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The Permanent Mission of Hungary  
to the United Nations



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



The Permanent Mission of  
Japan to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of  
the Republic of Korea  
to the United Nations



As of 18 January 2023

## **Concept Note**

### **The Sixth UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters**

**- Connecting Midterm Reviews of Water and Disaster Risk Reduction under Climate Change -**

**The United Nations Headquarters, New York, the U.S.A.**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

#### **1. Background and Objective**

The UN Special Thematic Sessions on Water and Disasters (STSWD) have been held biennially since 2013. The Sixth UN Special Thematic Sessions on Water and Disasters (STSWD6) – Connecting Midterm Reviews of Water and Disaster Risk Reduction under Climate Change- will be convened on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, right before the UN 2023 Water Conference to make inputs to its discussion and outcomes while pursuing its ongoing objective of raising awareness and promoting actions for building back better towards more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive society in the post-COVID-19 era by addressing the issues of water and disasters as well as other development issues, such as urbanization, food, and environment under climate change. The special focus of this edition is to connect Midterm Review of Water Action Decade and that of disaster risk reduction (DRR) under the context of Climate Change.

The Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, and recurrent disasters have stunned sustainable development of countries, casting blight onto the world. Negative impacts of those mega disturbances are felt in every corner of the world. They have taught us a hard lesson on the contemporary nature of risk: our global world is highly interconnected and equally fragile, presenting serious consequences for our societies' health, food security, peace, and stability.

Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring a livable future for the next generations under climate change and disasters requires transformation into quality-oriented societies that are sustainable, resilient, and inclusive. It is vital to raise political awareness and share the experiences and good practices with practical guidance amongst leaders, private sector, civil society and all stakeholders to build back stronger from devastation of the catastrophes that are still impacting people and society, especially the poor.

STSWD6 will keep momentum of the previous Sessions in raising high-level political awareness and urging actions on the issues of water and disasters among UN member states. The Session will focus on connecting priority issues and actions on Midterm Review of Water Action Decade and that of disaster risk reduction (DRR) under the context of climate change reflecting various lessons of COVID-19 and promoting actions to realize a sustainable, resilient and climate adaptive society in the post-COVID-19. The session will be contribution to UN 2023 Water Conference to be held right after STSWD6 and other major events on water, disaster risk reduction, climate change and relevant topics, including the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in May 2023; UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2023; and the UN Climate Change Conference as well as Biodiversity Conference.

## **2. Expected outcome**

- Chair's Summary on the outcomes of the Session
- Messages and recommendations of the Session to be delivered to the UN 2023 Water Conference, March 22-24, 2023, Midterm Review Conference of Sendai Framework for Action in May 2023, COP28, 2023 and other relevant major events.

## **3. Organizers/sponsors**

UN Member States (Australia, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, The Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Tajikistan and others), High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP), and National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) of Japan

## **4. Venue and Date**

Trusteeship Council, The UN Headquarters, New York on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

## **5. Provisional Agenda (speakers are to be confirmed)**

### **(1) High-level Panel Discussion (10:00-11:30) - Connecting Midterm Reviews of Water Action Decade and DRR under Climate Change**

- H.E. Dr. Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister of Public Works and Housing, Republic of Indonesia
- H.E. Ms. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Environment and Water, Australia
- H.E. Mr. Mark Harbers, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands
- A representative of the Government of Japan
- Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- The Honorable Michael L. Connor, United States Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
- H.E. Dr. Bambang Susantono, Head of the Nusantara Capital City Authority of the Republic of Indonesia
- Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Mr. Woonchong Um, Managing Director General of Asian Development Bank

### **(2) Science and Technology Panel (11:30-13:00) -Showcases of Science and Technology application, connecting, water, DRR, and climate change-**

### **(3) Plenary Session (16:00-17:55)**

- Opening Remarks
  - H.E. Dr. Han Seung-Soo, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and Chair of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)
  - H.E. Dr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
  - H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Keynote Speeches by Heads of States and Dignitaries
  - H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan
  - H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of Republic of Senegal
  - HRH Victoria, Crown Princess of Sweden, Duchess of Västergötland
  - The Honorable Sara Z. Duterte, Vice President of the Philippines
  - H.E. Ms. Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Third Vice-President of the Government of Spain and Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge
  - H.E. Mr. János Áder, former President of Hungary
  - H.E. Professor Danilo Türk, former President of Slovenia, Chair of Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace, Lead Political Advisor for Geneva Water Hub
- Keynote Lectures by Heads of States and Dignitaries
  - His Majesty Willem-Alexander, the King of the Netherlands
  - His Majesty Naruhito, the Emperor of Japan

### **(4) Wrap-up and closing (17:55-18:00)**