Concept Note

High-Level Political Forum 2019

Reflecting Water and Sanitation

Background

During the 29th UN-Water meeting, the SPM agreed to explore how to organize joint activities for HLPF 2019 and requested a proposal outlining options.

July HLPF

The meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will be held from Tuesday, 9 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019; including the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from Tuesday, 16 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019.

The theme will be **"Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".** The set of goals to be reviewed in depth is the following:

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development'

September HLPF Summit

The HLPF 2019 under the auspices of the General Assembly will meet on the afternoon of Tuesday 24 September and all day on 25 September. The structure and content of these days is not yet decided. There will be many events during the same week:

- On Monday, 23 September, the UN Secretary-General will convene a Climate Summit, and the UNGA will hold a one-day high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC);
- (see above) On Tuesday, 24 September, following the opening of the 74th General Debate, the UNGA will convene a meeting of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which will take place on the afternoon of 24 September and all day on 25 September;
- On Thursday, 26 September, the UNGA will hold a high-level dialogue on financing for development (FfD), as well as a high-level meeting on the elimination of nuclear weapons
- On Friday, 27 September, the UNGA will hold the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States (SIDS) through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

Options for the July HLPF

Expert Group Meetings - DESA organizes expert group meetings (EGMs) prior to the HLPF to allow for a substantive dialogue on each SDG under review – the outcomes of these sessions are a key part of the HLPF preparatory process. UN-Water could engage in these meetings to bring a water perspective to the discussions. Note that the EGM for SDG 4 took place in late 2018.

- Goal 8: The EGM will take place 3 - 5 April in ILO headquarters, Geneva. Links with the WWD 2016 Theme "water and jobs" UN-Water has content to offer.
- Goal 10: The EGM will take place 27 – 28 March in Ghana. Links with the WWD 2018 Theme "leave no one behind" UN-Water has content to offer.
- Goal 13: The EGM will take place 1 – 3 April in Copenhagen. Links given the EG's recent activity and updated policy brief, along with the WWD 2020 theme.
- Goal 16: The EGM will take place in April in Rome.
- Goal 17: the EGM will take place 12 April in New York.

HLPF Formal Programme: Although SDG 6 is not being reviewed in 2019, the formal programme could include speakers who can demonstrate how water/sanitation access demonstrates, for example, social and economic inequalities. UN-Water Members could suggest compelling speakers related to the goals under review. The HLPF theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality" is directly related to the WWD theme which also opens opportunities to collaborate.

HLPF Side Events: Although the formal HLPF proceedings are important, many would argue that the most interesting aspect of the HLPF are the many side events that take place. UN-Water could organize a side event that touched on the interlinkages with the goals under review. The event could be a formal side event or could take place outside the UN headquarters depending on space.

HLPF related events: The chart below outlines several related events that will take place during HLPF – UN-Water Members can suggest making the water linkage during these events.

Note: Dates TBC, pending confirmation of venue and partners.

Date	Event	Partners
9-12 July	SDG Learning and Training sessions	UNITAR
10 July am (tbc)	High Level Event on Education (tbc)	Global Campaign on Education
10 July pm (tbc)	Higher education institutions and universities (HESI)	UNITAR, Global Compact, UNESCO, UNEP, UNU, UN-Habitat, UNCTAD
During 9-12 July	Half day Partnership Exchange	UN Office for Partnerships, Global Compact
During 9-18 July	SDG Film Festival (evening)	DPI, UNF
During 16-18 July	Half day Chief Sustainability Officers Event	WBCSD, UNGC
During 16-18 July	Half day Special event with philanthropic sector	UN Office for Partnerships, Global Compact, WBCSD, UNDP, UN Foundation

During 16-18 July	Half-day special event with parliamentarians	IPU, UNDP

Written HLPF products: Preparing UN-Water products that demonstrate water/sanitation interlinkages with the goals under review is possible. The content could draw on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 and the World Water Development Reports. The Expert Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development discussed taking on this task during their December 2018 WebEx. These documents could also serve as the basis for a social media outputs.

Options for the September HLPF Summit

In terms of the UN system, an HLPF Task Team co-chaired by DESA and UNDP will manage preparations for the Summit. The Task Team will report to the SG and DSG and roles may include providing analytical inputs to the intergovernmental process, compiling relevant information and analysis and developing a narrative to connect the September 2019 high-level events.

In terms of the intergovernmental system, Member States will negotiate a Political Declaration. The process will be co-chaired by Bahamas and Sweden.

It is still quite early to determine the best entry points for to bring water and sanitation into the HLPF Summit process. If there is a goal by goal discussion, it is clear that the SDG 6 Synthesis Report can provide the basis for discussion. However, it is possible that the discussion will be organized along different lines.