

UN-Water



UN-Water coordinates the efforts of UN entities and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues.

WHAT IS UN-WATER?

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF UN-WATER?

There is no single UN entity dedicated exclusively to water issues. Over 30 UN organizations carry out water and sanitation programmes, reflecting the fact that water issues run through all of the UN's main focus areas. UN-Water's role is to coordinate so that the UN family 'delivers as one' in response to water related challenges.

UN agencies, programmes and other UN entities dealing with water-related issues, including sanitation and natural disasters, are Members of UN-Water. Through UN-Water they address the cross-cutting nature of water and maximize system-wide coordinated action and coherence. International organizations, professional unions, associations or other civil-society groups that are actively involved in water, international in structure and membership are Partners of UN-Water. Other UN connected entities such as Special Rapporteurs, panels and advisory boards are Partners with Special Status.

All activities outlined in the UN-Water Work Programme are primarily implemented through Members and Partners. This work includes:

Informing policies

UN-Water's Members and Partners have helped place water and sanitation at the heart of recent milestone agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Agreement within the UN Convention Framework on Climate Change.

In December 2017 UN Member States adopted [United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222](#) on an International Decade for Action on 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028.

Inspiring action

Every year, UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit coordinates the United Nations international observances on freshwater and sanitation, including [World Water Day](#) and [World Toilet Day](#). Depending on the official UN theme of the campaign, they are led by one or more UN-Water Members and Partners with a related mandate. On World Water Day, UN-Water releases the [UN World Water Development Report](#) focusing on the same topic as the campaign.

Monitoring and reporting

One of UN-Water's key objectives is to provide coherent and reliable data and information on key water trends and management issues. During past decades, several initiatives, mechanisms and programmes have been collecting information on the various components of the water cycle. An important part of this work is to provide standardized methodologies for monitoring the different indicators, to ensure that data are comparable across countries and over time.

The UN-Water **Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6** joint effort enables synergies across United Nations organizations as well as a harmonization of methodologies and requests for data, leading to more efficient outreach and a reduced reporting burden. At the national level, IMI-SDG6 also promotes intersectoral collaboration and consolidation of existing capacities and data across organizations.



The **SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework**, launched during the 2020 High-level Political Forum as part of the UN Secretary-General's Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. The Framework, coordinated by UN-Water, is driven by country demand and will unify the international community's support to countries to achieve SDG 6. Action is driven by five accelerators, which are:

Financing

Data and information

Capacity development

Innovation

Governance



The **UN World Water Development Report** – published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water – is based on the themes of that year's international observances campaigns.



The **IMI-SDG6** publishes **progress reports** on key indicators, as well as a **summary report**, tracking global progress on SDG6.

PUBLICATIONS



UN-Water Policy Briefs provide analyses on the most pressing freshwater-related issues that draw upon the combined expertise of the United Nations System.

THE WAY FORWARD

During my tenure, I would like to pay special attention to UN-Water, as I consider it essential to enhance the global leadership of UN-Water in the face of the world water crisis and efforts to achieve SDG 6 and other water-related Sustainable Development Goals (A/HRC/48/50, para. 86)



Pedro Arrojo-Agudo

UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

*The Special Rapporteur held a meeting with UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit on 16 April 2021