

## United Nations 2023 Water Conference

### Why in news?

Over 700 commitments were made at the recently conducted United Nations 2023 Water Conference in New York City to make the world water-secure.

### What is UN 2023 Water Conference about?

- The UN 2023 Water Conference is formally known as the 2023 Conference for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of Implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028).
- **Aim** - “Our watershed moment: uniting the world for water”, aims to support the achievement of internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- It took place at UN Headquarters in ***New York***.
- It was co-hosted by ***Tajikistan and the Netherlands***.
- It took 46 long years for the UN to organize this Water Conference in 2023, the first being held in 1977 in ***Mar de Plata, Argentina***.

*Water Water Day is 22 March 2023, and this year the theme is “Accelerating change”*

### What are the major initiatives taken?

- **Water Action Agenda** - The *700 voluntary commitments* will form the Water Action Agenda.
- **Climate resilient water and sanitation infrastructure** - USA announced a commitment of up to \$49 billion in investments to support climate resilient water and sanitation infrastructure and services
- **Quality Infrastructure** - Japan announced that it will contribute 500 billion yen to the solution of *water-related social issues* faced by the Asia-Pacific region by developing quality Infrastructure
- **River basins management and clean running water** -Vietnam pledged *to develop policies* for major river basins management by 2025 and clean running water by 2030
- **Africa’s water investments gap** - The African Union Commission and Continental Africa Investment Programme (AIP) aims to close Africa’s water investments gap by mobilizing at least \$30 billion per year by 2030.
- **European Union (EU)** - The EU aims to support 70 million individuals to an *improved drinking water source and sanitation* facility by 2030.
- **Water Convention and transboundary cooperation** - Switzerland submitted 5 commitments in the areas of Water Convention and transboundary cooperation.

## What are the challenges?

- The commitments are non-binding in nature.
- The water action agenda should include diverse experiences and did not include the necessary communities of water management.
- The conference failed to address the violence and threats faced by communities trying to protect dwindling water sources.

## References

1. [Down to earth | UN Water Conference 2023](#)
2. [UN | UN Water Conference 2023](#)
3. [The Guardian | Challenges](#)

