

World Water Day

Theme: **Water for Peace**

22 March 2024

World Water Day 2024 carries the theme **Water for Peace**, emphasizing the integral role water plays in encouragement of global peace and sustainable development. More than 3 billion people worldwide depend on water that crosses national borders. Yet, out of 153 countries that share rivers, lakes and aquifers with their neighbours, only 24 countries report having cooperation agreements for all their shared water. In a world grappling with conflicts exacerbated by water scarcity, pollution, and unequal access, this theme calls for a re-evaluation of our approach to water resources. Water scarcity often leads to competition and disputes among communities and nations, making it imperative to recognize water as a potential catalyst for peace building amongst nations. As climate change impacts global population, we must unite around protecting and conserving our most precious resource.

By working together to balance human rights and needs, water can be a stabilizing force and a catalyst for sustainable development. The theme accentuates the need for cooperative efforts to manage and distribute water resources equitably. Access to clean water is a fundamental human right aspect, and by promoting fair and transparent water governance, we can contribute to conflict prevention and resolution. Efforts to build water infrastructure, facilitate diplomacy around shared water sources, and implement sustainable water practices can lay the groundwork for peaceful coexistence and add to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

World Water Day 2024 serves as a platform to inspire individuals, communities, and governments to prioritize water as a tool for peace, which focuses on the critical role water plays in ensuring stability and prosperity of the world. By acknowledging the intricate connection between water, social stability, and economic development, the international community can work together to ensure that water resources become a source of cooperation rather than contention. As we celebrate this day, let us commit to fostering a culture of responsible water management and cooperation, ensuring that water is a catalyst for peace.