

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

**STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE
LAUNCH OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE STRATEGY FOR WATER AND
SANITATION**

I am delighted to welcome the first United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation.

This is the United Nations system coming together for clean water and sanitation for all. Our new, unified approach will boost collaboration in the sectors, countries and communities we support, drive progress across sustainable development, and transform lives.

This work is urgent. There has been limited progress towards meeting global commitments on water and sanitation – including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. 2.2 billion people could not access safely managed drinking water, and 3.5 billion lacked safely managed sanitation services in 2022. This is already compounding crises relating to climate, food, health, gender equality, energy, biodiversity, urban development, and the environment. And water use is growing by nearly 1% every year.

We must increase cooperation to turn the tide. And embed water in all SDG transition pathways. This new Strategy – and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework – can accelerate these efforts.

I commend the Members of UN-Water for their collaboration and leadership in reaching this pivotal milestone. And I thank Member States for their support for the Strategy and reiterate the importance of joint collaboration to ensure the implementation of the Strategy by delivering on investments that harness water's potential to drive progress across the SDGs. Now it is time to deliver.