



COP28
UAE



Kingdom of the Netherlands



From UN Water Conference to COP28: Accelerating Water and Climate Action

Co-hosted by UAE COP28 Presidency, Arab Republic of Egypt, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Republic of Tajikistan, UN-Water, Stockholm International Water Institute

9:30am, Thursday, 23 March 2023,

ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

Overview. The Paris Agreement set out the Global Stocktake, a mechanism to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals. The Global Stocktake is envisaged to be comprehensive and facilitative, based on the best available science. The first Stocktake process will conclude at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Its outcome will play a central role in informing countries in the updating and enhancing of their actions and support, including through NDCs, as well as international cooperation for climate action.

Water and climate change are inextricably linked. Over the last 25 years, more than 90 per cent of major weather-related disasters have been linked to water, making water more scarce, more unpredictable, more polluted or all three. These impacts throughout the water cycle threaten sustainable development, human and planetary health, and access to water and sanitation, and are only expected to intensify if left unaddressed.

Smart management of water and freshwater ecosystems is necessary to avoid emissions of greenhouse gases. For example, the use, storage, distribution and treatment of water and wastewater contributes to about 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions collectively. Further, wetlands accommodate the largest carbon stocks among terrestrial ecosystems and yet are suffering a loss rate that is even three times higher than that of forests. Hydropower contributes significantly to the avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions and to the mitigation of global warming.

By investing in the resilience of our water resources, services and systems, we can reduce climate risks to people, ecosystems and economies. A triple transformation is required in order to succeed: the adequate protection of water resources, freshwater ecosystems and people; a water use revolution in the production of food and energy and the water infrastructure required to service cities, human settlements, and industries; and a paradigm shift in the reuse of water and wastewater.

The event will facilitate an exchange on the link between water and climate, and identify important issues which could be raised in the context of the first Global Stocktake, which will conclude at COP28. This will also provide the opportunity to identify the priority actions that are

needed to accelerate the water-climate nexus transformation and ‘course correct’ our current 2030 pathways.

Participants are invited to suggest 2-3 potential outcomes that the COP28 can help champion over the course of the next 12 months, as well as the coalitions and initiatives and actions in the Water Action Agenda that can enable this vital water-climate systems transformation to take place.

Context. In order to accelerate efforts towards meeting water-related challenges, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, commencing on World Water Day, 22 March 2018, and ending on World Water Day, 22 March 2028. The United Nations Water Conference 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 most of our greatest collective challenges and is both a precondition to life and a declared human right.

The Global Stocktake will inform countries’ efforts in updating and enhancing of their climate actions and support, in which water plays an important role. In this regard the COP28 is an opportunity to improve upon our trajectory. This session will harness the momentum generated by the Water Action Decade, the UN2023 Water Conference and the Water Action Agenda and lay the groundwork for the course correction needed to stay on track for our collective 2030 goals.

Format. Following brief opening remarks, speakers will be invited by the moderator to make interventions on priority deliverables and next steps to strengthen the discussion around water and climate action, and potential water-climate nexus outcomes for COP28.

Agenda (TBC)

<p>10 minutes</p>	<p>Welcome & Scene-setter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mariam Almhairi (Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE) • H.E. Mark Harbers (Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Netherlands) • H.E. Daler Juma (Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic, Tajikistan) • H.E. Hani Sewilam (Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt)
<p>60 minutes</p>	<p>Speaker Interventions – <i>three-minute interventions from a diverse group of speakers on key water deliverables for COP28</i></p> <p><i>Guiding Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What priority actions and solutions are needed to accelerate the water-climate systems transformation and ‘course correct’ the pathway to 2030? • What actions from the Water Action Agenda should be supercharged to drive this transformation towards the COP28 and beyond? • What does success look like for the water-climate agenda at the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake at COP28?

	<p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaime de Bourbon de Parme (<i>Climate Envoy of the Netherlands</i>) <p><i>Confirmed speakers (last as of 17th March)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolina Tornesi-MacKinnon (<i>Climate and Water Youth Advocate</i>) • Cyril Courjaret (<i>CEO, SUEZ International</i>) – TBD • Hasin Jahan (<i>Head of Bangladesh, WaterAid</i>) - TBD • Hindou Ibrahim (<i>IPO</i>) • Jan Kairel Guillermo (<i>Youth Engagement Officer, WMO</i>) • Jane Madgwick (<i>CEO, Wetlands International</i>) • Johanna Sumuvuori (<i>Deputy Foreign Minister, Finland</i>) • Mafalda Duarte (<i>CEO, CIF</i>) • Mark Watts (<i>Executive Director, C40 Cities</i>) • Simon Stiell (<i>Executive Secretary, UNFCCC</i>) • Torgny Holmgren (<i>Executive Director, SIWI</i>) • Woochong Um (<i>ADB, Managing Director General</i>) • Zi Han Xuan (<i>Climate and Water Youth Advocate</i>)
<p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Wrap-up and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dane McQueen, Director of Programs & Partnerships, COP28 / UAE Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change