


INVITATION TO ATTEND



 22 April 2026

 13:15 – 14:45

 Palais des Nations, Room XII

Water is central to sustainable development and underpins progress across the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the international community prepares for the review of SDG 6 at the 2026 **High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)** and the **UN 2026 Water Conference** (2–4 December 2026, UAE), strengthened regional dialogue and cooperation are essential to ensure that regional priorities, experiences, and lessons learned meaningfully inform global processes.

The side event will **contribute to regional preparations for the UN 2026 Water Conference** by promoting dialogue on shared priorities and identifying actionable recommendations to sustain and accelerate progress. In doing so, it will give special attention to the Sustainable Development Goals under review this year, highlighting their **interlinkages with water and the importance of integrated approaches**.

The event will be in English with in-person participation only.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

With kind regards,

Organizers: Slovenia, UNECE Water Convention

Partners: Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Finland, France

Regional Forum for Sustainable Development - SIDE EVENT

Agenda

13:00 – 13:15	<i>Light lunch served for the participants of the side event.</i>	
13:15 – 13:20	Opening by the moderator	H. E. Anita Pipan, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the UN Office and other international org. in Geneva
13:20 – 13:25	Opening remarks	Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention
13:25 – 13:45	Elevator Pitches: Interactive Dialogues – UN Water Conference 2026	
	<i>Water for People</i>	Fabrice Fretz, Switzerland Deputy Head Water Section, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
	<i>Water for Prosperity</i>	H. E. Clara Cabrera, Spain Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN Office and other international org. in Geneva
	<i>Water for Planet</i>	Representative of Egypt/Japan (tbc)
	<i>Water for Cooperation</i>	Annukka Lipponen, Finland Chief Specialist on Water Resources Management - international cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
	<i>Water in Multilateral Processes</i>	Dr. Miriam Haritz, Germany Deputy Director General for Water Management and Water Protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
	<i>Investments for Water</i>	Maryvonne Phanharangsi, France Coordinator for Europe and International Affairs – Water, Ministry of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forestry, Sea and Fisheries
13:45 – 13:55	Reflections	Alberto Biancardi, Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE), GSE, Italy
		Basilio Ghisletta, Policy and Law Programme Manager, Geneva Water Hub
		Representative of Montenegro
		Youth representative
13:55 – 14:35	Turning Visions into Dialogue	Reactions and questions from the audience
14:35 – 14:40	Closing remarks	Co-hosts of the UN Water Conference 2026