - Expect the UN 2023 Water Conference to provide important momentum on the issues recommended through the Bonn Key Messages (Germany)
  - Implement the indicators of SDG 6 at the local and regional levels, as adopted by the Ministry of Water Resources, within plans aimed to achieving balance in water uses through the execution of the outcomes of the strategic study for water and land resources in Iraq that established in 2014 (Iraq)
  - Implement a new water and sewage law, tailor-made to the advantages and disadvantages of the land (Israel)
  - Strictly and continuously control the quality of the water (Israel)
  - Continue the implementation of the “Clean Water” project, which remains very relevant and requires active assistance from international organizations and the donor community as about 20% of the population is still without access to clean drinking water (Kyrgyz Republic)
  - Implement the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Masterplan, because the government puts a premium on providing safe and affordable water access to all (Philippines)
  - Increase the quality of life by developing infrastructure and public water supply and sewerage services through the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Romania 2030, aligning Romania with the requirements and standards of the European Union on drinking water, waste management and water efficiency in all sectors (Romania)
  - Implement the national project “Ecology”, in which attention is paid to water bodies, both small rivers, on the banks of which garbage collection campaigns are carried out, and the largest reservoirs, like Lake Baikal and the Volga River (Russian Federation)
  - Develop the massive United Water Project, which will include all the largest basins of the country, such as the Don, Amur, Ural, Irtysh, as well as the reservoirs of the Baltic Sea (Russian Federation)
  - Increase the growth of groundwater reserves in water-deficient regions by 3 times by 2024 (an increase of 51.2 thousand m<sup>3</sup> per day), through a special federal project, called “Geology”, which was adopted, and financial resources of 600 million dollars, which were allocated: geological exploration at 13 sites will begin this year (Russian Federation)
  - Create a unified register of water bodies: it will be a digital platform for efficient water management throughout the country, allowing to regulate the replenishment and distribution of groundwater reserves and promptly resolving issues of providing water to territories affected by natural disasters (Russian Federation)
  - Implement a joint program for monitoring water bodies in the Dnieper and Western Dvina basins, developed in the framework of Russian-Belarusian cooperation (Russian Federation)
  - Implement the “Blue Deal”, resulting from the messages, recommendations, commitments and initiatives of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum’s stakeholders, but also from the key messages, which is based on four action plans (...), the Youth Call, as well as recommendations, commitments and initiatives resulting from multi-stakeholder reflections on the water and sanitation issues (Senegal)

- Prioritize the water needs of vulnerable people including refugees and migrants in order to achieve the commitment of “leaving no one behind” (Türkiye)
- Implement the Gulf Cooperation Council Unified Water Strategy 2035, emphasizing that the security and sustainability of the water sector is achievable through improved governance and management, strong and capable institutions, user behavior change and research and development investments in water technology and aiming at localizing water desalination and water treatment technologies in the region, protecting groundwater sources from depletion, maximizing wastewater treatment and reuse, as well as increasing water efficiency in the water consuming sectors, improving the governance and management of the water sector, increasing economic efficiency and enhancing the financial sustainability of the water sector (Gulf Cooperation Council)
- Envisage an incremental approach and expansion of cooperation in all aspects of water issues, as per the Organization of Islamic Cooperation’s Water Vision of “working together for a water secure future” that was adopted in 2012: in the first phase, the objective was to outline a framework of cooperation on water-related issues in terms of knowledge sharing, sharing of experience, capacity development, technology transfer, water governance and institutional reforms (Organization of Islamic Cooperation)
- Promote activities recommended by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation’s Water Vision through its Water Council, capacity building and exchange of experience through collaboration among stakeholders, elaborate on a potential financial mechanism and demonstrate success for future consideration of greater cooperation among Member States. (Organization of Islamic Cooperation)
- Support the Dakar Action Plan, which already received the political support of 74 organizations from 41 countries, mainly basin organizations and ministries, universities, non-governmental organizations, companies and donors (International Network of Basin Organizations)
- Respond to the climate crises, enhance water welfare, strengthen education and build capacity, as per the “Asia to World Statement” by the participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia International Water Week in Indonesia, organized by the Asia Water Council (K-Water)