



JCoR GUIDE TO THE  
UN 2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

22-24 March 2023



# JUSTICE COALITION OF RELIGIOUS

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 22 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). For centuries, congregations of Religious have served people who have been rendered poor, vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized by existing global systems. Through our membership in JCoR, we have united with our sister and brother organizations to enhance collaboration among our members – at UN Headquarters and around the world – in our common mission: to improve quality of life for people who are living in poverty and to enhance our stewardship of the natural environment.

*The primary aim of our collaboration is to strengthen the capacity of Catholic Religious and their partners to address the root causes of human and environmental suffering.*

We work toward this goal by coordinating national, regional, and global efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!



# WHAT IS THE UN WATER CONFERENCE ?

At the current rate of progress, the international community will not realize the [Human Rights to Water and Sanitation](#) or reach the water-related targets of the [Sustainable Development Agenda](#) by 2030. Water is critically important to development – from health and nutrition, to gender equity and economics, and in the coming years, water-related challenges will only continue to increase in urgency. We need to accelerate progress, and we need to act now.

Nearly 50 years after the first UN Water Conference, the General Assembly will convene the [UN 2023 Water Conference](#) to unite the world for water. It will serve as a midterm review of the implementation of the objectives of the [International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development](#). Fundamentally, the Conference aims to enhance understanding of the value and management of water and encourage concerted action to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets.

## GOAL:

The primary goal of the Conference is to raise awareness of the global water crisis and commit to joint action(s) to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, such as [Sustainable Development Goal 6](#) (SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## OUTCOME:

The Conference will adopt the [Water Action Agenda](#) as its main outcome. The Agenda will be the amalgamation of all voluntary water-related commitments — pledges to act, made by governments, civil society, and stakeholders from all sectors. Its central aim is to mobilize action, across the entire world, to advance progress on and meet the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The key building blocks of the Water Action Agenda are committing to action, ensuring actions can be scaled up and replicated in the years to come, and implementing follow-up and review processes to share learnings and accelerate positive change.



**UN**  
**2023 WATER**  
**CONFERENCE**

**NEW YORK**  
**22-24**  
**MARCH**  
**2023**



# KEY CONCEPTS

Helpful foundations for participants



## Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

The overarching goal of SDG6 is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Access to safe water and sanitation is a basic human need for health and well-being. It is a foundational building block of sustainable development.

Click [here](#) to learn more about SDG6 and its targets.

## Human Rights to Water and Sanitation

The United Nations recognizes both access to water and sanitation as human rights - fundamental to dignity, health, and development.

**The right to water** entitles everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water.

**The right to sanitation** entitles everyone to have physical and affordable access to sanitation that is safe, hygienic, secure, and socially and culturally acceptable

Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Five Thematic Areas of the Conference

Click [here](#) to learn more about the five thematic areas, which support the [SDG6 Global Acceleration Framework](#)

- 1 **Water for health:** Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation are essential for human health and play a significant role in environmental health too
- 2 **Water for sustainable development:** Water is vitally important to sustainable growth, including livelihoods, justice, food security, energy, and economic development
- 3 **Water for climate, resilience and environment:** Sustainable use of water resources is fundamental to managing climate and environmental emergencies, maintaining vital biodiversity, and building resilience to the impacts of climate change
- 4 **Water for cooperation:** Water cooperation between communities and countries can deliver shared economic, social, and environmental benefits, as well as promote peace
- 5 **Water Action Decade:** 2023 marks the middle of the Water Action Decade and the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda. Action on both must be accelerated to secure a sustainable future for all



# CONFERENCE DETAILS

Basic info you need to know



*Click on the following link to visit the official website for the UN 2023 Water Conference*

## When

22-24 March 2023

## Where

United Nations  
Headquarters in New  
York

## Follow Online

Join online to follow the proceedings of the Conference at [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org) (streamed in multiple languages)

## Action Agenda

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Water Action Agenda, and see the last page of this guide to learn how you can commit to act now!

## Schedule

Click on the following links to view the full [Conference programme](#), which includes:

- Opening and closing sessions
- 6 plenary sessions
- 5 interactive dialogues
  - [Water for Health](#)
  - [Water for Sustainable Development](#)
  - [Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment](#)
  - [Water for Cooperation](#)
  - [Water Action Decade](#)
- 4 informal high-level events
  - [Radical Collaboration for Water Resilience: Action with our greatest Allies in the Climate Crisis](#)
  - [Reducing inequalities – Implementing Human Rights](#)
  - [The Economics of Water: transforming governance to secure a sustainable, just and prosperous future](#)
  - [Water Leadership: Uniting for a sustainable world](#)
- Side events
  - [Inside UN Headquarters](#)
  - [Outside UN Headquarters](#)
  - [Virtual](#)



# RECOMMENDED EVENTS



## Water is Life: Water Angel Ceremony

21 March, 2:00pm-3:00pm (New York time)

*On the afternoon of March 21, 2023, the eve of World Water Day and the opening of the Mid Term Review of the United Nation's (UN) Decade of Action, an inspirational ceremony will take place at the Angel of the Waters Fountain in Central Park. The ceremony will aim to celebrate the tangible and intangible value and enduring significance of water related cultural heritage around the world to assist in meeting asset management and living heritage stewardship challenges of today and tomorrow.*

Note: This is an IN-PERSON event that will be held at Angel of Waters, Bethesda Fountain, Central Park, New York

Flyer: <https://bit.ly/3mWBXpQ>

Details: <https://bit.ly/40bgasL>



## Scoping solidarity: Societal dialogues for water justice

21 March, 3:00pm-5:00pm (New York time)

*This side event will highlight the purpose of societal dialogues and the value of an integral approach that brings together science, faith, and Indigenous knowledges in the dialogue on water.*

Register: <https://bit.ly/3mXjf1v>

Details: <https://bit.ly/3ZWkwEv>





# RECOMMENDED EVENTS



## Impacts of Extractives on Water and the Environment

23 March, 2:00pm (New York time)

*This online panel will highlight the challenges in addressing the human right to equitable access to clean, safe water. Particular attention will be paid to the role that extractive industries, like mining, pose toward meeting the targets of SDG6, as well as cross-cutting issues, including but not limited to: health, migration, gender, Indigenous rights, education, climate change, and biodiversity loss. These are crucial considerations as we build toward a Water Action Agenda that is scalable and committed to action.*

Register: <http://bit.ly/mwg-water2023>

Flyer: <https://bit.ly/3LoVoSn>

## Water and Integral Development of Communities: Challenges and Proposals

24 March, 8:30am-10:00am (New York time)

*This space for face-to-face dialogue will highlight the challenges of community water management as a resilient way to promote the sustainable integral development of people, especially in those places where the lack of water sources or water management systems manifests poverty. It intends to address the theme of Water for development as well as cross-cutting issues, including health, migration, gender, indigenous peoples' rights, education, climate change, and biodiversity loss.*

Register: <http://bit.ly/3JKZ4g0>

Flyer: <https://bit.ly/42h9c7z> Concept note: <https://bit.ly/3TtL6lZ>

\*\*\*Interpretation will be available in English, French, and Spanish\*\*\*





# RECOMMENDED EVENTS



*For the most up-to-date list of recommended events,  
please visit the JCoR website at  
<https://jcor2030.org/communications-guides/>*



# WHO TO FOLLOW AND TAG

on social media

## Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)

Twitter: [@JCoR2030](#) Facebook: [@JCoR2030](#)

## JCoR Members

Click [here](#) to access a Twitter list of JCoR members

## UN Sustainable Development Platform

Twitter: [@SustDev](#) Facebook: [@SustDev](#)

## UN Account for the Sustainable Development Goals

Twitter: [@GlobalGoalsUN](#) Facebook: [@globalgoalsUN](#)

## Your Congregation's NGO at the UN

Click [here](#) to access a list of many congregations' NGO's social media details

## Your government's permanent mission to the UN

**Official  
Hashtag:  
#WaterAction**

*JCoR would like  
to help spread  
the word.*

**@JCoR2030**

*Tag us so we can  
share your social  
media posts and  
increase the  
reach of your  
advocacy  
messaging!*



# SUGGESTED MESSAGING

for social media

*For additional social media resources, including logos, graphics, and messages, visit the official [Trello page](#) for the UN 2023 Water Conference*

The @UN 2023 #WaterConference (22-24 March) will bring together governments, civil society, & other stakeholders to address the water crisis, accelerate progress on #SDG6, & commit to #WaterAction. Learn more about the conference & how you can participate:

<https://jcor2030.org/communications-guides/>

Safe water and adequate sanitation for all (#SDG6) are indispensable to achieve the #2030Agenda as they underpin poverty reduction, health, food security, and sustainable ecosystems. We call on @UN Member States to commit to a bold Water Action Agenda at the UN #WaterConference

Safe #water & adequate sanitation are central to building resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies. With billions of people lacking access to water, the @UN #WaterConference must catalyze urgent action to address the global water crisis.

Learn more: [https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/Water\\_Conference\\_FAQ\\_press\\_kit.pdf](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/Water_Conference_FAQ_press_kit.pdf)





# SUGGESTED MESSAGING

for social media

The actions we take – no matter how small – make a difference. [...] is my solution to help solve the water crisis. #WaterAction

Be the change and speak up about the #WaterAction we can all take to build a sustainable future for all. Share your commitment to action in the lead up to the @UN #WaterConference and #WorldWaterDay See:

<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/action-agenda> & [www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org)

#Water is at the core of #SustainableDevelopment. It is essential for health & well-being, energy & food production, robust ecosystems, climate adaptation, poverty reduction & more. Let's unite the world for #WaterAction!

Learn about the #WaterConference: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>

The #UN 2023 #WaterConference aims to generate concrete actions and commitments to advance the global #water agenda and secure transformative change at all levels. #WaterActionNOW

To learn about the conference & how you can participate, read our guide:

<https://jcor2030.org/communications-guides/>

*Don't forget  
to use the  
hashtags  
#WaterAction  
and #SDG6*





# ACT NOW: MAKE A COMMITMENT

Whether big or small, every action counts

The preeminent outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference is the [Water Action Agenda](#) — a set of commitments, pledges, and actions from governments, companies, organizations, institutions, and coalitions. Our world desperately needs strong commitments, (across all sectors and interests) to unite nations, stakeholders, and practitioners through actions that will help deliver on the goals of SDG6 and the water-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Keep reading to learn more about how you can contribute to the Water Action Agenda.



JCoR invites you to join this movement for water action. We encourage you to **submit a description of your commitments related to water and sanitation**. There are two main pathways through which your pledges and actions can be added to the larger-scale commitments from the international community:

1

**To share the commitment(s) of a group** (congregation, community, NGO, parish, etc.): Complete [JCoR's form](#) to add your group's project or initiative to the [UN's collection of Water Action Agenda commitments](#). DEADLINE: 20 March.

2

**To share a personal commitment:** Visit [UN Water's "Be the Change" website](#) to create and submit your own "action list," ways in which you commit to do your part as an individual to build a world where the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation can be enjoyed by all

Not ready to make a commitment? [Here](#) are a number of simple water actions you can take *right now*.

Let's unite and take #WaterAction today!