

UN WATER - Committee Background

In 2003, UN-Water was established as an interagency mechanism to coordinate the efforts of UN entities and international organizations to sustainably manage water and sanitation all around the globe. They accomplish this in three ways: “Inform Policies”, “Monitor & Report” and “Inspire Action”.

Since the dawn of time, water has been an essential part of the survival of each and every single living being on the planet, its unique molecular structure makes it one of the most important resources in the whole world. Not only that, but water has also been crucial in the history of humanity, being present at the heart of every civilization in past and present, providing economic development, energy and food production and healthy, clean environments. If it wasn't for water, life as we know it would simply not exist.

Nevertheless, this precious resource is currently under extreme threat: even though almost 75% of Earth's surface is covered by water, only 1% of it all is accessible freshwater for humanity, and with the quickly growing population, increasing demands from both the industrial and agricultural sectors and the impacts of climate change, causing that 2.2 billion people lack access to clean drinking water and 4.2 billion people have to live under a lack of safely managed sanitation systems, leading to a high percentage of child mortality. For this reason, the United Nations has been addressing this global crisis since as far as 1977 during the United Nations Water Conference.

One of the biggest milestones of UN-Water was the 'Water for Life' International Decade for Action 2005-2015 that helped around 1.3 billion people to gain access to clean drinking water and proper hygiene systems, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the 2015 Paris Agreement within the UN Convention Framework on Climate Change. Still, the water crisis isn't far from over, and it is our duty, as habitants of this planet, to do what is necessary to protect the world's most valuable resource.

Bibliography:

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