***Agenda Item* 6.5**

Agenda Item Roundtable on Financing Water
***B*ackground Brief**
30th UN-Water Meeting – 31 January and 1 February 2019 – Rome, Italy

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Main Issues of this Agenda Item:

- Achieving SDG 6 will require a historic scaling up of financing for water. Current financing flows fall far short of investment needs.
- Raising awareness of the scale of the financing challenge and opportunities to address it will be critical to spurring the investment needed. The target audience is not limited to the water community and includes financiers (including commercial banks), city planners, urban developers and others.
- The Roundtable on Financing Water provides a global public-private platform with the aim of scaling up financing for water security and sustainable growth.

Introduction / Background / Rationale (less than 200 words please)**:**

The Roundtable on Financing Water is a global public-private platform established in 2017 by the OECD, the World Water Council and the Netherlands. It draws upon political leadership and technical expertise, with the ambition of facilitating increased financing of investments that contribute to water security and sustainable growth by:

- Rising the profile of financing on the international political agenda and within the finance community
- Improving the evidence base with analytical work on how to overcome the barriers to investment
- Pushing the boundaries of traditional thinking about financing water-related investment; and
- Promoting novel and impactful ways of financing water-related investment.

The Roundtable engages a diversity of actors – governments and regulators in developed, emerging and developing economies; private financiers (e.g. institutional investors, commercial banks, asset managers, impact investors); development financing institutions, bi-lateral donors, international organisations; academia and civil society organisations.

There is scope for strengthening linkages to UN-Water and its member organisations. The point is that finance for water-related investment does not need to be water-specific. A number of UN Agencies could contribute robust policies and good practices, which work on urban development, agriculture, land use, etc).

Progress Update (less than 200 words please)**:**

The Roundtable held its third meeting in Paris on November 12th, gathering over 90 financiers and investors, government officials, NGOs and researchers.

Regional Roundtable meetings are planned for 2019 (including one in Asia, organised in partnership with the Asian Development Bank).

Analytical work continues on three main pillars:

- Mapping financing needs and flows
- Blended finance (i.e. using development finance to leverage other sources of finance, including domestic commercial finance)
- Strategic investment pathways (ensuring finance flows to projects that benefit in terms of water security and sustainable development).

Additional information is available in the OECD (2018) Policy Perspectives *Financing Water – Investing in Sustainable Growth* and the Roundtable's dedicated webpage.

Proposed Action by UN-Water, if any (less than 100 words please)**:**

Consider UN-Water participation at future meetings of the Roundtable on Financing Water and looking for opportunities to strengthen linkages between UN-Water and its members and the Roundtable on Financing Water.