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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | **World Meteorological Organization**  **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  **Seventy-Sixth Session** 27 February to 3 March 2023, Geneva | **EC-76/Doc. 4(4)** |
| Submitted by: Secretary-General  13.XII.2022  **DRAFT 1** |

**AGENDA ITEM 4: STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING**

# WMO Contribution to the UN 2023 Water Conference

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| **Summary** |
| **Document presented by:** the Secretary-General in response to the request made by the UN 2023 Water Conference Secretary-General  **Strategic objective 2020–2023:** 1.3 Further develop services in support of sustainable water management  **Financial and administrative implications:** within the parameters of the Strategic and Operational Plans 2020–2023, reflected in the Operational Plans 2024–2027.  **Key implementers:** Secretariat, in consultation with SERCOM, INFCOM, RB, HCP and RAs  **Time frame:** 2023–2027  **Action expected:** review the proposed draft decision |

## DRAFT DECISION

## Draft Decision 4(4)/1 (EC-76)

### WMO contribution to the UN 2023 Water Conference

**The Executive Council decides:**

(1) To note the background information on the UN 2023 Water Conference contained in the aannex;

(2) To endorse the expected contribution and involvement of WMO in the UN 2023 Water Conference, as presented in the annex.

The Executive Council Requests the Secretary General to align WMO Contributions to the Water Conference with the WMO Vision and Strategy for Hydrology and associated Plan of Action for Water in conformance with previous decisions of WMO Commissions and relevant bodies. [Mr. D. Muller]

See the [annex](#_Annex_to_draft_1) to the present decision.

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Decision justification: Response to the requests of the UN 2023 Water Conference Secretary-General and of the Conference core planning group, confirming WMO prominent role in the UN-Water Action Agenda.

## Annex to draft Decision 4(4)/1 (EC-76)

## WMO contribution to the UN 2023 Water Conference

1. **Background to the UN 2023 Water Conference**
   1. The [United Nations 2023 Water Conference](https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023), the first of its kind since 1977, will take place at a crucial point in time. From food crises and devastating droughts to the loss of lives because of floods and heavy storms, from energy insecurity to the climate crisis, migration and conflicts, water is at the core of almost all major challenges.
   2. The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution [73/226](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/226), decided to convene, in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023, 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, commonly referred to as the UN 2023 Water Conference.
   3. The Conference will comprise an opening and a closing ceremony, six plenary meetings and five interactive dialogues, and the mandated outcome document of the Conference is a summary of its proceedings (Resolution [A/RES/75/212](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/381/39/PDF/N2038139.pdf?OpenElement) details its modalities). Co-hosts of the Conference are the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of Netherlands. UN DESA, with the support of UN-Water, serves as the secretariat for the Conference.
   4. Following a consultation process with Member States, UN entities and relevant stakeholders, the co-hosts of the Conference, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, have proposed the following themes of the five interactive dialogues that will be held as part of the Conference:
2. **Water for Health**: Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation.
3. **Water for Development**: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development.
4. **Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment**: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction.
5. **Water for Cooperation**: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation and Water Across the 2030 Agenda.
6. **Water Action Decade**: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan.
   1. The co-hosts of the Conference developed the Conference’ [Vision Statement](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Vision_Statement_UN2023_Water_Conference.pdf) which states that the Conference and its preparatory process are based on three principles: Inclusive, Action-oriented and Cross-sectoral. Inclusivity is both in terms of (a) the Conference process to ensure inclusiveness, and in terms of (b) the results to leave no one behind.
   2. The UN 2023 Water Conference is a unique opportunity for the world community. It is the first UN Conference on water in almost 50 years and comes at a time when there are urgent needs for water action. The Conference needs to mobilize all sectors, actors and countries and create the political momentum needed to act. The Conference will unite the world to combat the global water crisis.
7. **Water Action Agenda**
   1. A main outcome of the Conference will be the [Water Action Agenda](https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/action-agenda). Building on on-going efforts and utilizing the political momentum created by the Conference, the Water Action Agenda will mobilize action across countries, sectors and stakeholders to meet the global water and sanitation related goals and targets. It will turn the political momentum created by the UN 2023 Water Conference into tangible and ambitious action to get progress on track. It will be inclusive of all stakeholders, integrated across sectors, aligned with other intergovernmental processes and bring transformative actions for the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
   2. The key building blocks of the Water Action Agenda are:
8. **Commit to action**: Mobilizing voluntary commitments to action across countries, sectors and stakeholders, aimed at accelerated implementation and improved impact towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets. Commitments will be gathered, showcased and tracked on a dedicated platform.
9. **Sustain and scale up implementation**: All stakeholders have a role to play to drive the implementation of the Water Action Agenda and to ensure follow-up with partners on what works for replication and scaling up.
10. **Follow-up and review processes**: Showcasing successes and learning from what works and what does not. The High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) and intergovernmental, private sector and NGO fora across key sectors will be utilized. Analyses of water-related progress across sectors and other SDGs and global frameworks will be done annually.
    1. Through the virtual cycle of committing, implementing and reviewing, and through peer-learning among actors, the Water Action Agenda will enable replication and scaling up of what works and bring successful solutions to global scale. As such, commitments that are real gamechangers and that will drive progress for the decades to come can be identified and supported to drive transformation at scale.
    2. The [commitments](https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water) will be compiled in the Water Action Agenda. The emphasis should be on accelerated implementation and improved impact towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets, looking at content, process and structure. The existing and future challenges in the field of water require innovative and transformative ideas and a “beyond business as usual” approach.
11. **WMO expected contributions and involvement** 
    1. WMO Secretary-General was requested by the Conference Secretary-General to contribute to the interactive dialogues of the UN 2023 Water Conference, as well as to share good practices and contributions for the way forward and recommendations on advancing the implementation of water-related SDGs.
    2. WMO Secretary-General has been further requested by the Conference core planning group (comprising the co-hosts of the Conference, UNDESA and UN-Water) to support the substantive preparations of the interactive dialogue “Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment” as co-convener of the Informal Preparatory Working Group together with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The draft concept note of the interactive dialogue was submitted to the Conference Secretariat for review, finalization and translation into the official UN languages.
    3. WMO Secretary-General has also expressed strong interest to serve as a panellist in any of the five interactive dialogues and to be represented at senior level of the Organization.
    4. WMO Secretary-General will be further announcing activities out of the [WMO Vision and Strategy for Hydrology and its associated Plan of Action](https://www.hydroref.com/wmo/hcp/index.php) as voluntary commitments to feed into the Water Action Agenda that aim to contribute to the implementation of water-related SDGs and associated targets, and will register them on the Water Conference website. Suggested activities are the annual Global State of the Water Resources Report, the Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSoS), and WMO’s contribution to the Early Warning for All initiative (EW4All).
    5. WMO Secretary-General is fully committed to making the UN 2023 Water Conference a success and continue supporting the process in collaboration with the WMO technical commissions, the Research Board, regional associations, and the Hydrological Coordination Panel.

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