

Who's who in WASH?

HUMAN RIGHTS TO
SAFE DRINKING WATER
AND SANITATION

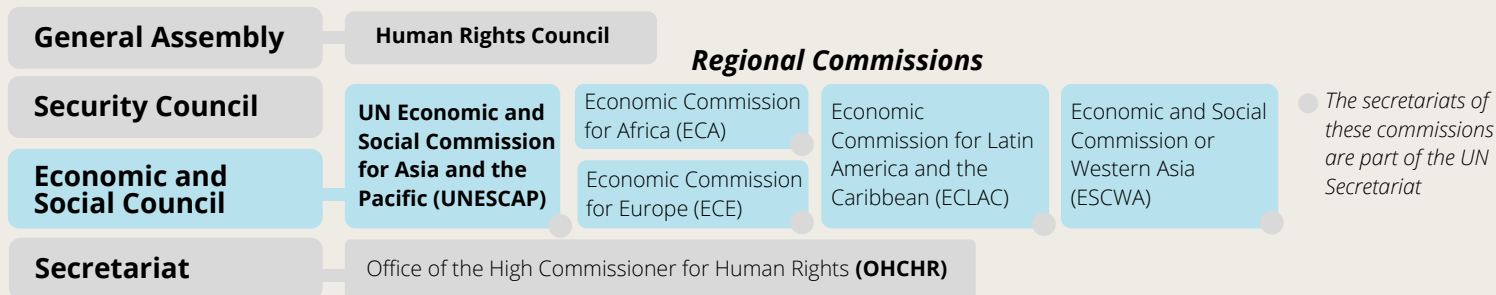
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)



UNESCAP is part of the UN System and together with other regional commissions, it reports to one of the branches of the UN Economic and Social Council.

WHAT IS UNESCAP?

UN PRINCIPAL ORGANS



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF UNESCAP?

UNESCAP is a regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. UNESCAP promotes inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region and prioritizes the implementation of the SDGs. It also provides a forum for all governments of the region to review and discuss economic and social issues and to strengthen regional cooperation.

Some areas of UNESCAP's work include:

- Macroeconomic policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing For Development
- Trade, Investment and Innovation
- Environment and Development
- Social development
- ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Energy
- Transport
- Statistics

While UNESCAP does not have a specific programme dedicated to WASH, several of its substantive areas of work are aligned with the water and sanitation, in particular, UNESCAP's work on natural sustainable development support by its Environment and Development Division.

UNESCAP AND WASH

Climate change

Management of natural resources and biodiversity

Air pollution

Sustainable urban development

Engagement and **participation** are cross-cutting elements across these areas of work. UNESCAP has worked on identification factors that lead to vulnerability around environment issues and conducted research around factors to understand how these factors lead to vulnerable situations, which in turn impacts the people's enjoyment of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



- UNESCAP is a member of UN-Water and co-manage its Asia Pacific group, which looks at the implementation of SDG 6 in the region and the Water Action Decade 2018-2028.
- UNESCAP contributes to World Water Development Reports by providing contribution from the Asia-Pacific regional perspective.
- Mid-2022, UNESCAP will organize a regional discussion supporting the regional contribution to the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



- UNESCAP approaches water and the ocean as a continuum, rather than treat them as separate issues.
- UNESCAP is developing an eLearning course for policy makers, using the source to sea approach including for the management of marine litter.

THE WAY FORWARD

"I believe that the human rights to water and sanitation lies at the convergence of environmental and social values. UNESCAP's work on climate change and management of water and biodiversity is strongly aligned with my conviction. I look forward to future engagement with UNESCAP as I explore the Asia-Pacific region during my mandate."

Pedro Arrojo-Agudo

UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

*The Special Rapporteur held a meeting with UNESCAP representatives on 10 February 2021

