



United Nations UN-Water

Junior Professional Officer Programme (JPO) Chiffre Nr. 2023-1-20

I. General Information

Title: Junior Professional Officer: UN-Water Associate Expert

Organization: UN-Water

Unit and Office: UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit

Country and Duty Station: New York, United States

Duration of assignment: 2 years with possibility of extension for another year. The extension of appointment is subject to yearly review concerning priorities, availability of funds and satisfactory performance.

Please note that for participants of the JPO-Programme two years work experience are mandatory! Relevant work experience can be counted. In order to assess the eligibility of the candidates, we review the relevant experience acquired after obtaining the first university degree (usually bachelor's degree).

Background Information

UN-Water is the United Nations (UN) inter-agency coordination mechanism for all freshwater related issues, including sanitation. The High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) established UN-Water in its meeting held on 18 and 19 September 2003 in response to the need for strengthened coordination of United Nations' work on water and sanitation related issues. The Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed this decision at its fall 2003 session in New York. UN-Water currently includes 33 Members (UN entities) and 44 Partners (non-UN system actors).

UN-Water promotes coherence in, and coordination of, water-related UN system actions aimed at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant policy frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and the New Urban Agenda. In doing so, UN-Water complements and adds value to existing UN initiatives by facilitating synergies and joint efforts among the implementing agencies and by fostering greater co-operation and information-sharing within

its constituency. UN-Water supports Member States through its three main lines of work: 1. Informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues; 2. Supporting monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation; and 3. Building knowledge and inspiring people to take action.

UN-Water mandate and need for JPO position

For UN Member States as well as the international community, the coming years will be critical to solve the water and sanitation crisis. Although Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) – “to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030” – is key for reaching many of the other 16 SDGs, the world is alarmingly off-track. Global water-related challenges are unprecedented and growing. Recognizing the need for an immediate and integrated global response to rapidly improve progress on SDG 6, the UN Secretary General called for the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’, 2018–2028. In this context, the UN system launched the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework in July 2020 – a unifying initiative that involves all sectors of society to speed up progress by improving support to countries. Through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, the UN system and its multi-stakeholder partners, driven by country demand and coordinated through UN-Water, aim to unify the international community’s support to countries for SDG 6. The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework involves a sharpened focus on coherent, coordinated and streamlined country support as part of the UN reform, including scaling up water-related work and collaboration among the UN-Water Members and Partners, providing access to expertise, technical assistance and advocacy support through a reinvigorated Resident Coordinators system and a new generation of UN Country Teams. Moreover, UN-Water together with the UN Regional Economic Commissions aims to strengthen coordination of UN-Water at the regional level to create strong ties between the UN systems global, regional and country-level delivery on SDG 6 and the water-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda corresponding to the objectives of the UN reform.

The impact of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework relies also on its synergies with the upcoming UN 2023 Water Conference, which will represent the midterm review of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 and it is the first UN conference on water in almost fifty years. UN-Water and its Members and Partners play a key role in supporting UN DESA in the Conference organization and in the implementation of its outcomes.

Furthermore, in March 2021, 168 UN Member States urged in a statement under the margins of the PGA High-Level Meeting on Water for a “UN system-wide approach on water”. This appeal is followed by a cross-regional initiative to appoint a UN Secretary-General Special Envoy for Water. The adoption of a UN system-wide approach on water, including the appointment and work of a UN Special Envoy for Water, needs to be closely linked to UN-Water’s support to the implementation of outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference and its ongoing efforts at the regional and country-level.

Role of the incumbent and rational

The incumbent of this JPO post will be a critical and valued team member of the UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit (TAU). She/he will complement the team in the UN headquarters in New York. She/he will work with a special focus on further establishing and strengthening a UN system-wide approach to water and sanitation. She/he will work in close collaboration with UN DESA colleagues and will therefore need to establish excellent working relations with UN DESA.

The JPO will contribute to strengthen and coordinate UN-level water and sanitation activities through:

- Assisting coordination among UN entities in their diverse global, regional, transboundary and in-country support to Member States;
- Supporting integration and streamlining UN-Water global engagement with regional efforts through strengthening cooperation with the UN Regional Economic Commissions and individual country efforts;
- Supporting the delivery of the UN-Water Work Programme at large, in line with UN-Water 2030 Strategy;
- Assisting a potential UN Special Envoy for Water (if appointed) in the fulfilment of her/his mandate.

II. Supervision

Title of Supervisor:

Title first appraising officer: Programme Officer

Unit first appraising officer: UN-Water TAU

Location first appraising officer: New York

Title second appraising officer: Chief Technical Adviser

Unit second appraising officer: UN-Water TAU

Location second appraising officer: Geneva

Content and methodology of the supervision

Type of the supervision:

- The UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit will introduce the JPO to the role and activities of UN-Water in the field of water and sanitation, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, and other water and sanitation related goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The Programme Officer will introduce the JPO to UN-Water's work on strengthening a UN system-wide approach to water and sanitation. The Programme Officer will introduce the JPO to UN-Water's work on the follow-up of the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- The Technical Officer (Geneva) will brief the JPO on the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.
- The JPO will be given background materials to familiarize herself/himself with the UN-Water history and status, the recent relevant UNGA resolutions, the operational structure, and UN-Water Members and Partners. She/he will also receive relevant information on SDG 6 and other water and sanitation related goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Core to this material will be linking the UN 2023 Water Conference and SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework as well as the SDGs process in its entirety, with a special focus on strengthening the global water agenda within UN, regional and country level efforts.

- The first supervisor will have regular meetings with the JPO, giving guidance for problem solving and assistance in identifying opportunities to gain experience.
- The JPO's workplan and objectives will be agreed on annual basis. They will be reviewed mid-year and at the end of the year. The JPO will be expected to grow professionally and become able to progressively work more independently during the JPO experience.
- There will be an annual Performance Results Assessment for the JPO. This will be first done by the first reporting officer, i.e. the Programme Officer, and supported by the second reporting officer, i.e. the Chief Technical Adviser.

III. Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Terms of reference

In the context of the strengthening the UN system-wide approach to water and assisting a potential UN Special Envoy for Water (if appointed), this position is located in the UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit in New York. Under the overall guidance of the UN-Water Chair and the direct supervision of the UN-Water Programme Officer, and in close collaboration with UN DESA, the JPO is responsible for the following:

1. Support follow-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference and the strengthening of a UN system-wide approach to water:
 - Analyse the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference and their implications for UN-Water's 2024-2025 Work Programme and, in this context, draft the UN-Water Results Matrix for 2024-2025;
 - Support the follow-up of voluntary commitments by countries, organizations and the private sector as part of the Water Action Agenda;
 - Support the analysis of the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference with respect to the second half of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028;
 - Assess the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference and its implication for the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.
2. Support UN-Water Regional Level Coordination (UN Regional Economic Commissions)
 - Assist in coordination and information sharing among the Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination, strengthening the interaction with and between the regional level;
 - Support generation of regional knowledge products, contributions to global reports and reporting on SDG 6 progress at regional level;
 - Assist in undertaking regional level activities related to water and the water-related SDGs, including advocacy for the inclusion of water-related issues into other sectors' activities;
 - Foster communication and collaboration between global and regional data and monitoring activities.
3. Support the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and Water Action Agenda at large:
 - Assist in coordination and information sharing on all actions resulting from the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework within the UN-Water family, providing substantive technical support to UN-Water Members and Partners;
 - Support UN-Water activities ensuring the synergy between the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and the critical milestone events listed above;
 - Support the organization of the SDG 6 Special Event on the margins of the High-Level Political Forum by developing concept notes with clear objectives, identifying speakers and support follow-up.

4. Support UN-Water initiatives and publications:
 - Provide support to UN-Water initiatives, including the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative, the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, and the World Water Day and World Toilet Day campaigns;
 - Assist the preparation of UN-Water related reports in response to the requirements of the General Assembly, the Secretary General and other governing bodies;
 - Support the organization of New York based water and sanitation events as needed. For example, to launch a new UN-Water publication.
5. Support outreach to other sectors and their organizations:
 - Monitoring events, papers, declarations from other water-related sectors in order to integrate water messages.
6. Assist a possible UN Special Envoy for Water (if appointed):
 - Assist the Envoy in the fulfilment of her/his mandate: identify possibilities for participation in relevant conferences and summits in the water and other relevant sectors, schedule and coordinate meetings and public appearances, travel management, assist in outreach to UN Member States and other relevant actors, update and inform the Envoy on ongoing relevant international initiatives and programmes, ensure liaison between the Envoy and UN-Water and its Members;
 - Assist UN-Water in preparing relevant information for the Envoy and her/his outreach activities;
 - Assist the Envoy in following-up on the implementation of the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference, e.g. the Water Action Agenda, and the progress of other relevant initiatives;
 - Assist reporting of the Envoy to the UN Secretary-General.

Output expectations

The work of the Junior Professional Officer will contribute to the achievement of the following outputs:

1. Strengthened water expertise at the UN Headquarters in New York.
2. Advanced implementation of SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework with special focus on strengthening the UN system-wide approach to water by stronger coordination among the UN entities and providing more streamlined support to countries.
3. Technical support provided to possible UN Special Envoy for Water (if appointed).
4. Implementation of UN 2023 Water Conference follow-up initiated.
5. Strengthened UN-Water initiatives and activities, with particular focus on the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.
6. Participation of UN-Water Members and Partners in relevant processes after the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Travel

A minimum amount of USD 3,000 per year, subject to donor government regulations, is required for the JPOs education travel/training activities, subject to possible public health restrictions.

Travel support for missions envisaged during first two years of assignment.

Training and Learning Elements

After half a year, the JPO is familiar with UN-Water and its work on advancing SDG 6. The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and the UN 2023 Water Conference process are familiar to the JPO and she/he can assist the team, including consultants, in working with relevant stakeholders.

After two years, the JPO is able to understand how water and sanitation related issues inform policy processes such as the SDGs process on country, regional and global levels.

As the UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit is administered by UNOPS, the JPO will be required to complete all UNOPS mandatory training courses.

The JPO can also participate in one off-site training course that is relevant to her/his area of work.

Qualifications and experience

Education:

Master's Degree in water resources management or a field relevant to the environment and/or international affairs, governance, and policy (environmental studies, environmental economics, sustainable development and environmental governance).

Working experience:

Professional background in international affairs and multilateral cooperation would be an asset. At least four years work experience at the national level, or two years at the international level are required.

Competencies

The suitable candidate should have:

- Outstanding communication skills: speaks and writes clearly and effectively in English. Proficiency in another UN official language would be an asset.
- Teamwork: should be able to work in collaboration with colleagues; solicits guidance where appropriate from her/his superior.
- Creativity: not bound by current thinking or traditional approaches and seeks to consider new ideas and approaches to problem solving.
- Experience in water and sanitation related issues would be an asset.
- Working experience in the UN system would be an asset.
- Experience in managing water-related networks is considered an advantage.
- Proficiency in Windows, MS Office suite and skills in developing animated PowerPoint presentations, Excel worksheets and databases.

Living conditions at duty station

Normal living conditions in the United States. Team involvement: International, inviting, respecting diversity and welcoming.

**Bitte senden Sie Ihre JPO-Bewerbung direkt an das Büro
Führungskräfte zu Internationalen Organisationen (BFIO) unter
Angabe der Chiffre Nr. 2023-1-20 auf dem Bewerbungsbogen**

Alle Informationen finden Sie unter www.bfio.de