

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2023

Side-event

Global water information for improved policy and decision-making – HydroSOS implementation

Date and Time: Wednesday 19 July, 18:30-20:00

Location: Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York

Organized by the World Meteorological Organization

Background

As governments gather at the [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) to review the progress of the 2030 Agenda, the world is dealing with an unprecedented confluence of challenges, including crises of food/nutrition, water and energy security, climate change and biodiversity loss, pandemic impacts, economic pressures, natural disasters, and conflicts.

Several of these challenges, if not all, depend on water and the achievement of SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. According to the [Global Sustainable Development Report 2023](#) over half of countries (107) are not on-track to have sustainably managed water resources by 2030 which is vital for balancing competing water demands from across society and the economy. Currently, estimated 2.3 billion people live in water stressed countries, of which 733 million live in high and critically high water stressed countries. The report further highlights progress to be threatened by climate change, and by competing agricultural, ecological and economic priorities, along with multiple threats to water quality.

Making consistent hydrological information available is the first step to empower stakeholders to make informed decisions to sustainably manage their water resources across sectors and borders. Understanding water resource availability now and in the future allows better planning and support for providing safe drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6), sustainably produce energy (SDG 7), safeguard cities and communities (SDG 11), and increase industrial resource-use efficiency (SDG 9). Improved global water information will accelerate the implementation of the of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by fostering international and regional cooperation among countries, sectors and ministries (SDG 17).

At the [UN 2023 Water Conference](#) the commitment entitled “[Better global water information through the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System \(HydroSOS\) & Reporting](#)” was submitted to the [Water Action Agenda](#). The initiative aims to strengthen countries’ capacities in three key areas:

1. Improving the ability to consistently generate hydrological status assessments and outlooks at a seasonal to sub-seasonal scale.
2. Facilitating the integration of these assessment and outlook products into policy and decision-making processes at the national, regional, and global levels.
3. Publishing a comprehensive yearly global report that provides an overview of the overall status of water resources.

Through these efforts, the initiative seeks to empower countries with enhanced capabilities for assessing and managing water resources, fostering informed decision-making, and promoting sustainable water management practices to support accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

During the 19th WMO Congress in May/June 2023, the regional implementation plans of HydroSOS were approved. Currently, the framework is applied, scaled to more river basins or the implementation is progressing in more than 50 countries.

Objectives:

This event will present the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS) and how it is being implemented in different countries worldwide through collaboration with different partners, including National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and affiliated water departments, transboundary basin organizations, research organizations, and in consultations with stakeholders from various sectors. Benefits of consistently generated global water information and future investment needs will be discussed

Tentative Programme:

Opening by Moderator (2 min)

- Ms. Laura Paterson, Coordinator to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in North America, World Meteorological Organization

Welcoming Remarks (7 mins)

- Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, WMO

Keynote Remarks (8 mins)

- H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the General Assembly

Setting the Scene - Better global water information through the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS) & Reporting (15 min)

- Anthony Slatyer, Water Policy and Governance Advisor, Water Policy Group (includes launch of the [2023 Global Water Policy Report](#))
- Prof. Alan Jenkins, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (online)

Panel discussion: Implementing the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS) (25-35 mins, - 5 mins each)

- Professor Eeva Furman, Secretary-General on Sustainable Development, Prime Minister's Office, Finland
- Andrea Toreti, Senior Scientist, European Commission Joint Research Centre (online)
- Dr. Hajnalka Petrics, Programme Officer, Office of Sustainable Development Goals, FAO
- Dr. Rahmah Elfithri, Chief of Section, Capacity Development and Water Family Coordination, UNESCO
- Dr Bapon Fakhrudin, Water Sector Lead, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, Green Climate Fund (online)
- Qiankun WANG, Executive Director, GEIDCO North America Representative Office

Q & A: Interaction with the audience if time allows (10-20 mins)

Closing remarks by moderator (5 mins)