



WATER AND CLIMATE LEADERS

**Call to Action:
Water for Climate
Solutions**

Call to Action: Water for Climate Solutions

At COP 28 Water and Climate Leaders challenge countries to work together to achieve alignment of water and climate policies, provide mutual support through sharing of data, experiences and ideas and mainstream water into all current and relevant UNFCCC work programs across scales, and at the country level in nationally determined contributions.

Water and Climate Leaders have urged all governments to 'wake up to water' as part of the climate solution. Leaders stressed the importance of understanding the deep interconnections between water and climate change through global water information services. In this final call, Water and Climate Leaders set out key principles to integrate water for climate solutions.

We say

- Water is a 'super-power' for responding to global warming: for emission reductions, adaptation and resilience.
- Water is the key for achieving net-zero sustainable development.
- If we take care of water, water can help us take care of climate.

Our vision

National water and climate policies and actions are working in unison to achieve global climate and water goals and objectives at all levels, with the support of multilateral processes.

We call

for national governments, with the support of the international community, to take the following three actions:

01 Policy alignment

aligning the sustainable management of water resources and climate actions to support achieving agreed national climate and water-related objectives

02 Mutual support

sharing data, experiences, and ideas on policy and practice and jointly preparing agreed principles and guidance materials

03 Mainstreaming

working together for water to be embodied into all current and relevant UNFCCC work programs across scales, and at the country level in nationally determined contributions

Policy alignment

- We call for water resources to be managed consistent with global climate mitigation and adaptation objectives as set out in and under the Paris Agreement, and climate actions to be consistent with global water resources and water services objectives as set out in and under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Mutual support

- We call for sharing of experiences in achieving global climate goals in a way that also achieves water related sustainable development goals, and vice versa, and the preparation of guidance materials.
- We call for principles and practices of water policy and actions to contribute to climate (mitigation and adaptation) objectives, and for principles and practices of climate policy and actions to contribute to sustainable water objectives. Such principles and practices would draw on the national experiences of all participating countries.
- We call for countries to assist each other directly in the design of new national actions that would be beneficial to climate and water objectives, such as through nationally determined contributions under the UNFCCC and climate-related national commitments under the Water Action Agenda.

Mainstreaming

- We call for water to be embodied into all current and appropriate UNFCCC processes, including in food security, 'loss and damage', 'impacts', 'scaling-up' and adaptation, as well as IPCC work programmes, and for this mainstreaming to be achieved at the country level in nationally determined contributions.
- All regional and multi-country groups to promote the role of water policy and management in climate mitigation and adaptation, and to support each other in these processes.
- We call on parties to water-related treaties and members of the governing bodies of the UN specialized agencies, to work together to ensure alignment of their water and climate objectives and programs, consistent with the key message from the UN 2023 Water Conference for an 'inter-COP' to connect, integrate, and fully implement water-related decisions made at global assemblies, conventions, and within frameworks dedicated to climate, resilience, and the environment.
- We call for all members of all relevant international agencies and processes of other sectors, such as the International Energy Agency, the FAO Committee on Food Security, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, to embody 'water for climate' objectives in their mandates.
- We call for the consistent promotion of these key messages and mission in public statements.

We call for ambition: possibly a future 'water for climate' compact?

Countries choosing to respond to this call and to take these proposed actions, along with supportive institutions, may consider strengthening their collaboration in the future, to enable collective sharing and learning of implementation experience and the collaborative further development of the actions in this call.

Issued by Water and Climate Leaders



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Implementing this call will probably require changes to policy and practice at the national level, advocacy in international forums, sharing of your national experiences, and cooperation with other countries seeking to implement the call. In return, improved water and climate outcomes should deliver ongoing national benefits.