Mr Dominic O’Neill,  
Executive Director, The Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF)  

Statement on the launch of the UN-Water System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation

The centrality of sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health to the 2030 Agenda is undeniable and the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation (SWS) brings this to the forefront. By coalescing the collective weight of the UN system to propel progress on these fundamental pillars of sustainable development, the strategy provides an invaluable framework for success – we must each endeavor to make it infallible now. As the SWS urges us to transform how sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health are viewed and valued, we have before us an opportunity to transform how they are financed and forge a new paradigm for development finance.

Sanitation, hygiene, menstrual health and wastewater management go to the core of achieving social, economic and environmental development. At the UN’s Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF), we are committed to work with our partners across and beyond the UN system including member states, the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to leverage the best thinking on sustainable development finance to prime these sectors for financial innovations to deliver transformative impact for communities and countries, especially on a rapidly warming planet.

Together, under the aegis of the SWS, we can catalyze public and private efforts and financing to build robust, sustainable sanitation economies and the menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) market that benefit people, economies and the planet. With countries leading the way, we can shape an inclusive, gender-equal and climate-resilient future where all people have access to the next generation sanitation and purpose-made menstrual products they need to realize their full potential.