***Agenda Item (title):* SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting**
Background Brief
30th UN-Water Meeting – 31 January and 1 February 2019 – Rome, Italy

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Main Issues of this Agenda Item:

- Update on the SWA 2019 SMM

Introduction / Background / Rationale:

The SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) convenes ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene mostly from SWA partner countries and high-level representatives of other SWA constituencies, including external support agencies, civil society, private sector and research and learning institutions. The SMM is an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss solutions and approaches for addressing challenges in achieving the water, sanitation and hygiene-related targets of the SDGs.

ON 4-5 April SWA will organize its 6th Sector Ministers' Meeting (the second stand-alone after Addis Ababa in 2016). It will be convened by UNICEF and the Inter-American Development Bank and will be hosted by the government of Costa Rica in San José. It will immediately follow the Latin America Sanitation Conference (Latinosan V) on 1-3 April.

The SMM will draw from, and feed into, ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue at country level. In this way, SWA partners will continue with the strategic dialogue on the outcomes of the meeting beyond the SMM.

The **overall theme** of the 2019 SMM is **"Leave no one behind"** and it has a singular high-level purpose of increasing awareness and understanding of the principle of progressively eliminating inequalities, its fundamental relationship with WASH, and its implications for leadership, partnership and finance.

The 2019 SMM will be the first High Level Meeting to incorporate the newly launched Mutual Accountability Mechanism.

Progress Update (less than 200 words please):

- Invitations have been sent to ministers in December; other high-level representatives to follow
- First confirmations being received
- Agenda being completed by Working Groups and Secretariat
- Prep process kicked-off in December with webinar series; Guidance Note to be distributed this week.
- The country-level preparatory process will have two outputs – a **country brief** and a **presentation for the minister to make in one of the ministerial dialogues**.
- Several countries already started having discussions

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

- For now: Support from Communications department in spreading the word about the SMM among the UN-Water network

Proposed Draft Decision, if any (less than 100 words please)**:**

Annexes (if any)**:**

- 2019 Sector Ministers' Meeting Summary (2-pager)