



## **UN-Water Statement to the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Finance Ministers' Meeting**

The UN-Water family welcomes the opportunity to send a message to the 2020 SWA Finance Ministers' Meetings. We are coming together in different ways as a result of the global pandemic. Instead of one SWA Finance Ministers' Meeting in Washington DC, three virtual meetings are taking place regionally which can generate a more relevant and focused dialogue while also promoting a better learning exchange among countries facing similar challenges. We are all adjusting, but for the billions lacking basic human rights to access safe water, sanitation and hygiene, already difficult lives are now being aggravated by life-threatening challenges. It is our collective legal duty to ensure we build forward better.

UN-Water wishes to send a clear message to sector ministers: providing sanitation and water services is sustainable only when bundled with sound water resources management, improved governance and coordination across relevant sectors, better water use efficiency and protection of water-related ecosystems. Although the short-term focus in the COVID-19 response is on ensuring immediate access to water, sanitation and hygiene, a sufficient part of investment should address these broader issues to ensure longer-term sustainability and system strengthening. A comprehensive approach is required to take into consideration water needs coming from different sectors while promoting multi-purpose solutions, tailored to local contexts. It is therefore critical that international assistance and domestic resource mobilization, including resources from the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, are invested to safeguard the availability of water and sanitation, ensuring that we are on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specifically Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all<sup>1</sup>. Adopted in 2015, this ambitious Agenda for people, prosperity and the planet defined specific goals that could help orient the international community towards a sustainable future, including a central commitment to leaving no one behind. Achieving this Agenda was critical before the pandemic. Now, along with the Paris Agreement, it is our best hope for a safer and more sustainable future.

To support our efforts towards this end, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework was launched by UN-Water Members and Partners in July this year with the UN Secretary-General stating that “water and sanitation are key to fighting the current pandemic, we need resilient and sustainable water and sanitation systems to prevent and contain future pandemics.” The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework is comprised of five accelerators: data & information, capacity development, innovation, governance and financing. The financing accelerator is fundamental, for we know that improved targeting, better utilization of existing resources, for instance through multi-objective interventions along with mobilization of additional domestic and international funding, will lead to more efficient service delivery and implementation. Many among you are tabling or have tabled commitments in the area of finance under the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism. We encourage you to share your commitments as a contribution to the SDG 6

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<sup>1</sup> SDG 6 includes global targets on drinking water, sanitation, water quality & wastewater, water use and scarcity, water resources management, ecosystems, cooperation and participation.

Global Acceleration Framework and thereby join hands with UN-Water's 33 Members from the UN system and 42 other non-UN international Partners.

As we commit to effective coordination, the SWA Finance Ministers' Meetings will deepen our partnership that is already active through the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS). GLAAS provides evidence to inform decision-making among the constituents of Sanitation and Water for All, specifically targeted towards sector and finance Ministers, in addition to monitoring the SDG 6 targets 6a<sup>2</sup> and 6b<sup>3</sup>.

The UN-Water family values Sanitation and Water for All as an important UN-Water Partner and the multi-stakeholder platform to advocate for action and raise the political will to invest in WASH and water and sanitation as a whole. The UN-Water family applauds the SWA regional Finance Ministers' Meetings and looks forward to joining forces through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework to increase sustainable financing so that countries can accelerate progress towards reaching their water and sanitation targets.

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<sup>2</sup> By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

<sup>3</sup> Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.