

Appendix 2

Water-related goals and objectives of major conferences and forums, 1972-present

Table A2.1 Water-related goals and objectives of major conferences and forums, 1972-present

International forum	Agreed goals and objectives
UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, Sweden, 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main issues of the conference were preservation and enhancement of the human environment. The declaration of the conference acknowledged that 'a point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences.'
UN Conference on Water, Mar del Plata, Argentina, 1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main objective of this first global-scale conference on water was to promote greater awareness nationally and internationally of global problems related to water and to assess water resources and water use efficiency through an integrated approach to water resources management. Led to declaring the 1980s International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, with the objective of providing drinking water and sanitation for all people by 1990.
International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1981-90	'The goal of the Decade was that, by the end of 1990, all people should possess an adequate water supply and satisfactory means of excreta and sillage disposal. This was indeed an ambitious target as it has been estimated that it would have involved the provision of water and sanitation services to over 650,000 people per day for the entire ten year period. Although major efforts were made by government and international organisations to meet this target, it was not achieved.' (C. Choguill, R. Francys and A. Cotton, 1993, Planning for Water and Sanitation)
Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, New Delhi, India, 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main issues were safe drinking water and environmental sanitation. The New Delhi Statement declared: 'Safe water and proper means of waste disposal . . . must be at the center of integrated water resources management.' (Environment and health, New Delhi Statement)
World Summit for Children, New York, United States, 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main issues were health and food supply. The World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children stated: 'We will promote the provision of clean water in all communities for all their children, as well as universal access to sanitation.'
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 1990-2000	Recognized the increased vulnerability of people and property to natural disasters and sought 'to reduce through concerted international action, especially in developing countries, the loss of life, property damage and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters.' (Resolution 44/236 of the UN General Assembly)
International Conference on Water and Environment, Dublin, Ireland, 1992	<p>The most important achievement was the development of the Dublin Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment. Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels. Women play a central part in providing, managing and safeguarding water. <p>Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good.</p>

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Table A2.1 Water-related goals and objectives of major conferences and forums, 1972-present (continued)

International forum	Agreed goals and objectives
UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992	<p>Agenda 21, chapter 18, 'Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources', dealt with the basis for action, objectives and activities concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated water resources development and management. • Water resources assessment. • Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems. • Drinking water supply and sanitation. • Water and sustainable urban development. • Water for sustainable food production and rural development. • Impacts of climate change on water resources.
Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation, Noordwijk, The Netherlands, 1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main issues were drinking water supply and sanitation. • The Programme of Action identified 'assign[ing] high priority to programmes designed to provide basic sanitation and excreta disposal systems to urban and rural areas.'
UN International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Programme of Action highlighted 'ensur[ing] that population, environmental and poverty eradication factors are integrated in sustainable development policies, plans and programmes.' (Chapter III – Interrelationships between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development)
World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main issues were poverty reduction, water supply and sanitation. • The outcome was the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.
UN Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, People's Republic of China, 1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main issues were gender, water supply and sanitation. • The outcome was the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, Turkey, 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main issues were sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. • The outcome was the Habitat Agenda.
World Food Summit, Rome, Italy, 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main issues were food, health, water and sanitation. • The outcome was the Rome Declaration on World Food Security.
1st World Water Forum, Marrakech, Morocco, 1997	<p>The main issues were water and sanitation, management of shared waters, preserving ecosystems, gender equity and efficient use of water 'to recognize the basic human needs to have access to clean water and sanitation, to establish an effective mechanism for management of shared waters, to support and preserve ecosystems, to encourage the efficient use of water.' (Marrakech Declaration)</p>
International Conference on Water and Sustainable Development, Paris, France, 1998	<p>The outcome was the Paris Declaration on Water and Sustainable Development, whose objective was 'to improve co-ordination between UN Agencies and Programmes and other international organizations, to ensure periodic consideration within the UN system. [To] emphasize the need for continuous political commitment and broad-based public support to ensure the achievement of sustainable development, management and protection, and equitable use of freshwater resources, and the importance of civil society to support this commitment.' (Paris Declaration)</p>
Millennium Declaration, New York, United States, 2000	<p>The Millennium Development Goals include the following water-related targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.' • 'To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.'

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Table A2.1 Water-related goals and objectives of major conferences and forums, 1972-present (continued)

International forum	Agreed goals and objectives
2nd World Water Forum, The Hague, The Netherlands, 2000	<p>The Ministerial Declaration identified the following main challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting basic needs – access to safe and sufficient water and sanitation. • Securing the food supply, particularly of the poor and vulnerable. • Protecting ecosystems – ensure the integrity of ecosystems through sustainable water resources management. A Sharing water resources, by peaceful cooperation between water users at all levels. • Managing risks from floods, droughts, pollution and other water hazards. • Valuing water – managing water to reflect its economic, social, environmental and cultural values. • Governing water wisely, including involving the public and the interests of all stakeholders.
International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn, Germany, 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main issues were governance, finance mobilization, capacity building and knowledge sharing. • Identified water as key to sustainable development. • The outcome was the Ministerial Declaration Recommendations for Action: ‘Combating poverty is the main challenge for achieving equitable and sustainable development, and water plays a vital role in relation to human health, livelihood, economic growth as well as sustaining ecosystems. . . . The conference recommends priority actions under the following three headings: governance, mobilising financial resources, capacity building and sharing knowledge.’ (Ministerial Declaration Recommendations for Action)
World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002	<p>The summit dealt with the following freshwater-related issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralization of governance. • Community empowerment. • Service provision: rural and urban challenges. • Information management. • Integrated water resources management. • Education and awareness. • Financial and economic mechanisms. • Regional challenges were particularly recognized and identified.
3rd World Water Forum, Kyoto, Japan, 2003	<p>The outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A water and climate dialogue, including agreed action points. • A water and poverty dialogue, including agreed action points. • A final report on financing water infrastructure. • Outcomes from the Dialogue on Food, Water and Environment. • A detailed document on Water Actions.
G-8 Evian Summit, Evian, France, 2003	<p>One outcome was a G-8 Action Plan on Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting good governance. • Using all financial resources. • Building infrastructure by empowering local authorities and communities. • Strengthening monitoring, assessment and research. • Reinforcing engagement of international organizations.
Water for Life Decade, 2005-15	<p>Launched by the United Nations System, the aim is to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015, with special emphasis on the involvement and participation of women.</p>
The World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe (Hyogo), Japan, 2005	<p>Adopted the ‘Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters’, recognizing the importance of water-related disaster risk reduction.</p>

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Table A2.1 Water-related goals and objectives of major conferences and forums, 1972-present (continued)

International forum	Agreed goals and objectives
4th World Water Forum, Mexico City, Mexico, 2006	<p>The ministers at the forum reaffirmed commitments made at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Commission on Sustainable Development during 2005, emphasizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expediting implementation in water, sanitation and human settlements.• Enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems.• Applying innovative practices such as rainwater management and development of hydropower projects in some regions.• Involving relevant stakeholders, particularly women and youth, in planning and management.• They also expressed support for relevant UN water-related activities, including the coordinating role of UN-Water.
5th World Water Forum, Istanbul, Turkey, 2009	<p>The theme is Bridging Divides for Water.</p>

Source: www.un.org/esa/sustdev and www.worldwatercouncil.org.