



The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Celebrates World Water Day 2026: “Where Water Flows, Equality Grows”

VIENNA, March 22 (Vienna International Centre) – The growing disparities in water access around the world and the escalating impacts of climate change on the Danube River Basin are some of the most pressing challenges of our time, says the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) as it joins the global community in commemorating World Water Day 2026 on Sunday, 22 March. This year’s theme, "Where water flows, equality grows," highlights the indispensable role of equitable water management in fostering social justice, economic stability, and environmental resilience across the Danube region.

As the lifeline for communities, industries and ecosystems, the Danube’s waters are under increasing strain. Climate change is altering precipitation patterns, intensifying droughts, and threatening the availability of water for millions who depend on the river and its tributaries. These changes not only endanger water supplies but also deepen inequalities, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations and undermining the ecological balance of the basin.

"Water is the great equalizer, it knows no borders, and neither should equality. In the Danube Basin, our shared responsibility is to ensure that every community, regardless of geography or circumstance—has access to clean, safe water. Yet, amid the ongoing war in Ukraine and broader regional challenges, this responsibility becomes even more urgent. Water infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities are exposed to heightened risks, increased pollution, and additional strain on already vulnerable systems. This is not just about managing a resource; it is about upholding dignity, justice, and a sustainable future for generations to come", says Maria Shpanchyk, the Ukrainian ICPDR President 2026.

"Equality grows where water flows, through acting together," says ICPDR Executive Secretary Birgit Vogel. " The ICPDR is dedicated to turning this vision into reality by bridging gaps in access, empowering marginalized voices, and fostering cooperation across our river basin. On World Water Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to a future where water unites us in fairness and resilience."

This World Water Day, the ICPDR calls on governments, industries, communities, and individuals to recognize water as a cornerstone of equality.

For more information on the ICPDR's work and the Danube River Basin, please visit www.icpdr.org.

About the ICPDR:

The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) is a transnational body, which has been established to implement the Danube River Protection Convention to ensure sustainable and equitable water management, conservation of water resources, and protection of aquatic ecosystems in the Danube River.

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