

## UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)



The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) upholds the development

pillar of the UN Secretariat. Based at the United Nations headquarters in New York, UN DESA supports deliberations in the UN General Assembly, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Commissions, Forums and other bodies and the implementation of their decisions, including on water and sanitation related issues.

## WHAT IS UNDESA?

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF UNDESA?

UN DESA is a pioneer of sustainable development and the home of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where each goal finds its space and where all stakeholders can do their part to leave no one behind. UN DESA is a leading analytical voice for promoting inclusion, reducing inequalities and eradicating poverty, and a champion for tearing down the barriers that keep people in poverty. The main areas of UN DESA's work include:

### Intergovernmental Support:

By facilitating major global conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as mandated by UN Member States, UN DESA assists countries as they find common ground, set norms, and take decisive steps to move the world forward.



### Analysis:

As the think tank of the United Nations, UN DESA, generates, analyses and compiles a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and statistics to inform and advise Member States and other stakeholders as they take stock of trends and policy options to tackle common problems.



### Capacity Building:

UN DESA aids in translating policy frameworks developed in UN conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, supports Member States in building national capacities.



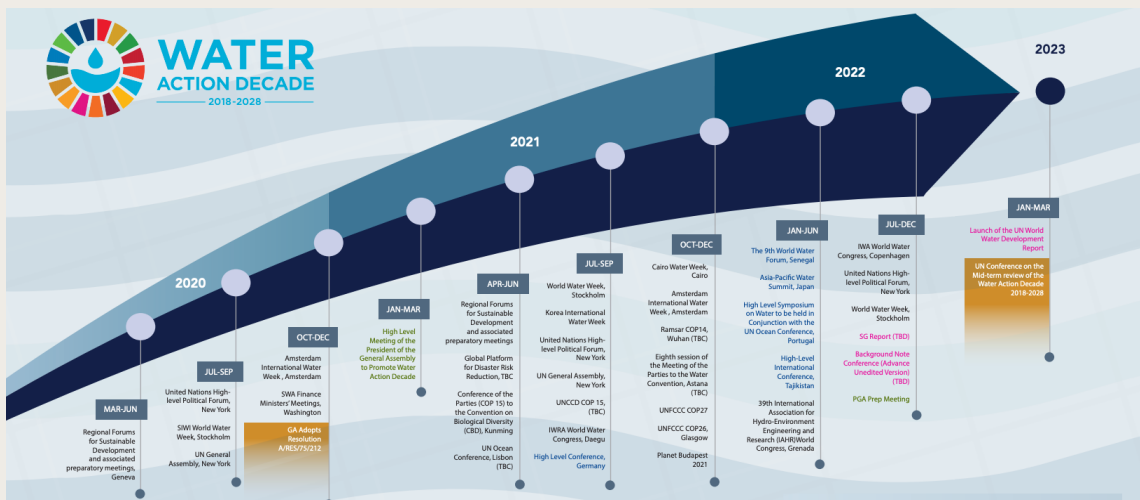
## WATER DECADE (2018-2028)



UN DESA is leading the support to UN Member States in the implementation of the Water Decade (2018-2028) mandated by GA resolution 71/222 in 2017. The related Action Plan aims to advance sustainable development, energize existing programmes and projects, and inspire action to achieve the 2030 Agenda towards meeting water-related challenges. The next important milestone is the UN Conference on the Water Action Decade in March 2023.

# BACKGROUND OF WATER DECADE

- In **December 2016** the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution "International Decade for Action – Water for Sustainable Development" (2018–2028) in support of the achievement of SDG 6 and other water-related targets.
- On **20 December 2018** the General Assembly adopted the resolution on the "Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028". (A/RES/73/226).
- On **21 December 2020**, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/75/212 "United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018–2028", outlining modalities of the Conference.



## THE WAY FORWARD

**"UN DESA's work focused on leaving no one behind and on inclusion of those in most vulnerable situation is closely related to the inequality, poverty and discrimination, which I have identified as a flaw contributing the global water crisis. I look forward to working with UN DESA in addressing this flaw and also related to indigenous peoples, which is the theme of my report in 2022."**



Pedro Arrojo-Agudo

UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

\*The Special Rapporteur held a meeting with UNDESA representatives on 23 February 2021