



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

*HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM ON SDG 6 AND TARGETS:
ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND IN ACCESS
TO WATER AND SANITATION*

ANNOUNCEMENT

9-11 August 2016
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

ORGANIZERS



The Symposium is organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), international and regional organizations and partners for a focused and balanced discussion on policy measures, actions and means of implementation to fast-track implementation of the water SDG and related targets.



To convene the High-Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets: Ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation the Government has established an Organizing Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime-minister H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda.

SECRETARIAT

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BACKGROUND

In adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States highlighted the vital importance of water and sanitation. They incorporated a standalone sustainable development goal on water – SDG 6: “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” – as part of the foundation of sustainable development. Indeed, achieving SDG 6 is essential to achieving the overall 2030 Agenda. It is universally recognized that water is life and is essential to poverty eradication, gender equality, food security and sustainable agriculture, health, sanitation, sustainable industry, sustainable consumption and production, tourism, and sustainable urbanization, among others. In order to achieve SDG 6 and its targets, an integrated approach will be required, addressing inter-linkages between water SDG and other SDGs.



In recognition of the foundation role of water, Member States further adopted 6 targets and related means of implementation:

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all;
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations;
- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally;
- 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity;
- 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate;
- 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes;
- 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies;
- 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

The Symposium offers a platform for government officials, water policy makers and experts, businesses and civil society representatives to discuss how to implement SDG 6 and its related targets, including through an international decade of water for sustainable development, currently under consultation initiated by Tajikistan.

OBJECTIVES

Building on the recent discussion in the context of the High-level Panel on Water, co-convened by the UN Secretary-General and the World Bank Group President, co-chaired by the Presidents of Mauritius and Mexico, the Symposium seeks to provide a platform for a focused and balanced discussion on policy measures, actions and means of implementation to fast-track implementation of the water SDG and related targets. The Symposium will undertake an evidence-based assessment of recent country experiences in advancing integrated water resource management, by sharing lessons learned and good practices in improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene, in increasing water use efficiency, reducing water pollution, protection of water basins and ecosystems and advancing international cooperation and partnerships. Participants will also identify and discuss obstacles encountered and explore opportunities for regional and multilateral cooperation and partnerships. To this end, it is expected that the Symposium will also provide an occasion for announcing concrete partnership initiatives.

EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Symposium will deepen the understanding, and promote the adoption, of integrated water resources management and galvanize action in support of the implementation of SDG 6 and related targets. Specifically, the Symposium aims to:

- Strengthen capacities of national and local governments to promote integrated water resource management;
- Share knowledge and experience in innovative practices in improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene, in increasing water use efficiency, reducing water pollution, protection of water basins and ecosystems and advancing international cooperation and partnerships;
- Foster regional and multilateral cooperation and launch specific partnerships initiatives on the implementation of SDG6 and related targets.



DATE AND VENUE

The Symposium will be held from 9 to 11 August 2016 at the State complex «Kokhi Somon» in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

LANGUAGE

The working languages of the Conference are English and Russian (simultaneous translation will be provided).

CONTEXT FOR DISCUSSION

The United Nations has attached top priority to water and sanitation. Integrated water resource management is the focus of chapter 18 of Agenda 21. Water and sanitation were addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second (1994) and sixth (1998) sessions; by the United Nations General Assembly at its nineteenth Special Session to review the implementation of Agenda 21 (1997) and by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) through its Plan of Implementation. The Commission on Sustainable Development subsequently reviewed water and sanitation at its twelfth session (2004) and thirteenth session (2005) and at its sixteenth and twentieth sessions (2008 and 2012).

Another historic initiative by the United Nations in advancing the sustainable water agenda was the International Decade for Action "Water for life", 2005-2015 launched on 22 March 2005, on World Water Day. The Decade aimed to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015, placing special emphasis on the involvement and participation of women in these efforts. In addition, the General Assembly declared the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater, the year 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation and the year 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation.

The Millennium Development Declaration (2000) also called for the world to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water as well as the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation. It called upon the international community to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and floods; to develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005; and to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to monitor and assess the quantity and quality of water resources.

Achievements

Clearly, significant progress has been achieved. As reported by the United Nations global monitoring programme, the MDG target for safe drinking water was met in 2010, well ahead of the MDG deadline of 2015.

More specifically, over 90 per cent of the world's population now has access to improved sources of drinking water; five developing regions met the drinking water target; 2.6 billion people gained access to an improved drinking water source since 1990; 96 per cent of the global urban population uses improved drinking water sources, compared with 84 per cent of the rural population; The least developed countries did not meet the target, but 42 per cent of their current population gained access to improved drinking water sources since 1990.

Progress in improving access to drinking water contributed to progress in health, poverty reduction and other MDG targets.

Last year, within the UN, a number of bold initiatives were proposed, with the aim to create new architecture that would promote full and timely achievement of the water-related goals and objectives.

At the initiative of the UN Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank a High-level Panel on Water (HLPW) was established, with the aim to enhance efforts at improving access to water and sanitation and their sustainable management. Among its members, the High-level Panel has Heads of State/Government of the ten UN member states, who for two years will be actively advancing efforts at financing and implementing the sustainable development goals and objectives related to water and sanitation.

At the 7th World Water Forum (Republic of Korea, April 2015) the President of the Republic of Tajikistan proposed a new initiative to proclaim an International Decade for Action under the motto "Water for Sustainable Development". The purpose of the decade is to build up on the positive experience of the

International Decade for Action "Water for Life, 2005-2015" and to create a broad platform for revitalization and strengthening, at all levels, the efforts at promoting and implementing the sustainable development goals and objectives related to water resources. The participants of the International High-Level Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015, which in accordance with the resolution 69/215 of the UN General Assembly was held in Dushanbe on 9 and 10 June 2015, have urged "the international community ...consider the possibility of proclaiming a new International decade for action "Water for sustainable development" ,.to keep the momentum gained the Water for life Decade".

During 2015, the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) completed its work and published its final report (The UNSGAB Journey) that was handed over to the Secretary-General and officially shared with the international community during UNSGAB's final meeting 18 - 20 November 2015. The report took stock of what was accomplished, how it was achieved, and unfinished business.

Challenges

But significant challenges remain. To start with, the achievements in access to improved drinking water were not matched in sanitation. The world fell short on the sanitation target, leaving 2.4 billion without access to improved sanitation facilities. More specifically, the international community missed the global MDG target for sanitation by almost 700 million people. Estimates by WHO suggests the economic cost of poor sanitation at US\$260 billion per year, ranging from 1 to 6 percent of the national GDP.

Secondly, the remaining gaps between urban and rural residents, between men and women in sharing water collection burden and the continued lack of access of the poor, not only in rural but also in urban areas, to improved drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, highlight the magnitude of the social and economic policy challenges ahead in achieving the water SDG and related targets. Experience has shown that it is often more difficult to overcome social gaps and inequalities in access to basic services.

Thirdly, the world's population is projected to expand to 9.7 billion people by 2050. By UN estimate, 90% of the increase will be in developing countries—many of them are already experiencing water stress or scarcity. In addition, developing countries in Asia and Africa will see significant urbanisation, adding to growing pressure on urban infrastructure.

In addition, global water demand for the manufacturing industry is expected to increase by 400% from 2000 to 2050, with the bulk of this increase occurring in emerging economies and developing countries. Alongside this increase will be likely increase in water pollution, in part due to lack of wastewater treatment facilities.

Climate change will have significant impact on water supply. Water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, could cost some regions up to 6% of their GDP, spur migration, and spark conflict, according to the World Bank. Climate studies further suggest that the world is likely to see crucial changes in the temporal and spatial distributing of water resources and the frequency and intensity of water-related disasters rise significantly with increasing greenhouse gas emissions. At risk will be the health of water basins and ecosystems.

At a more fundamental level, if the world continues on its current path, the world may face a 40% shortfall in water availability by 2030. Among the most vulnerable countries will be LDCs and SIDS, as well as water-scare countries.

In addition, regional challenges, such as water scarcity, water and peace and security, water-food-energy nexus, will pose challenges to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. After all, in 2015, 663 million people still lack improved drinking water sources.

Financing and capacity building

To meet the growing water demand and ensure sustainable, equitable water supply and sanitation services for all, investing in water infrastructure, in protecting water basins and ecosystems, in treating wastewater and reducing water pollution, will be key. Estimates of water financing requirements vary, but the overall requirements are projected to exceed trillions between now and 2030 – leading to calls for scaling up investments from billions to trillions. Such financing requirements will need to be met from not only traditional public and private funds, international loans and ODA, but also innovative sources of financing, including innovative domestic sources of financing.

In addition, investment should be extended to investment in human and institutional capacity, to build up water management institutions and utilities, to strengthen knowledge and skills in integrated water resources management, water efficiency management, water basins and ecosystem protection and to acquire and utilise best available sustainable water management practices, including through training and partnerships.



DRAFT PROGRAM

		8 August	9 August	10 August	11 August		
Morning	08:30-09:00	Arrival of participants	Registration		Field visits		
	09:00-09:30		Opening Ceremony			Thematic Session 5	Thematic Session 6
	09:30-10:00						
	10:00-10:30		Coffee & Networking break			Coffee & Networking break	
	10:30-11:00		Thematic Session 1	Thematic Session 2		Thematic Session 7	Thematic Session 8
	11:00-11:30						
	11:30-12:00						
	12:00-12:30						
	12:30-13:00		Lunch			Lunch	
Afternoon	13:00-14:30	Lunch	Lunch		Field visits		
	14:30-15:00	HLPW Member's meeting	Thematic Session 3	Thematic Session 4		Closing Plenary session	
	15:00-15:30						
	15:30-16:00		Coffee & Networking break				Press-conference
	16:00-16:30						
	16:30-17:00		Side-Events				
	17:00-17:30						
	17:30-18:00						
	18:00-18:30	Break	Break				
	18:30-19:00						
19:00	Reception for HLPW members	Reception by the Government of Tajikistan for participants of the Symposium					

Thematic Sessions (TSs)

- TS 1. Universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all;
- TS 2. Improve water quality by reducing pollution;
- TS 3. Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all;
- TS 4. Increase water-use efficiency;
- TS 5. Integrated water resources management;
- TS 6. Protect and restore water-related ecosystems;
- TS 7. Launching of Partnership initiatives, including the proposal of an international decade of water in sustainable development;
- TS 8. New and Innovative Water Cooperation Mechanisms for Sustainable Development.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will bring together government officials and policy-makers in water resources management, experts from international organisations, academic and research communities, business executives and representatives of civil society groups. Approximately two hundred participants are expected to attend.

REGISTRATION

Registration is free of charge. Online registration is available on the website of the conference: www.watersdg2016.org

The registration deadline is 25 July 2016.

SIDE-EVENTS

The High-Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets: Ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation is open for convening side-events during the conference. Side-events may be organized by any stakeholder including international, national government and nongovernment organizations, UN agencies, finance institutions, academia, as well as civil society organizations and private sector. Stakeholder wishing to organize a side-event during the conference should contact the Conference Secretariat.

Subject: Subject of the side-events should comply with the themes of the High-Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets: Ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation.



ABOUT TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan is a country in Central Asia which borders on the west and north with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, on the south with Afghanistan, and on the east with China. Total area of the territory of the Republic is 142,600 km².

Tajikistan is a typical mountainous country with absolute heights from 300 to 7,495 m. 93% of its territory is occupied by mountains. The majority of the population and economic activities of Tajikistan are concentrated on 7% of its territory, in the valleys.

By 1 January 2015, the population of Tajikistan estimated 8.354 million people, 26.4% of which live in cities and 73.6% in rural areas. The average annual population growth is about 2.5% per year.

There are almost all climatic zones in Tajikistan, with a temperature range from +50 °C to -60 °C. The climate of the country is arid with an abundance of heat and significant intra-annual fluctuations of its parameters.

Tajikistan ranks the first in Central Asia in terms of water resources. More than 80% of the runoff of the Amudarya and 1% of the Syr Darya River is formed in Tajikistan. In general, it provides 64 km³ per year or 55.4% of the water resources of the Aral Sea basin. The total volume of glaciers of the country is more than 845 km³, underground waters reach 18.7 km³ per year, and lake waters reach 46.3 km³.

With very little oil and gas reserves, difficulties for industrial development of coal fields, Tajikistan possesses vast inexhaustible reserves of hydropower resources. By estimations of experts, these reserves are approximately 527 billion kWh of electricity per year. The potential exceeds three times the existing electricity consumption of the whole of Central Asia. With the efficient use of this potential, the region can be provided with cheap and environmentally clean electricity.

ABOUT DUSHANBE



Dushanbe is the capital of Tajikistan and the largest scientific cultural, political, economic, industrial and administrative center of the country. The population of the city by 1 January 2015 was of 788,7 thousand inhabitants.

Dushanbe is a beautiful and very green city, almost manmade in a foothill zone. While you are stepping into the city, you will be immediately imbued with the atmosphere of warmth, hospitality and friendliness, and truly oriental flavor. Dushanbe is located at an

altitude of about 800 m ASL in the densely populated Gissar valley. Through the city, the Dushanbe River flows from the North to the South and the Kafirnigan River from the East to the West of the city. In the North from the city there is the Varzob canyon with a number of recreation centers.

Dushanbe is an ancient and young city at the same time. According to the archeologists it has a millennial history. However, the first written mention of the village of Dushanbe was found at the end of the 1676. The village Dushanbe arose at a crossroads. On Mondays, there was a large Bazaar, which caused the village to be named "Dushanbe", that means "Monday" in Tajik. On 14 July 1922, the city was declared the capital of the Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, which in 1929 was transformed into the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic.

GLOBAL WATER INITIATIVES OF TAJIKISTAN

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the following important resolutions initiated by the Republic of Tajikistan:



- Proclamation of 2003 the International Year of Fresh water (UN General Assembly Resolution of December 20, 2000, 55/196, 55th session);



- Declaration of 2005-2015 the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" (UN General Assembly Resolution of December 23, 2003, 58/217, 58th session);



- Declaration of 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation (UN General Assembly Resolution of December 20, 2010, 65/154, 65th session).

As an initiator of the water resolutions of UN General Assembly the Republic of Tajikistan actively promotes the water related issues in the global agenda. In this context the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the UN and other international organizations organized the following important international water events:

- International Forum on Fresh Water on 29 August - 1 September 2003, Dushanbe;
- International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Trans-Boundary River Basins on 30 May – 1 June 2005, Dushanbe;
- International Conference on Water Related Disasters Reduction on 27 - 29 June 2008, Dushanbe;
- High-Level International Conference on midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015 on 8 - 10 June 2010, Dushanbe;
- High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation on 20 - 21 August 2013, Dushanbe;
- High Level International Conference on the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015, 9-11 June 2015, Dushanbe.

NEW GLOBAL WATER INITIATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

Taking into account a completion of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015, at the 7th World Water Forum the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Leader of Nation H.E. Emomali Rahmon initiated the declaration of a new International Decade "Water for Sustainable Development". This initiative was also fully supported by participants of the Dushanbe International Conference on the implementation of the International Decade "Water for Life", 2005-2015. The next decade should be a mechanism to continue the implementation of measures outlined within the framework of the International Decade "Water for Life", 2005-2015 by international community, enriching it with new measures and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



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