

1. Finland and Water for Cooperation

Finland is a steadfast supporter of the United Nations and remains committed to its success. The UN must focus on its core goals: preventing and ending conflicts, protecting human rights, and promoting sustainable development. Water plays a critical role across all three pillars – peace, human rights, and development – especially in transboundary basins.

Finland is actively engaged in the UN work and will continue to be. We are standing for election to the UN Security Council for the 2029–2030 term, and willing and committed to co-chairing the Interactive Dialogue d) on “Water for Cooperation” at the 2026 UN Water Conference. As a potential co-chair to the ID d), as defined in the document A/79/L.101 of 3 July 2025 (“Water for cooperation: transboundary and international water cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and inclusive governance”), Finland pledges to be principled – anchored in international law and the UN Charter – and pragmatic – focused on achieving meaningful outcomes that advance water cooperation for human rights, peace and security.

Internationally, Finland promotes the equitable use of transboundary water resources. We played a key role in shaping international water law in the 1960s and in codifying it through the two UN Water Conventions¹. Finland supports transboundary cooperation globally—through bilateral engagement in shared basins and through multilateral efforts such as the 1992 UN Water Convention. The UN Water Convention represents the rules-based framework for transboundary water governance, and Finland fully supports its principles.

Water resources are essential to security, economic stability, and people’s wellbeing. Finland’s water governance system functions effectively through coordination across sectors and actors, including in transboundary contexts. Finland provides affordable, high-quality drinking water and sanitation for all, maintaining a balance between human needs and environmental sustainability.

This success has evolved through a long-term collaboration with the private sector, scientific institutions, and civil society. Finland has invested in scientific partnerships and sound governance frameworks, enabling more equitable and efficient water use and harmonizing competing demands.

Finland remains committed to advancing water cooperation at regional and global levels. We share out expertise in transboundary governance and scientific collaboration and work closely with neighbouring countries to manage shared waters—even amid geopolitical challenges—as an upstream riparian in some cases.

2. Finnish Water Way - strategy

Finland’s role as a co-chair for the ID d) will be guided by the *Finnish Water Way* strategy, which embodies our commitment to inclusivity, transparency, collaboration and our spirit of working Together. This strategy reflects Finland’s multi-stakeholder approach to achieving a *Water-Secure World by 2030* and advancing the SDG 6 on water and sanitation.

¹ 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and 1997 Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention)

The strategy sets out a shared concept, vision, mission, and an implementation framework, ensuring coherence across Finland's water sector, and is shared by the following five water mandated ministries:

- Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

Finland has made significant investments in cross-sectoral collaboration, engaging ministries, research institutions, civil society, and the private sector. This experience – combined with Finland's active role in international water diplomacy – will be a valuable contribution to the ID d) process.

3. Commitment, Key Partners and Resources (inputs)

Finland brings high-level expertise with the Finnish Water Way team, long-standing national and international partnerships, and a solid resource base, all underpinned by a strong political commitment – ensuring the capacity to lead effectively as the co-chair for the ID d).

3.1 Political commitment

The five signatory ministries endorsing the Finnish Water Way strategy are committed to advancing international water affairs and cooperation, as outlined in the strategy. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development have formally expressed commitment to co-chair the ID d), reinforcing Finland's leadership in global water affairs.

This commitment enables the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) and other relevant ministries to pursue high-level participation in key events throughout 2025-2026 leading up to the 2026 UN Water Conference.

Finland has appointed a Special Envoy for Water – a globally rare and high-level role – with the mandate extended through August 2028. This position will actively lead Finland's co-chairing role of ID d) and ensure a high-level presence at key events throughout the process.

3.2 Core Team

The proposed ID d) "Water for Cooperation" core team brings together experienced water professionals and diplomats from Finland's water-mandated ministries. This group of seasoned experts forms the foundation of the initiative, with the flexibility to include additional colleagues from relevant ministries, Finnish research institutions, NGOs and private sector as needed, to ensure a comprehensive and well-coordinated leadership.

- Mr. Antti Rautavaara, Special Envoy for Water, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Dr. Annukka Lipponen, Chief Specialist in Water Resources Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Mr. Turo Hjerppe, Senior specialist, Ministry of the Environment
- Dr. Virpi Turunen, Senior Water Policy Officer for Water, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

- Mr. Jukka Ilomäki, Senior Water Advisor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Jenni Mikkola, First Secretary, Sustainable Development, Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

3.3 Preferred Co-Chairing Partnership with Zambia

Building on our discussions with the Government of Zambia, Finland is pleased to identify Zambia as our preferred partner for the thematic co-chair role. Together, Finland and Zambia offer a uniquely complementary partnership: Finland contributes with strong science-policy cooperation, technical and innovation capacity, transboundary water expertise, and global convening power, while Zambia brings invaluable practical experience as both an upper and lower riparian in major transboundary basins and strong regional perspective. Both countries are active Parties to the UN Water Convention, reinforcing their shared commitment to cooperative water governance.

This proposed partnership embodies the collaborative spirit essential for advancing effective and inclusive water cooperation. We understand that Zambia will submit a separate *Expression of Interest*, and wish to record our preference to partner with Zambia in co-chairing the Interactive Dialogue d) “Water for Cooperation”.

3.4 Key Partners (international)

Finland has actively engaged with key international partners throughout the preparation of this *Expression of Interest* (Eol), establishing strong channels of communication and collaboration. Finland will maintain close coordination with at least these partners during the preparatory phase and the Conference itself. Notably, Finland is already a member, financial supporter, or trusted collaborator of all the organizations and countries listed below.

- UN Water Conference co-hosts: Senegal and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- UN DESA
- preferred thematic co-chair partner: Zambia
- previous ID “Water for cooperation” co-chairs: Senegal and Switzerland
- UN-Water
- UNECE / Secretariat of the UN Water Convention
- Parties to the UN Water Convention and specifically it’s geographically balanced Bureau
- UNESCO
- UN Special Envoy on Water HE Retno Marsudi
- UN Global Compact
- The World Bank and GEF
- European Commission
- Key European partners: Slovenia, Sweden and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Switzerland and Geneva Water Hub (GWH)
- International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
- Women in Water Diplomacy Network (WWDN)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Glasgow Declaration for Fair Water Footprints
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- OECD Water Governance Initiative

The *Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition* (TWCC) serves as a vital platform uniting non-state actors engaged in transboundary water cooperation. It already includes many of Finland's key partners mentioned above, making it a strategic forum for collaboration. As an active member, Finland will continue to leverage TWCC's collective expertise and networks to advance shared goals in the ID d) process and beyond.

3.5 Key Partners (national)

Finland's ability to contribute meaningfully to international water dialogue and diplomacy is grounded in strong national partnerships. Key actors across academia, research, government, and civil society bring essential expertise, networks, and practical tools to support inclusive, science-based, and solutions-oriented water governance. The following national partners play a critical role in advancing Finland's water agenda and would be central in supporting the co-chairing.

Academic and research institutions

Effective, efficient, and inclusive water management and governance relies on multidisciplinary science-policy cooperation, ensuring decisions on shared water resources are informed by the latest research, mutual trust, and a commitment to equity. The UN Water Conferences are well placed to act as a platform to strengthen science-policy cooperation, science diplomacy, and to promote knowledge-based decision-making across water and related sectors.

Finnish academia and research organisations are very active in water research. The *Research Council of Finland* is currently funding several national (e.g., [Water for Welfare, Security and Peace](#)) and European research programs (e.g., [Water4All](#)) that directly feed into the ID d) themes. Their expert inputs and international networks (IWA, IWRA, EurAqua etc) can be utilized to support the Dialogue. This collaboration is exemplified already by the Research Council of Finland and research institutes' participation in the preparation of this EoI.

Finnish Water Forum (FWF)

The *Finnish Water Forum* (FWF) will play a central role in supporting ministries in Finland's potential co-chairing. FWF is a collaborative network that brings together actors from both the public and private water sectors – including companies, ministries, research and educational institutions, and water-related associations. It serves as a national platform for cooperation and represents the full spectrum of Finland's water expertise.

The FWF was an instrumental part of the Finnish delegation to the 2023 UN Water Conference. Finland's delegation included 10 government representatives, as well as 20 water professionals from FWF member organizations, from the private sector and academia. The delegation was active in multiple fronts during the 2023 Conference, including high-level events and company organized events. FWF facilitates the availability of Finland's innovative water-based solutions to global partners, aiming to contribute to a water-secure world by 2030. See also:

<https://www.finnishwaterforum.fi/wp/en/>

Water Diplomacy Platform

Water diplomacy is one of the focus areas of the *Finnish Water Way* strategy, responding to the growing global need for transboundary water cooperation. The *Water Diplomacy Platform* plays a key role in supporting ministries through confidential processes by:

- Providing expert guidance

- Elevating the profile of water diplomacy in international forums
- Advancing the knowledge base and methodologies of the field
- Strengthening the capacity of both Finnish and international water diplomacy actors

This platform will also contribute directly to Finland's co-chairing. See also:

<https://www.syke.fi/en/projects/waterdiplomacy>

3.6 Financial Resources

Finland is deeply engaged in international water processes and is committed to shaping meaningful outcomes for the 2026 UN Water Conference. Through strategic investments and strong networks, Finland is well-positioned to help steer these efforts toward impactful and inclusive results. In-house expertise and partner organizations (as outlined above) are fully equipped to drive the process forward. These actors bring extensive experience in organizing high-level events and thematic seminars, a capacity we will continue to leverage in the lead-up to the Conference.

Finland also stands ready to mobilize and direct resources through multiple channels to support the 2026 UN Water Conference. Targeted financing is already being directed to key platforms and institutions, including:

- UN Water Convention
- Finnish Water Forum (FWF)
- Finnish Water Diplomacy Platform
- Women in Water Diplomacy Network (WWDN)
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- Water4All (EU)
- Strategic Research Council of the Academy of Finland

These investments reflect Finland's commitment to ensure a transparent, inclusive, and well-resourced process that delivers tangible progress in global water cooperation.

4. Key considerations and process (outputs)

4.1 Key considerations

2026 UN Water Conference (December) in UAE

At the Conference, Finland is committed to (at least) a ministerial level co-chairing. Apart from the dialogue itself, Finland, together with the co-chair and other partners, shall aim to organize relevant high-level and side-events. The political and other dialogues are to lead to announcements and commitments of concrete deliverables, as well as to high visibility in international media.

Preparatory Meeting of the 2026 UN Water Conference (January) in Senegal

The preparatory meeting in Senegal is the first opportunity for the selected co-chairs to convene and start the process towards Conference. At the preparatory meeting, countries and organizations are expected to already have their visions for concrete actions and deliverables they are aiming at.

Priority for the UN-led and other well-established processes/events

As a co-chair, Finland will strategically leverage existing UN processes and high-level events to maximize impact. These include the Preparatory Meeting in Dakar, the *High-Level Political Forum* (HLPF) 2026, COPs, UNEA-7, and UN Water Convention meetings. In addition, Finland will engage with key regional platforms and internationally recognized events such as the *Stockholm World Water Week* to ensure broad participation, visibility, and momentum leading up to the 2026 UN Water Conference.

Coordination between six interactive dialogues

Finland believes that the preparatory process for the six interactive dialogues should be coordinated and mutually reinforcing. Achieving this requires consistent collaboration among all co-chairs, supported by strategic guidance from the co-hosts and the Conference Secretariat (UN DESA).

To facilitate this, Finland proposes the establishment of a virtual ID Coordination Group, bringing together all twelve co-chairs and the two co-hosts, with the Secretariat serving as a coordinator. This platform would enable alignment, knowledge-sharing, and coherence across the dialogues.

Additionally, Finland recommends identifying common thematic elements across the six dialogues and organizing pre-dialogue sessions to build momentum and ensure a unified approach toward the Conference.

Pre-dialogues (online consultations for all six IDs)

Finland encourages the organization of online multistakeholder pre-dialogues, supported by UN DESA, UN-Water and the co-chairs, to foster inclusive engagement across the six interactive dialogues. These sessions would enhance coherence, promote integration, and ensure that diverse perspectives are reflected in the preparatory process. Written inputs from participants could be synthesized and incorporated into the official proceedings of the 2026 UN Water Conference, strengthening its relevance and impact.

Learning from 2023 UN Water Conference

Switzerland and Senegal were the two co-chairs of the interactive dialogue “Water for cooperation” at the 2023 UN Water Conference. Finland seeks to continue to learn from their experience and harvest their views to advance the interactive dialogue agenda in full.

Geographical awareness

Key processes and events will be strategically selected to ensure the broadest possible geographical representation. This approach will foster inclusive participation and enable the collection of diverse perspectives essential for shaping a globally relevant and impactful dialogue.

- **Finland as an EU Member State represents European views.** Finland works in close dialogue with the European Commission and other EU member states, aligning the efforts with the *European Water Resilience Strategy* – particularly its Global Action chapter, which emphasizes transboundary water cooperation. Finland also supports key EU instruments such as the *Team Europe Initiative* (TEI) on Transboundary Water Management in Africa, reinforcing the commitment to a coordinated and impactful international engagement.
- **Acknowledgement of African Union opportunities.** The year 2026 has been declared as the “*African Union Year on Water and Sanitation*,” marking a pivotal moment for regional water cooperation. A key milestone will be the “*All Systems Symposium Africa*,” scheduled for July 2026 in Kigali, Rwanda, and convened by AMCOW under Senegal’s chairmanship. Finland actively contributed to building momentum by participating in Panafcon-3 in Lusaka, strengthening ties with our preferred co-chair partner and reinforcing the commitment to a collaborative leadership in the lead-up to the Conference.
- **Asia.** Finland has engaged with the ASEAN earlier in 2025 to promote transboundary water cooperation via an ASEAN event in Jakarta, and is supporting a UN Water Convention event on *International Water Law (IWL): Improving water governance and climate resilient investment* in Bangkok (12/2025).
- **Latin America and Caribbean.** Key events in this region are the Climate COP30 in Belem (Brazil) in November 2025, and the INBO General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in June 2026. Key partner SIWI is organizing a Water Pavilion at the COP30, with relevant events for the ID d).

Transboundary Investments

While financing for transboundary water cooperation has gained attention in recent years, significant gaps remain in funding both operational processes and basin development. Finland is actively working with key financial institutions – including development banks, the World Bank’s Global Facility for Transboundary Water Cooperation, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – to help close this gap.

Leveraging climate financing for water and transboundary waters is essential. For example, the GEF funding could achieve greater long-term, sustainable impact through closer collaboration with the UN Water Convention, which offers a robust framework for monitoring progress and provides practical tools.

Under Finland’s leadership in advancing the *Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems* (WEFE) nexus under the Water Convention, global experiences, notably through a devoted Task Force acting as the platform, have helped identify important vehicles for nexus solutions and effective investments: cross-cutting regional strategies agreed by multiple governments, joint river basin plans, and regionally coordinated financial support.

To accelerate climate-smart transitions and water-wise adaptation, increased investment in climate and water resilience is essential. Development funds, blended financing and innovative public-private partnerships can be strategically combined with climate financing to unlock cross-sectoral solutions and drive sustainable impact.

In addition, Transboundary Aquifers (TBAs) are critical shared resources that require targeted investments to improve monitoring systems and promote innovative groundwater management. Financing that supports cost-effective, nature-based practices, such as watershed management, including through *managed aquifer recharge* (MAR), empowers local communities and offers alternatives to capital-intensive infrastructure, fostering cooperation and the long-term protection of shared groundwater systems.

Water Diplomacy processes

Finland views “*Water, Peace and Security*” as a shared priority for all UN Member States. Addressing water-related conflicts and preventing disputes is essential for fostering collaboration between water experts, peace and security professionals, and diplomats. The Conference should highlight the role of water diplomacy in conflict prevention and peace and security – while fully acknowledging the sensitivities and complexities this topic entails.

Water diplomacy plays a vital role in advancing transboundary water cooperation – even in non-conflict settings – by facilitating agreements, establishing joint bodies, developing joint river basin management plans, and enabling systems for data exchange and early warning. With strong partnerships, many of these outcomes can be achieved by or showcased at the Conference

Finland with its partners shall continue to provide their services to different parties and observers at disputes and conflicts that are on-going in many transboundary basins. The lead-up to the Conference presents a critical window to facilitate dialogue and help parties at some transboundary locations to move toward mutually acceptable solutions – some of which could be formalized at the Conference itself.

Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

Addressing both local and global challenges requires harnessing synergies and managing the trade-offs that arise between various sectors. Advancing inclusive and just governance requires integration and coordination across multiple levels, engaging key economic sectors through a WEF nexus approach. Finland views the Conference as having the potential to serve as a platform to promote the practical application of the WEF nexus approach at various scales – local, national, regional, and global via trade.

Finland also promotes water stewardship action of the private sector for achieving sustainable and fair water footprints of production and consumption throughout the international value chains, working together with the *Glasgow Declaration for Fair Water Footprints*. By showcasing successful cross-sectoral and cross-scale solutions and addressing obstacles to cooperation, the Conference can highlight how coordinated action across sectors can deliver tangible outcomes for sustainable water management and governance.

Collaboration across sectors can significantly enhance water resilience, improve sustainable water use in agriculture, support the transition to clean energy, and better address hydrological extremes, including droughts and floods. Moreover, it enables more effective early warning systems and strengthens climate action efforts.

Science cooperation

Effective and collaborative water management should be based on multidisciplinary science-policy cooperation to ensure that decisions on shared water resources are guided by sound science, mutual trust, and a commitment to equity. Finland fosters science diplomacy and

international collaboration by promoting scientific integrity, global responsibility, and the protection of researchers at risk, while standing firmly with the international community in upholding scientific freedom, democracy, and human rights.

UNESCO *Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers* (2017) reaffirms the ethical foundations of science and the responsibilities of the scientific community, calling for research to be conducted with integrity and in service of the common good.

Scientific cooperation – encompassing collaboration across institutions, sectors, and borders – serves as a critical tool for generating reliable data and shared knowledge. This, in turn, supports informed decision-making and strengthens the effectiveness of water cooperation at all levels. The UNESCO *Recommendation on Open Science* (2021) promotes the sharing of scientific knowledge, data, and research infrastructure to foster inclusive, transparent, and collaborative practices that enhance evidence-based decision-making and innovation.

By advancing open science principles, countries and institutions can build mutual trust, bridge knowledge gaps, and ensure that scientific insights are accessible to all stakeholders – ultimately reinforcing collective action and resilience in the sustainable management of water resources.

The UN Water *Expert Group on Transboundary Water Cooperation*, coordinated by UNESCO and UNECE, provides an important platform for knowledge exchange and coordination to enhance water cooperation at global and regional levels.

Inclusivity

Advancing inclusivity, ensuring gender equality and the participation of civil society, especially women and youth in all their diversity, are key foreign policy priorities for Finland. Finland is a firm supporter of both *Women, Peace and Security* (WPS) as well as *Youth, Peace and Security* (YPS) Agendas. These confirm the vital role of both women and youth, in prevention and resolution of conflicts.

- **Gender equality:** to support greater inclusion of women in the preparations leading to and during the UN Water Conference in December 2026, Finland continues to support the *Women in Water Diplomacy Network* (WWDN). WWDN is a community of practice comprised of both formal and informal women water diplomats, decision-makers, and experts, working collectively to strengthen women's leadership in transboundary water decision-making. The Women in Water Diplomacy Network has actively participated in key preparatory dialogues since the 2026 UN Water Conference planning processes were initiated. UNESCO has a wide experience on the area of water and gender, through the pioneering work of the World Water Assessment Programme on gender disaggregated data, also in transboundary context.
- **Youth engagement:** Finland is seeking to engage a youth representative to the delegation of Finland, and we would be willing to explore the possibility of having the youth delegate co-chairing the Interactive Dialogue together with the Finnish Minister and the other co-chair.

Other possibilities for youth engagement could include:

- pop-up 'Youth Debate' on water for cooperation, including delegates from across regions

- reverse mentoring: pair 5 youth delegates with government delegations, for representatives across regions
- co-design a social media campaign with youth representatives, aiming to source issues youth would like to include for discussion
- include young persons on the planning committee

UNESCO is playing a major role, within the UN system, in the water and youth thematic area. In 2025, UNESCO hosted the first water youth dialogue, that led to the development of a water youth strategy adopted by 370 of water-youth organizations. UNESCO has confirmed support on this area, ensuring that particular attention will be given to equipping young professionals with the skills and tools to contribute meaningfully to discussions on water cooperation and diplomacy.

- **Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups:** The perspectives of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, persons with disabilities, and people in vulnerable situations need to be considered throughout the discussions of the Conference. Their meaningful participation to the Conference and interactive dialogues is to be ensured.

4.2 Preparatory Process

Pre-dialogues

Finland suggests a series of thematic pre-dialogues (public online consultations) for ensuring multistakeholder participation in preparing all of the six interactive dialogues and for motivating impactful outcomes, to be organized by UN DESA, UN-Water and the appointed co-chairs.

In-Person Events/Meetings/Seminars/Conferences:

There are a wide range of water meetings and events at global, regional, and national levels. Given this, it is crucial to be highly selective about where efforts are focused to advance the ID d) "Water for Cooperation."

Finland prioritizes engagement with the United Nations processes and events, followed by participation in well-established sector events, such as the *Stockholm World Water Week* organized by SIWI. Preparations towards the Conference are already well under way. Finland has proactively participated in several key events that have already taken place during the 2025.

The events listed below will be used as part of the preparatory process for the ID d). Finland, in collaboration with partners, plans to integrate the ID d) initiative into these pre-scheduled events, which cover holistically all three key areas of the interactive dialogue "Water for Cooperation": transboundary water cooperation, scientific cooperation and inclusive governance.

Earlier in 2025:

- ASEAN: *Discussion series – Advancing Regional Water Security Agenda*, Jakarta 01/2025
- The *Organizational Session* in preparation for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, New York 03/2025
- 5th *Baghdad International Water Conference* (5th BIWC), Baghdad 05/2025
- 3rd *African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water* (PANAFCON3), Lusaka 05/2025
- AGDA: *Water Diplomacy: Building Bridges for Peace and Cooperation*, Abu Dhabi 06/2025

- WB, UNECE and GWH: *2nd Global Forum on Transboundary Water and Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus*, Geneva 06/2025
- **Preparatory Meeting of the 2026 UN Water Conference, New York, 9 July 2025:**
- SIWI: 35th Stockholm World Water Week, 08/2025 (Theme: Water for Climate Action)
- 42nd UN-Water Meeting, Geneva 09/2025

Upcoming 2025 and 2026:

- 8th *Cairo Water Week*, Cairo 10/2025
- IHE Delft: *Water, Peace and Security Conference*, Nairobi 10/2025
- UN Water Convention joint Meetings of the Working Groups on Integrated Water Resources Management and Monitoring and Assessment 10/2025;
- COP30: *UN Climate Change Conference*, Belem 11/2025
- IWRA World Water Congress, Marrakech 12/2025
- 7th UN Environment Assembly, Nairobi 12/2025
- **High Level Preparatory Meeting of 2026 UN Water Conference, Dakar 01/2026**
- UN Regional Economic Commissions Regional Fora / preparatory meetings for 2026 HLPF
- Fair Water Footprints Conference, London 02/2026
- 43rd UN-Water Meeting, Rome 03/2026
- 6th *Baghdad International Water Conference* (6th BIWC), Baghdad 05/2026
- WB: 3rd Global Forum on Transboundary Water
- INBO General Assembly, Rio de Janeiro 06/2026
- Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference, Dushanbe 06/2026
- High Level Political Forum, New York 07/2026
- AU: *All Systems Symposium Africa*, Kigali 07/2026
- SIWI: 36th *Stockholm World Water Week*, Stockholm 09/2026 (Theme: Water for People and Progress)
- UN Water Convention Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus 9/2026
- IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition. Glasgow 10/2026
- Convention on Biological Diversity COP17, Yerevan 10/2026
- COP31: *UN Climate Change Conference*, Australia or Turkiye 11/2026
- **2026 UN Water Conference, UAE 12/2026**

Follow-up 2027:

- 11th World Water Forum, Riyadh 03/2027
- 11th Session of the UN Water Convention Meeting of the Parties, Senegal 2027

The above-mentioned events shall through their outcomes shape the discussions at the interactive dialogues at the 2026 UN Water Conference and thus contribute to proceedings of the Conference.

5. Expected concrete deliverables (outcomes)

The preparatory process for the Interactive Dialogue (outputs) led by the co-chairs and supported by the wide networks and commitment behind (inputs), will aim for delivering as tangible and action-oriented deliverables and outcomes as possible to be announced by the international community at the Conference and later as a result of the Conference.

These may include for example the following:

5.1 Water Action Agenda

The focus shall be on a solution-orientated and accelerated implementation. The Water Action Agenda from the 2023 UN Water Conference provides a good starting point. However, it is not clear if the WAA shall be monitored and extended. Finland considers that the WAA could be a foundation that needs to be revisited and built upon. For coherence between the IDs, the updating of the WAA should be led by UN DESA, and the co-chairs could support UN DESA in the ID related parts.

- Existing “Water for cooperation” related actions completed;
- New “Water for cooperation” related concrete actions enlisted.

5.2 Advancement in transboundary water cooperation identified through the SDG 6.5 Indicators

- Expected improvement in SDG 6.5.1 indicator (SDG6 Synthesis Report);
- Case studies of recent achievements in transboundary cooperation identified through the 4th SDG 6.5.2 indicator cycle linked to/coupled with reporting under the UN Water Convention;
- Transboundary Aquifers, improved consideration within SDG 6.5.2 assessments is essential to address data gaps and reflect growing cooperation on shared groundwater.

5.3 UN Water Convention

- Countries becoming Parties to the UN Water Convention;
- Countries in accession process to the UN Water Convention making a political commitment at the Conference to finalize accession as soon as possible;
- Increased global interest towards the UN Water Convention through the process and at the Conference.

5.4 Concrete progress on transboundary water cooperation

- New transboundary agreements signed by or at the Conference;
- New joint bodies (river, lake or aquifer organisations) established by or at the Conference;
- New transboundary strategies such as river basin management plans, adaptation strategies, sectoral use strategies, adopted by or at the Conference;
- New data sharing arrangements or early warning systems launched by or at the Conference;
- New transboundary investments/ projects by GEF/ World Bank/ GCF/ Adaptation fund/ MDBs/ bilateral donors/ announced or launched at the Conference;

5.5 Water Diplomacy processes and results

- Water diplomacy processes to identify and take action so that some of the existing water disputes and conflict would be agreed upon at the Conference, if only possible;
- Approach to Water Diplomacy also applied by other actors/partners, such as European Union, African Union, ASEAN, OSCE etc.
- *Group of Friends on Water and Peace* (Chair: Slovenia, co-chairs: Switzerland, Senegal, Costa Rica; Secretariat at the Geneva Water Hub and based in Geneva): meetings

encompassing how to address the peace aspect across the whole 2026 UN Water Conference and in particular through the ID d).

5.6 Other concrete outcomes

- With the lead of Finland, a background paper prepared by international experts presenting the role of science and research in policy development and implementation.
- Compilation of good practices on ID d) themes.
- Scientific cooperation announced, e.g. on south-south or north-south scientific cooperation or new scientific projects launched at the Conference
- Cooperation projects on capacity development launched, e.g. peer to peer or Twinning initiatives to support transboundary cooperation and implementation of the principles of the 1992 UN Water Convention
- New signatories to the Glasgow Declaration for Fair Water Footprints, including from the private sector
- Initiation of WEFE-nexus based assessments, projects and solutions on cross-sector cooperation on the ground.
- New partners to the OECD Water Governance Initiative, and enhanced application of its principles
- Improved understanding on the operationalization of water as an instrument in preventing conflicts, building, and sustaining peace. GWH preparing literature review on water and peace; development of a water for peace framework; practical guidance on water and mediation.

6. Communication

Finland is planning to utilize the communication materials from UN DESA and co-hosts to amplify their communication voices. At least the following specific communication has been planned:

- Utilisation of formal media channels for the five ministries of the Finnish Water Way strategy;
- Utilisation of partner means for public outreach;
- A series of 4-6 topical articles at The Water Diplomat;

7. Contact information

For all correspondence related to this Expression of Interest, please contact:

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