



The attention paid to water resources, and more specifically to clean drinking water, is due to the rapid deterioration of global water use conditions and the growing contradictions in the field of water management on a global scale.

Clean drinking water is defined in the modern discourse as:

- a) the most valuable natural resource;
- b) a source of life;
- c) a link for all living beings on the planet.





Figure 1. June 5-16, 1972 Stockholm Conference

In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Environment was held in Stockholm (Sweden), and a decision was made to establish the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

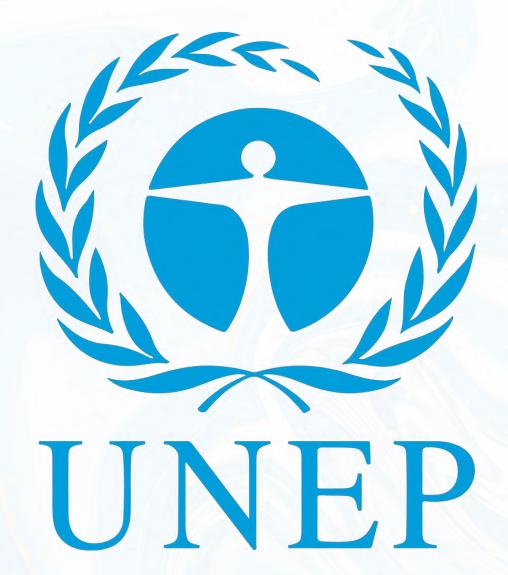


Figure 2. Logo of the United Nations Environment Program

In 1977, the first UN Conference on Water was held in Mar del Plata. At this Conference, it was decided to hold the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and water issues were already identified as an independent area of cooperation.



Figure 3. Yahia Abdel Mageed (3rd from left), Secretary-General of the Water Conference, is seen making a statement. To his left is Leslie O. Harriman (Nigeria), re-elected Chairman of the Committee.



Figure 4. The emblem of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1981-1990, the aim of which is to bring safe water and sanitation to all the world's people by 1990.

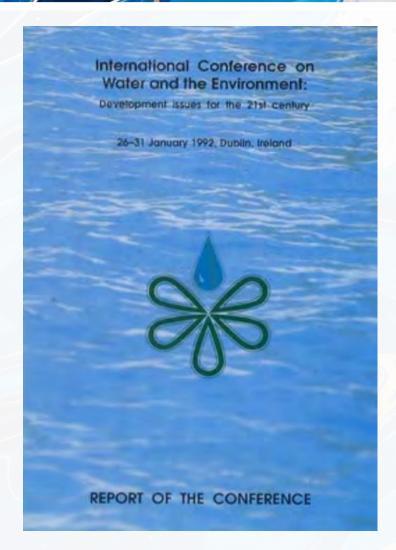


Figure 5. International Conference on Water and the Environment: Report of the Conference

An important stage in the development of international cooperation in this area was the International Conference on Water and the Environment held in Dublin in January 1992. The conference adopted the famous The Dublin Principles.

PRINCIPLE 1



Freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development, and the environment

Being critical to sustaining life, freshwater is a finite resource as a hydrological cycle yields a certain quantity of water per period, which cannot be adjusted to human actions. This principle also highlights that water plays an important role in development while being quite vulnerable to its effects. Therefore, effective water management requires a holistic approach that recognises interactions within natural systems and links social and economic development with ecological sustainability.

PRINCIPLE 2



Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners, and policy-makers at all levels

Governing water resources involves a broad range of actors across multiple scales and sectors with sometimes competing interests. Accordingly, water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, which would give recognition to inputs of multiple stakeholders, including users, planners, and policy-makers at all levels. This will coordinate varying interests as well as democratise the whole decision-making process to ensure the protection of environmental resources and respect for cultural values and human rights.

PRINCIPLE 3



Women play a central part in the provision, management, and safeguarding of water

Women play a crucial role in the provision, management, and safeguarding of water for domestic use and, in many countries, for agricultural use. However, as a result of social and cultural traditions, the role of women remains marginalised in key areas such as management, problem analysis, and the decision-making processes related to water resources. Therefore, it is important to increase women's involvement in these key areas to achieve sustainable water use.

PRINCIPLE 4



Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognised as an economic good

Being an essential part of life, societies, and economy, the values and benefits of water both as an economic and social good vary. While water resources are 'free', water infrastructure and services come at a cost that needs to be recovered. Ignoring the full value of water can cause failures, while misperceptions about the value of water can prevent benefits from being maximised. Water efficiency across sectors must be promoted to maximise benefits and reduce pressure on available resources.

Figure 6. IWRM-The Dublin Principles

These principles were further developed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in the summer of 1992 in Rio de Janeiro.



Figure 7. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the 'Earth Summit', was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3-14 June 1992.

WORLD WATER DAY 22 MARCH

Figure 8. World Water Day on March 22

It was decided to hold World Water Day on March 22, which has been celebrated annually since 1993.



Figure 9. Year 2024, the World Water Day theme is "Water for Peace". The theme emphasizes the importance of water in ensuring global security and prosperity

This activity received additional impetus from the creation of the World Water Council in 1996, headquartered in Marseille. In addition to informational work, this structure took over the organization of the World Water Forums.







Figure 11. The 10th World Water Forum

In 2000, the United Nations held the Millennium Summit. The Millennium Development Goals document adopted at the summit reflected the issue of water resources.

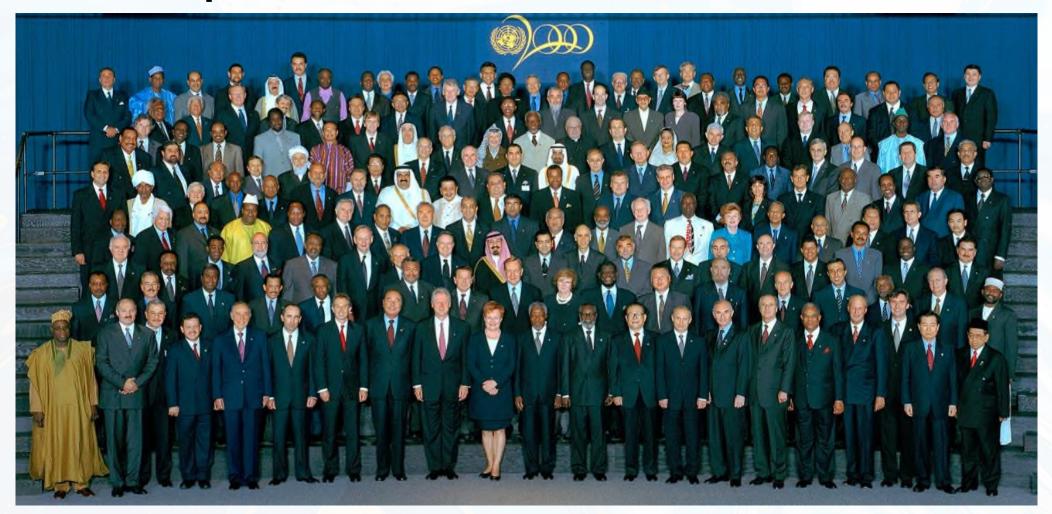


Figure 12. The United Nations Millennium Summit, the largest gathering in history of world leaders, brought together 149 Heads of State and Government and high-ranking officials from over 40 other countries.

UN General Assembly declared 2005-2015 the International Decade for Action "Water for Life". The coordination of the project was taken over by a special structure the UN-Water







Figure 13. "Water for Life" logo

The most important of non-governmental structures is the Global Water Partnership (GWP), which was formed in 1996 as an international network of organizations (public, private, regional, scientific, project, etc.) involved in water management.

Global Water Partnership

Figure 14. Global Water Partnership (GWP) logo

Global Environment Facility, founded in 1991, become "the largest source of multilateral support for international environmental issues."



Figure 15. Global Environment Facility logo

IUCN

Figure 16. International
Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural
Resources logo

However, the largest NGO dealing with water issues remains the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, established in 1948 in France. In addition, there is such an organization as the Earth Council.



Figure 17. International Union for Conservation of Nature headquarters, Gland, Switz

