



WATER ACTION DECADE

2018 - 2028

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PLAN: WATER ACTION DECADE 2018-2028

1. INTRODUCTION

Water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and is indispensable for human development, health and wellbeing. Water-related challenges, including limited access to safe water and sanitation, increasing pressure on water resources and ecosystems, disasters and an exacerbated risk of droughts and floods, have received increasing attention in the global development arena. Water is at the heart of recent milestone agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the 2015 Paris Agreement. The World Economic Forum ranks the water crisis in the top 3 of global risks for the third consecutive year. Failing to respond effectively to these challenges will have devastating global effects.

To be successful, Member States and the United Nations (UN) system will need to respond in a coordinated and effective manner. In its resolution 71/222 (further referred to as “Resolution”) the General Assembly proclaims the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development” (the “Decade”), to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda. Commencing on World Water Day, 22 March 2018, and concluding on World Water Day 2028, the Decade builds on the achievements of the previous “Water for Life” Decade, 2005-2015.

The resolution states that the **objectives of the Decade¹** should be a greater focus on:

- the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives;
- the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects; and
- the furtherance of cooperation and partnerships at all levels to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The resolution further decides that the objectives of the Decade **should be pursued by²** improving knowledge generation and dissemination, facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices; generating new information relevant to water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action by different actors; and, strengthening communication actions at various levels for the implementation of the water-related Goals.

The Secretary-General (SG), with the support of UN-Water, is invited to take appropriate steps within existing resources to plan and organise the activities of the Decade at the global, regional and country levels³. The Resolution further requests the SG, with the support of UN-Water, the specialised agencies, the regional commissions and other entities of the UN system, to facilitate the implementation of the Decade in cooperation with Governments and other relevant stakeholders⁴. The Secretary-General has asked the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to carry out the mandates requested by the Resolution and to plan and facilitate the activities for the Decade with inputs and support from UN-Water.

As the coordination mechanism for UN entities and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues, UN-Water created a Task Force to support the Secretary-General to plan and organise the Decade from February 2017 until its launch in March 2018. This draft action plan is based on the result of the Task Force's efforts. It outlines current activities and capabilities of the UN system, and the operational setup planned to support Member States in the implementation of the Decade.

² Paragraph 6

³ Paragraph 8

⁴ Paragraph 11

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE DECADE

Based on the Resolution, the following objectives have been defined for the Decade (each is given below in a condensed version, while the full reading is given in the footnotes):

- 1) Advance sustainable development⁵
- 2) Energize implementation of existing programmes and projects⁶
- 3) Mobilize action to achieve the 2030 Agenda⁷

2.1 Objective 1 – Advance sustainable development

Water runs through all three pillars of sustainable development, with water resources impacting environment, social and economic development. Development in each pillar is impacted by the availability and management of water resources to provide services and benefits. Today, unsustainable development pathways and governance failures negatively affect the quality and availability of water resources, compromising their capacity to generate social and economic benefits and increasing disaster risk. Driven by growing demands from manufacturing, thermal electricity generation and domestic use, global water demand is projected to increase by 55% by 2050⁸. Unless the balance between demand and finite supplies is restored, the world will face an increasingly severe global water deficit.

At this critical moment, the Decade aims to bring a greater focus to sustainable development and a risk-informed integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives. To this end, the Resolution emphasizes the need for stepping up international cooperation and collaboration in science, research and innovation for the sustainable development of water resources at the local, national and regional levels, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit.

2.2 Objective 2 – Energize implementation of existing programmes and projects

To address water-related challenges, Member States, the UN system, civil society and the private sector are making a concerted effort to improve access to safe water and sanitation, reduce pressure on water resources and ecosystems, manage water-related disaster risks, adapt to climate change, reduce water pollution and increase reuse. Existing programmes and projects include development of international agreements and policies for

⁵ “Greater focus on sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives”

⁶ “The implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects”

⁷ “The furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

⁸ WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme). 2015. The United Nations World Water Development Report 2015: Water for a Sustainable World. UNESCO. Paris, France.



sustainable water management, increasing capacity for water resources management, disaster risk reduction, multi-stakeholder platforms to improve cooperation around water issues, and research projects to advance water related knowledge. Realising universal access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water will require that current progress is substantially accelerated. For example, SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 currently receive only one third of the capital investments needed to be achieved⁹.

The Decade provides a unique opportunity to energize on-going activities of all relevant actors through improved cooperation, partnership and capacity development. As part of this, the Resolution stresses the need to accelerate and sustain action towards the mobilization of means of implementation, encourages the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of the water-related SDGs.

2.3 Objective 3 – Mobilize action to achieve the 2030 Agenda

Agenda 2030 provides a roadmap to a better, more sustainable world with water at its heart. Guaranteeing sustainable water management is a vital element of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant goals in the social, environmental and economic fields. Goal 6, “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, not only addresses the issues relating to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, but also — and for the first time so explicitly at the global political level — the quality and sustainability of water resources worldwide. As such, Goal 6 cuts across sectors and regions and has interlinkages to all other 16 Goals, of which a majority are mutually reinforcing¹⁰. In addition to Goal 6, Agenda 2030 also includes other direct references to water, including the protection of freshwater ecosystems and combating of desertification (Goal 15), ensuring healthy lives for all and combating of water-borne diseases (Goal 3), as well as reducing the impact of water-related disasters (target 11.5).

The Decade sets out to mobilize action and further dialogue, cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This ambition is in line with SDG targets 6a and 6b, aiming to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, and to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

⁹ Hutton & Varughese. 2016. The Costs of Meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Targets on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. World Bank Group.

¹⁰ UN-Water. 2016. Water and sanitation interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Geneva.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECADE

3.1 Action Plan

As outlined in the Resolution, the support to Member States in reaching the Decade objectives should be pursued, inter alia, by the following 4 work streams:

- Facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices;
- Improving knowledge generation and dissemination, including new information relevant to water-related SDGs;
- Pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action;
- Strengthening communication actions for implementation of the water-related Goals.

UN-Water conducted a mapping of UN entities and international organisations to capture the capabilities to support the implementation of the Decade and to highlight potential gaps in implementing SDG 6 and other water-related goals as defined by the 2030 Agenda. Based on this mapping exercise, the action plan for the Decade has been developed under the 4 Decade *work streams*, which are summarised below and available as a log frame in Annex 1. These planned activities will be closely aligned with the work on water-related SDGs and other water-related global agreements, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2015 Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Decade should also complement ongoing efforts to increase integration and coordination of the work of the UN on water-related goals and targets, including the review of the UN development system.

Work Streams	UN entities' and international organizations' activities
1 Facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices	1.1 Host Decade campaign website as a platform to learn about the Decade and related topics, get engaged and promote Decade activities, including space for Member State activities
	1.2 Improve access to knowledge for Member States and other relevant actors through coordinated policy support, capacity building and improved access to reliable water data to effectively model and plan for the future
	1.3 Improve international scientific cooperation in fresh and marine water research, resources management, education and capacity-building through enhanced access to knowledge
	1.4 Promote and enable the exchange of good practices and environmentally sound technology transfer between all stakeholders

Work Streams	UN entities' and international organizations' activities
2. Improving knowledge generation and dissemination, including new information relevant to water-related SDGs	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
	2.2 Conduct water research projects aiming to advance sustainable development
3. Pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action	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
	3.2 Promote partnership and action through multi-stakeholder platforms, agreements and partnerships
	3.3 Disseminate and put into effect recommendations made by eminent bodies, such as the High-Level Panel on Water, pertaining to the implementation of water-related Goals to the extent possible
4. Strengthening communication actions for implementation of the water-related Goals	4.1 Organise regular dialogues, conferences and meetings to facilitate implementation of the water-related Goals
	4.2 Produce communication material and reports related to implementation of the water-related Goals

3.2 Current supporting activities

This section gives an overview of currently planned supporting activities for the Decade. The section is not to be interpreted as an exhaustive list of the support from the UN family and other international partners to the Decade, but rather the activities captured in the exercise which align with the Decade objectives and work streams at present. Criteria were not applied in the collection of activities, as the intention was to reflect the breadth and variety of work happening globally. As such, some programmes are large in scale and scope while others have a local impact. A more detailed overview of the activities can be found on the Decade campaign website, as well as listed in Annex 2.

3.2.1 Facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices

To enable dialogue, dissemination of good practices and knowledge exchange among stakeholders, a visually modern, interactive campaign website is being designed for the Decade jointly by UN-Water Members and Partners. The core feature of the website is a platform

for engaging and allowing a wide global audience to participate in the Decade, through crowd participation and links to media and social media campaigns. New products such as posters, fact sheets, and social media tools will be developed to empower individuals and organisations to get involved. The web platform will include a dedicated space showing Member States' actions and commitments in support of the Decade to inform and inspire action at the global, regional and country levels.

As part of the Decade, support to Member States will be provided through *coherent policy and technical support* in the areas of water governance, WASH, IWRM, water-related disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, ecosystem protection and wastewater management. *Capacity building activities* will be implemented in a wide range of areas including implementation of IWRM, WASH service delivery, water integrity, use of national risk profiles and risk assessments, water governance and strengthening of institutions, and through financing mechanisms. To enable informed decision-making, Decade activities will also have a focus on *strengthening access to a range of reliable water data*, by scaling up underutilised, cost-efficient and new methods of collecting data including remote sensing techniques, as well as making data more accessible and open to enable its effective use to model and plan for future scenarios.

Decade activities will *develop, coordinate and promote the adoption of new environmentally sound technologies* to enable Member States to strengthen capacity for sustainable water management, including in the areas of water and sanitation services, water use efficiency, water-related disaster risk reduction, sustainable industrial development and tackling water scarcity. This includes adoption of new technologies for sustainable groundwater management as well as environmentally friendly industrial development.

3.2.2 Improving knowledge generation and dissemination, including new information relevant to water-related SDGs

Achieving the water-related SDGs will require *improved knowledge on how to implement and monitor the Goals*. Throughout the Decade, UN entities and international organizations will be generating new knowledge for the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6, including the development of guidelines, financing mechanisms, research and policy advice, as well as collection and assessment of data for the SDGs. To support Member States in monitoring and to enable informed decision-making, UN-Water has launched the Integrated Monitoring Initiative to harmonise reporting for all the SDG 6 targets. All the custodian agencies of the SDG 6 global indicators have come together under the Initiative, which includes the work of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), the Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI) and the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS). In addition, UN entities and international organizations will provide support to Member States on other water-related Goals interlinked with SDG 6, including knowledge generation and dissemination



to increase preparedness for water-related disasters such as floods and tsunamis, and monitoring of target 11.5 through the Sendai Framework Monitor System.

Scientific research projects aiming to advance sustainable development will be implemented during the Decade, enabling the advancement of knowledge on how to secure sufficient amount of safe water for a growing population in the face of climate change. Research is also conducted in the areas of hydrology and groundwater, gender mainstreaming, urban water management and water-related disaster risk reduction. The projects will include development of modelling tools and research on a wide range of water issues and promoting water sciences and education to support the achievement of water-related SDG targets.

3.2.3 Pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action

Advocacy campaigns for the Decade will be aligned with other water-related observances, including World Water Day and World Toilet Day. By aligning the focus of all campaigns during each year, the Decade aims to boost existing efforts while simultaneously creating a sequence of themes that runs throughout the ten years and ties the Decade together. Campaigns for advocacy, communication and public awareness, including mass media initiatives, publications and newsletters, will be pursued in cooperation with public and private stakeholders, Major Groups, international organizations and the UN system. In particular, advocacy activities should be conducted to get the financial support for replication and up-scaling of best practices and effective solutions to global water challenges.

Additionally, the creation of *specific partnerships and promotion and strengthening of international cooperation* represent key areas that will facilitate implementation of the Decade at national, regional and global levels. Currently, multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships are being implemented in the areas of transboundary water management, public-private partnerships, water stewardship, finance for water, as well as water and health. Other platforms include biodiversity protection, implementation of gender mainstreaming, and support of the integration between freshwater management, land management and coastal zones.

3.2.4 Strengthening communication actions for implementation of the water-related Goals

To engage and allow a wide global audience to participate in the Decade, *dialogues, conferences and meetings* will be organised. This will include high-level dialogues and meetings for water-related SDGs, the triennial World Water Forum and the annual World Water Week in Stockholm, as well as other conferences and forums on topics related to the implementation of the Goals, including water and disasters, hydrology, gender and freshwater ecosystems. Such meetings will be key to ensure the active involvement of



all relevant stakeholders in the implementation, including Member States, UN, private sector, and civil society.

Communication material and reports will also be developed in support of the Decade, including the annual World Water Development Report, which provides evidence base for other Decade activities. Communication on SDG 6 to inform Member States, relevant stakeholders and the public about progress on SDG 6 will be disseminated throughout the Decade, including a Synthesis Report for SDG 6 in 2018. In addition, communication campaigns are carried out in areas including gender equality, tsunami awareness and irrigation practices during the Decade. The recommendations of eminent bodies whose work concerns water and sanitation, such as those of the High-Level Panel on Water, should be disseminated and — to the extent possible — put into effect.



4. OPERATIONAL SETUP

The UN system stands ready to support country efforts to realize the aspirations expressed in the Resolution. UN-Water has established a Task Force on Water Action Decade Implementation to take over from the Task Force on Decade Planning and Organisation by the launch of the Decade.

The membership of the Task Force on Water Action Decade Implementation remains unchanged from the previous Task Force and will be reviewed following the first 2 years of the Decade. The members of the Task Force are UN DESA, UNU, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, CBD, FAO, UN ESCWA, UN Environment, IFAD, IAHS, WfWP, WWF, Water.org and GWP. The tasks and responsibilities of the Task Force currently include:

Coordination

- Coordinate the activities of UN-Water Members and Partners in support of the Decade implementation;
- Facilitate information-sharing between Member States, United Nations and other stakeholders, including through reports and the Decade campaign website;
- Identify opportunities for the Decade to contribute to intergovernmental discussions on sustainable development;

Communication

- Provide information on UN-Water Members' and Partners' new activities in support of the Decade to the Decade campaign website;
- Endeavour to align the Water Action Decade's three core objectives with all communications efforts;
- Commit to using networks to share and promote Decade promotional material;
- Identify ways to align World Toilet Day and World Water Day themes with Decade objectives;

Reporting

- Report on progress biannually to the UN-Water Meeting;
- Coordinate Members and Partners to prepare the Secretary-General's mid-term review for the 77th Session of the General Assembly in 2022 as required by Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/84; and
- Oversee the inclusion of a Water Action Decade update in the UN-Water Annual Report.

These tasks and responsibilities will be reviewed and updated as needed throughout the Decade to adjust to changing demands on the Task Force occurring during the Decade period.

Member States, relevant UN bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional



commissions and other organizations of the UN system, as well as other relevant partners, including the private sector and civil society, are encouraged to work collectively to fulfil the ambitious objectives of the Decade. The UN-Water Task Force and Decade website will facilitate this collaboration, by serving as a coordination platform for all relevant stakeholders as well as a wider public audience.

5. DEFINING SUCCESS OF THE DECADE

Guiding the UN system's supporting actions during the Decade, the following success principles will be used to accelerate and inform efforts of all stakeholders, diminish uncertain risks and define the final success of the Decade. The success principles and related activities can be further explored in the Action Plan Log Frame (Annex 1) as well as on the Decade campaign website. The Decade actions will be reviewed in the mid-term review¹¹ of the Decade based on these criteria, and necessary adjustments will be made to the action plan based on the results of the review.

1. Facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices

- 1.1 The Decade campaign website facilitates access to knowledge about the Decade and related activities, engages participation of a wider audience, and provides a space for Member States to show activities and commitments;
- 1.2 Improved access to knowledge and capacity development support that advance sustainable development and reduce risk of water-related disasters is facilitated for Member States and other relevant actors during the Decade;
- 1.3 International scientific cooperation in fresh and marine water research, resources management and education is enhanced during the Decade;
- 1.4 Exchange of good practices and environmentally sound technology transfer are promoted during the Decade;

2. Improving knowledge generation and dissemination, including new information relevant to water-related SDGs

- 2.1 New relevant information and knowledge for implementing and monitoring the water-related Sustainable Development Goals are generated during the Decade;
- 2.2 Scientific research projects relevant to water-related Sustainable Development Goals are conducted during the Decade;

3. Pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action

- 3.1 Advocacy campaigns inspiring action for the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development are pursued together with relevant partners during the Decade;
- 3.2 Multi-stakeholder platforms, agreements and partnerships are promoted during the Decade;
- 3.3 Recommendations pertaining to the implementation of water-related Goals

¹¹ Paragraph 13 of the Resolution reads "Decides, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 1989/84, to review the implementation of the Decade at its seventy-seventh session, and in this regard also decides to consider, at its seventy-third session, the future arrangements for a midterm comprehensive review of the Decade."



made by eminent bodies have been disseminated and put into effect to the extent possible during the Decade;

4. Strengthening communication actions for implementation of the water-related Goals

- 4.1 Collaboration between governments, the UN, financial institutions, civil society and the private sector for implementation of water-related Goals is facilitated during the Decade; and
- 4.2 Effective communication related to water-related Goals is promoted during the Decade.

6. ANNEXES

6.1 Decade Action Plan Log Frame

International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028

Action Plan Log Frame

Contributing UN-Water Members and Partners: IAEA, CBD, UNCCD, UNDP, UN ECA, UN ECE, UN ECLAC, UNEP, UN ESCAP, UNESCO, UN ESCWA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNISDR, UNU, WMO, UN-DESA, FAO, IFAD, WSSCC, Global Water Partnership (GWP), International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), International Groundwater Centre (IGRAC), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), WaterAid, WaterLex, Water.org, Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), World Water Council (WWC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Work Stream		Activities by UN entities and international organizations	Example initiative	Success criteria	Means of verification	Reports
1 Facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices	1.1	Host Decade campaign website as a platform to learn about the Decade and related topics, get engaged and promote Decade activities, including space for Member State activities	Decade campaign website	The Decade campaign website facilitates access to knowledge about the Decade, related activities and engages participation of a wider audience	Website statistics	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade
	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	UNISDR: Disaster Risk Reduction Global Capacity Development Strategy	Improved access to knowledge and capacity development support that advance sustainable development and reduce risk of water-related disasters is facilitated for Member States and other relevant actors during the Decade	Reports and information from relevant UN-Water Members and Partners	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade

Work Stream		Activities by UN entities and international organizations	Example initiative	Success criteria	Means of verification	Reports
	1.3	Improve international scientific cooperation in fresh and marine water research, resources management, education and capacity-building through enhanced access to knowledge	UNESCO: UNESCO Water (IHP and IOC intergov- ernmental programmes, and WWAP)	International scientific cooperation in fresh and marine water research, resources management and education is enhanced during the Decade	Reports and information from Member States, particularly related to implementation of new policies	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade
	1.4	Promote and enable the exchange of good practices and environmentally sound technology transfer	UNIDO: Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies	Exchange of good practices and environmentally sound technology transfer are promoted during the Decade.	Reports and information from relevant UN-Water Members and Partners	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade
2 Improving knowledge generation and dissemination, including new information relevant to water-related SDGs	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	UN-Water's Integrated Monitoring Initiative, including JMP, GEMI and GLAAS.	New relevant information and knowledge for implementing and monitoring the water-related Sustainable Development Goals are generated during the Decade	Reports and information from relevant UN-Water Members and Partners	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade
	2.2	Conduct scientific research projects aiming to advance sustainable development	UNU: Unconventional sources of water supply and technologies to alleviate global and regional water scarcity	Scientific research projects relevant to water-related Sustainable Development Goals are conducted during the Decade	Reports and information from relevant UN-Water Members and Partners	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade

Work Stream		Activities by UN entities and international organizations	Example initiative	Success criteria	Means of verification	Reports
3 Pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action	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	Potentially establish year on Women and Water, Beijing +30 in 2025	Advocacy campaigns inspiring action for the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development are pursued together with relevant partners during the Decade	Reports and information from relevant UN-Water Members and Partners	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade
	3.2	Promote partnerships and actions through multi-stakeholder platforms, agreements and partnerships	UNECE: Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water-courses and International Lakes (Water Convention)	Multi-stakeholder platforms, agreements and partnerships are promoted during the Decade.	Reports and information from relevant UN-Water Members and Partners	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade
	3.3	Disseminate and put into effect recommendations made by eminent bodies pertaining to the implementation of water-related Goals to the extent possible	Recommendations from the High Level Panel on Water	Recommendations pertaining to the implementation of water-related Goals made by eminent bodies have been disseminated and put into effect to the extent possible during the Decade	Reports and information from relevant UN-Water Members and Partners	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade

Work Stream		Activities by UN entities and international organizations	Example initiative	Success criteria	Means of verification	Reports
4 Strengthening communication actions for implementation of the water-related Goals.	4.1	Organise regular dialogues, conferences and meetings to facilitate implementation of the water-related Goals	UN-DESA: High-level dialogues and meetings for water-related SDGs	Collaboration between governments, the UN, financial institutions, civil society and private sector for implementation of water-related Goals is facilitated during the Decade;	Reports and information from relevant UN-Water Members and Partners	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade
	4.2	Produce communication material and reports related to implementation of the water-related Goals	UN-Water Synthesis Report for SDG 6	Effective communication related to water-related Goals is promoted during the Decade	Reports and information from relevant UN-Water Members and Partners	Mid-term review of the Decade; Final review of the Decade

6.2 List of current activities

Work Stream 1: Facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices

	Work Stream 1: Activity	UN-Water Member/ Partner	Decade Objective
1.1	Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 — Protected Areas	CBD	1
1.2	Gender and the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028”	CBD	2
1.3	Water-related activities of the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division	ECLAC	1
1.4	Monitoring water productivity by Remote Sensing as a tool to assess possibilities to reduce water productivity gaps	FAO	2
1.5	Water and irrigation	FAO	1
1.6	Africa Investment Program: Water Security for Job Creation, Industrialization, and SDG Implementation (AIP)	GWP	
1.7	Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)	GWP & WMO	1
1.8	Education and professional development	IAH	1
1.9	IAHS Education	IAHS	2
1.10	Groundwater Solutions Initiative for Policy and Practice (GRIPP)	IGRAC	1
1.11	Accountability for Sustainability	SIWI	2
1.12	Freshwater and environmental dimension of sustainable development	UN Environment	1
1.13	Cap-Net UNDP	UNDP	1
1.14	Water & Oceans Governance Programme	UNDP	2
1.15	Integrating climate change into the structural transformation agenda to effectively support the transition of Africa economies towards climate resilient development	UNECA	1
1.16	Water for Cities Programme	UN-Habitat	1

	Work Stream 1: Activity	UN-Water Member/ Partner	Decade Objective
1.17	Sustained use of safe water and sanitation services, adoption of hygiene practices and strengthened systems for a clean and safe environment for girls and boys, particularly the most disadvantaged and those affected by humanitarian crisis	UNICEF	3
1.18	Disaster Risk Reduction Global Capacity Development Strategy	UNISDR	2
1.19	Global Platforms and Regional Platforms on disaster risk reduction	UNISDR	3
1.20	Water and security	UNU	1
1.21	Managing water-related risks	UNU	1
1.22	Building capacity of water practitioners and future water leaders	UNU	2
1.23	Case study series to highlight best practices in WASH financing	Water.org	1
1.24	Climate change and resilience and water security	WaterAid	1
1.25	WASH and Health	WaterAid	1
1.26	WASH in schools	WaterAid	1
1.27	Urban WASH	WaterAid	1
1.28	Gender and WASH	WaterAid	1
1.29	Sustainable services	WaterAid	1
1.30	Human Rights to Water and Sanitation	WaterLex	2
1.31	Gender Task Force	WfWP	2
1.32	HydroHub — Global Hydrometry Support Facility	WMO	1
1.33	The Evidence Programme on Sanitation and Hygiene (EPSH)	WSSCC	1
1.34	Financing Water Infrastructure	WWC	1
1.35	Global Freshwater Practice	WWF	1

Work Stream 2: Improving knowledge generation and dissemination, including new information relevant to water-related SDGs

	Work Stream 2: Activity	UN-Water Member/ Partner	Decade Objective
2.1	Integrated SDG6 and SDG11: monitoring and evaluation	ESCAP	3
2.2	Water and rural poverty, including migration	FAO	3
2.3	Water Pollution from and to agriculture	FAO	3
2.4	Associated Programme on Flood Management	GWP & WMO	1
2.5	Adding the groundwater dimension to the understanding and management of shared water resources in the Sahel	IAEA	3
2.6	Developing the science of hydrogeology	IAH	1
2.7	International Centre for Water Cooperation	SIWI	3
2.8	UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility	UNDP & SIWI	3
2.9	Tsunami evacuation drills in 18 countries in cooperation with Japan	UNDP	
2.10	UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP)	UNESCO	1
2.11	Enhance access and dissemination of knowledge to improve international scientific cooperation in fresh and marine water research, resources management, education and capacity-building.	UNESCO	3
2.12	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)	UNHCR	3
2.13	Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR)	UNISDR	2
2.14	Assessment of Global Progress of the Sendai Framework and related SDG targets	UNISDR	3
2.15	"Words into Action": Implementation guides for disaster risk reduction	UNISDR	2
2.16	Accelerating success of water-related SDGs	UNU	3
2.17	Nexus Observatory	UNU	3
2.18	Understanding water quality indicators and their application	UNU	3
2.19	Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture (SUWA) basics via e-Learning	UNU	3

	Work Stream 2: Activity	UN-Water Member/ Partner	Decade Objective
2.20	Syntheses and analyses of existing bodies of scientific discovery, trends, state-of-the-art of water problems and issues, efficiency of investments water	UNU	2
2.21	Unconventional sources of water supply and technologies to alleviate global and regional water scarcity	UNU	1
2.22	Development of Models to Predict Land-Use-Induced Soil Pore-Space Changes and their Hydrological Impacts (SoilPoreDyn)	UNU	1
2.23	Resource recovery from wastewater in the Americas — Assessing the Water-Soil-Waste Nexus (SludgeTec)	UNU	1
2.24	TIGER Project (Remote Sensing of Water Use and Water Stress in African Savanna Ecosystem from Local to Regional Scale: Implications for Land Productivity)	UNU	1
2.25	Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI)	UN-Water	3
2.26	Integration of human rights-based indicators to improve the SDG6 indicators	WaterLex	2
2.27	Research on good practices of impacts of women's participation	WfWP	1

Work Stream 3: Pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action

	Work Stream 3: Activity	UN-Water Member/ Partner	Decade Objective
3.1	Launch of International Decade for Action	ESCWA	1
3.2	Reporting to ESCWA Committee on Water Resources	ESCWA	2
3.3	Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)	FAO	3
3.4	GWP's Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP)	GWP	1
3.5	The GWP Water, Food, Energy, Ecosystem Nexus Programme	GWP	2
3.6	Informing and influencing global policy	IAH	2
3.7	World Irrigation Forums	ICID	2

	Work Stream 3: Activity	UN-Water Member/ Partner	Decade Objective
3.8	Water integrity	SIWI	1
3.9	Shared Waters Partnership	SIWI	1
3.10	Swedish Textile Water Initiative	SIWI	1
3.11	Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management	SIWI	2
3.12	UNDP GoAL WaSH	UNDP	2
3.13	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)	UNECE	1
3.14	Protocol on Water and Health	UNECE	1
3.15	Engaging UNESCO Water Family	UNESCO	1
3.16	Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance (GWOPA)	UN-Habitat	1
3.17	Refugee WASH Programme	UNHCR	2
3.18	Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), Transfer of Environmentally Sustainable Technology (TEST), Public Private Partnership for Water stewardship with HEINEKEN	UNIDO	1
3.19	World Tsunami Awareness Day	UNISDR	3
3.20	Water and Urban Initiative	UNU	1
3.21	Tools for Nexus-oriented Resources Management	UNU	2
3.22	Hygiene behaviour change	WaterAid	1
3.23	Women for Water dedicated fund	WfWP	2
3.24	Work of National Coordinators	WSSCC	1
3.25	MHM Policy Work	WSSCC	2
3.26	Operationalizing IWRM	WWC	1
3.27	Cities at the heart of growth	WWC & UCLG	1

Work Stream 4: Strengthening communication actions for implementation of the water-related Goals

	Work Stream 4: Activity	UN-Water Member/ Partner	Decade Objective
4.1	The GWP SDG 6 Support Programme	GWP	3
4.2	Youth for Water and Climate #YWC initiative	GWP	3
4.3	IAHS conference programme	IAHS	3
4.4	Panta Rhei decade	IAHS	3
4.5	IAHS and IUGG 100 anniversaries	IAHS	3
4.6	SDG Knowledge Hub	IISD	3
4.7	World Water Week in Stockholm	SIWI	3
4.8	Swedish Water House	SIWI	3
4.9	High-level dialogues and meetings for water-related SDGs	UN-DESA	3
4.10	Production of WWDR, World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO	UNESCO	2
4.11	Edition of a UNESCO book on best practices on Knowledge Exchange & Innovation Strategies on water-related topics	UNESCO	3
4.12	Dresden Nexus Conference	UNU	3
4.13	Synthesis Report SDG 6	UN-Water	3
4.14	Amplifying the voice of Water.org co-founders to draw increased attention to the water and sanitation crisis	Water.org	3
4.15	Parliamentary Programme	WaterLex	3
4.16	Regional Working Conferences to build the capacity of women and youth	WfWP	1
4.17	Collaboration between SDG 6 and 5	WfWP	3
4.18	Regional Working Conferences to mobilize financial resources and technical support	WfWP	3
4.19	Regional Working Conferences involving women and youth	WfWP	3
4.20	WMO Global Conference: Prosperity through Hydrological Services	WMO	2



	Work Stream 4: Activity	UN-Water Member/ Partner	Decade Objective
4.21	WMO Hydrological Observing System — WHOS	WMO	3
4.22	Community of Practice	WSSCC	3
4.23	WSSCC Engagement on Climate Change	WSSCC	3
4.24	Thematic Discussion: Sanitation and hygiene behaviour change programming for scale and sustainability	WSSCC	3
4.25	World Water Forum	WWC	3



WATER
ACTION DECADE
2018-2028

6.3 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2016 (A/RES/71/222)

See the following five (5) pages.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 February 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 19 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2016

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/71/463/Add.1)]

71/222. International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [47/193](#) of 22 December 1992 on the observance of World Day for Water, [55/196](#) of 20 December 2000, by which it proclaimed 2003 the International Year of Freshwater, [58/217](#) of 23 December 2003, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, [61/192](#) of 20 December 2006, by which it proclaimed 2008 the International Year of Sanitation, [65/154](#) of 20 December 2010, by which it proclaimed 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation, and [67/204](#) of 21 December 2012 on the implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013,

Recalling also its resolutions [64/198](#) of 21 December 2009 on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and [69/215](#) of 19 December 2014, in which it welcomed activities undertaken for the observance of the Decade and encouraged relevant parties to continue to take steps to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals,

Recalling further its resolutions [68/157](#) of 18 December 2013 on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and [70/169](#) of 17 December 2015 on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, including resolutions [24/18](#) of 27 September 2013¹ and [27/7](#) of 25 September 2014,²

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and 1989/84 of 24 May 1989 on guidelines for international decades in economic and social fields and General Assembly resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.

² *Ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda (A/69/53/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. IV.



Recalling also its resolutions 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Reaffirming the sustainable development goals and targets, including those related to water resources, contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and determined to achieve the goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and other related goals and targets,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,³ which highlighted the commitment to the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015,

Reaffirming that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development⁴ is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Emphasizing that water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, that water, energy, food security and nutrition are linked and that water is indispensable for human development, health and well-being and a vital element of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant goals in the social, environmental and economic fields,

Deeply concerned that lack of access to a safe drinking water source, basic sanitation and sound hygiene, water-related disasters, water scarcity and water pollution will be further exacerbated by urbanization, population growth, desertification, drought and other extreme weather events and climate change, as well as by the lack of capacity to ensure integrated water resource management,

Concerned by the slow progress in advocating for and addressing existing gaps in gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women that hampers the achievement of sustainable development goals and targets,

Concerned also that many water-related ecosystems are threatened by poor management and unsustainable development and face increased uncertainty and risks owing to climate change and other factors,

Recalling that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, among other things, seeks to develop and implement holistic disaster risk management at all levels in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁵

Acknowledging the importance of deepening cooperation and partnership at all levels for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals on water and sanitation,

Recognizing that water-related issues, including relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets, need to be better reflected in the agendas of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

³ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁴ Resolution 69/313, annex.

⁵ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

Noting national, regional and global efforts and partnership initiatives to implement the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, the numerous recommendations from global and regional water and water-related events and the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Noting also the establishment of the High-level Panel on Water by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank, and looking forward to its work,

Noting further the *United Nations World Water Development Report*, a joint project of United Nations agencies and entities, in particular the edition entitled *Water for a Sustainable World*, the report of the annual international conference of UN-Water held in Zaragoza, Spain, in 2015, on the theme “Water and sustainable development: from vision to action”, UN-Water advice on means of implementation of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and the work of the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation,

Recognizing the important role of relevant initiatives and multi-stakeholder partnerships in building political support and encouraging investment in water and sanitation,

Noting the outcomes and the Ministerial Declaration of the seventh World Water Forum, held in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 17 April 2015,

Noting also the outcomes of the high-level interactive dialogue at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, held on 30 March 2015,

Noting further the Declaration of the High-level International Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, held in Dushanbe on 9 and 10 June 2015,⁶ and the call for action of the high-level symposium on the theme “Sustainable Development Goal 6 and targets: ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation”, held in Dushanbe from 9 to 11 August 2016,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources;⁷

2. *Welcomes* the activities related to water undertaken by Member States, the Secretariat and organizations of the United Nations system, inter alia, through inter-agency work, as well as contributions from major groups, for the observance of the International Year of Sanitation, 2008, the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013, and the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015;

3. *Proclaims* the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, to commence on World Water Day, 22 March 2018, and terminate on World Water Day, 22 March 2028;

4. *Decides* that the objectives of the Decade should be a greater focus on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the

⁶ See A/C.2/70/5, annex.

⁷ A/71/260.

achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and on the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects, as well as on the furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁸

5. *Highlights* the importance of promoting efficient water usage at all levels, taking into account the water, food, energy, environment nexus, including in the implementation of national development programmes;

6. *Decides* that these objectives should be pursued, inter alia, by improving knowledge generation and dissemination, facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices, generating new information relevant to the water-related Sustainable Development Goals, pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnership and action by different actors to implement the water-related Goals and targets in coordination with existing initiatives and strengthening communication actions at various levels for the implementation of the water-related Goals;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the participation and full involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including women, children, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, in the implementation of the Decade at all levels;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, to take appropriate steps, within existing resources, to plan and organize the activities of the Decade at the global, regional and country levels, taking into account the outcomes of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant United Nations structures, as well as the High-level Panel on Water;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for further steps to accelerate and sustain action towards the mobilization of means of implementation, and encourages the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and for the stepping up of international cooperation and collaboration in science, research and innovation for the sustainable development of water resources at the local, national and regional levels, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit;

10. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources and technical assistance and to strengthen the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/84, to facilitate the implementation of the Decade in cooperation with Governments and other relevant stakeholders;

⁸ Resolution 70/1.

12. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, during the seventy-first session, a working-level dialogue to discuss improving the integration and coordination of the work of the United Nations on the water-related goals and targets under its sustainable development pillar, with a particular emphasis on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while preserving its integrated and indivisible nature, and a subsequent working-level dialogue to take stock of the discussions at the first dialogue and to exchange views on the relevance of possible next steps, and in this regard:

(a) Decides that the dialogues shall be ad hoc, informal, inclusive, open-ended and interactive, with the participation of countries, relevant regional and international organizations, relevant United Nations system entities, UN-Water and other relevant stakeholders;

(b) Invites the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-moderators for the dialogues, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, who will also prepare the informal summary of the dialogues;

(c) Also invites the President of the General Assembly to prepare a concept note for the dialogues, in collaboration with the co-moderators, taking into consideration relevant work and processes and avoiding duplication;

13. *Decides*, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/84, to review the implementation of the Decade at its seventy-seventh session, and in this regard also decides to consider, at its seventy-third session, the future arrangements for a midterm comprehensive review of the Decade;

14. *Encourages* Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant partners, including the private sector, to contribute to the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, building on the momentum gained during the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, in order to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

*66th plenary meeting
21 December 2016*