

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

 UN WATER

ABOUT UN-WATER

UN-Water coordinates the work of the United Nations on water and sanitation. It was formally established in 2003, building on a long history of collaboration within the United Nations. UN-Water comprises the United Nations bodies that have a focus on, or interest in, water-related issues as Members and other international organizations as Partners.

The main purpose of UN-Water is to complement and add value to existing programmes and projects by facilitating synergies and joint efforts, so as to maximize United Nations family-wide coordinated action and coherence and to reduce overlapping and duplication. In so doing, UN-Water seeks to increase the effectiveness of support provided to Member States in their efforts towards achieving international agreements on water. This is done along the following three main lines of work:

- Informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues;
- Supporting monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation;
- Building knowledge and inspiring people to take action.

At the end of 2016, UN-Water had 31 Members and 38 Partners.

www.unwater.org

Flags at UN Headquarters in New York, US. UN Photo/Juao Araujo Pinto

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2016 Annual Report Foreword
Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization
Chair of UN-Water

On 1 January 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) came officially into force. Universal, highly ambitious and transformative, the 2030 Agenda commits all of us to a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aim to achieve social, economic and environmental progress across the globe. UN-Water helped to shape the holistic SDG 6 that includes targets for drinking-water and basic sanitation, along with new global targets on water quality, use and management and ecosystems. For the water and sanitation community, SDG 6 to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all, is a major step forward.

Throughout 2016, UN-Water Members and Partners responded quickly to this mandate, which offers new areas for effective collaboration. For example, UN-Water's integrated monitoring framework for SDG 6 offers a comprehensive platform with methodologies for all SDG targets and indicators, along with capacity-building for countries as they progress to a framework that requires them to sustainably manage the whole water cycle in an equitable manner.

By articulating a broad framework for change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires that we seek opportunities to make clear connections with other SDGs. In 2016, both the World Water Day and the World Toilet Day theme made the connection with jobs. By linking SDG 6 with SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, UN-Water coordinated global campaigns demonstrating how water and sanitation are necessary for productivity, while paying dividends across the value chain. In addition, investing in water and sanitation management unlocks massive job-growth potential for economies in all stages of development.

As the year drew to a close, UN Member States adopted a resolution establishing an International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028. In this resolution, UN-Water is requested to support the Secretary-General in planning, organizing and facilitating implementation of the Decade. UN-Water enthusiastically welcomes this mandate and will ensure that the Decade heightens efforts to achieve the SDGs and targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Throughout 2016, UN-Water Members and Partners continued to "deliver as one" on water-related issues. I thank them for this collective effort.



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Spotlight on 2016:

first steps towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The year 2016 marked the first year of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and countries around the world prepared to implement this ambitious plan for people, planet and prosperity, along with other international agreements, such as the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change and the Addis Ababa agenda on financing for development.

To support countries effectively and efficiently with regard to the needs of the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements, UN-Water underwent a major internal review and, in 2016, adopted changes to streamline its structure and further focus its activities. Building on UN-Water's overarching mandate of coordinating the work of the United Nations on water and sanitation,

the following three main lines of work were identified: inform policy processes and address emerging issues; support monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation; and build knowledge and inspire people to take action.

When countries prepared for the first round of follow-up and review in the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), UN-Water contributed by providing input to various reports feeding into the Forum. Credible data are essential for a meaningful follow-up and review and, in this regard, UN-Water continued to support the process of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) to develop an SDG indicator framework, including through the development of monitoring methodologies for SDG 6 global indicators. By providing the integrated monitoring

framework for SDG 6, UN-Water seeks to support countries to monitor water- and sanitation-related issues in an integrated manner and to compile country data to report on global progress towards SDG 6. Under this initiative, SDG 6 monitoring was pilot tested in five countries in 2016 to evaluate the technical and institutional feasibility of the methodologies. This pilot testing represents a historic moment: eight United Nations agencies worked closely together at the country level on water and sanitation monitoring.

To realize the aim of the 2030 Agenda, it is key to work across sectors and regions in an integrated manner, recognizing and managing the many interlinkages between different SDGs and targets. To support countries in this regard, UN-Water published an Analytical Brief "Water





and sanitation interlinkages in the 2030 Agenda". A specific link that received a lot of attention in 2016 was the one between water and sanitation and jobs; both World Water Day and World Toilet Day, as well as the World Water Development Report, focused on how SDG 6 contributes to the creation of decent jobs, as well as the economy at large. Also important is to strengthen the means to implement SDG 6, a recognition embodied in both the High-level Panel on Water and the Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace, as well as in the General Assembly resolution on a new International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018–2028. In 2016, UN-Water provided input to both these panels, and the resolution calls upon UN-Water to support the Secretary-General to first plan and organize and then implement the Decade.



2016 Context

Throughout 2016, a number of major international processes were initiated and elaborated to support the implementation of the ambitious 2030 Agenda and its comprehensive and interlinked set of SDGs, as well as other international agreements, such as the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change and the Addis Ababa agenda on financing for development. Below is an overview of important milestones shaping the broader context of UN-Water's work. More information about UN-Water's role in each of these processes and events can be found in the section 2016 Achievements.

March 2016 – Further clarity on the SDG global indicator framework

United Nations Statistical Commission (New York, 8–11 March 2016) and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (various places, throughout 2016)

In 2016, the Member State-led Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) continued its work to devise an indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the SDGs at the global level. As an IAEG member, UN-Water was represented at the Group meetings and also took opportunities to share the work of UN-Water's Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI). At its 47th session in March 2016, the United



Photo by Albert González Farran/UNAMID

Nations Statistical Commission agreed with the IAEG-SDG indicator framework proposal as a practical starting point. The Statistical Commission also approved the IAEG-SDG's workplan for the next year to establish a tier system for the indicators and support the development of methodologies for indicators

in tier III, including work on definitions and standards to guarantee international comparability of indicator data. To this end, IAEG-SDG convened two face-to-face meetings in 2016: in Mexico City in March and in Geneva in November.



Interview

Going alone and fast, or together and far



Michel Jarraud

Former Chair of UN-Water
and Secretary-General
Emeritus World Meteorological
Organization.

UN-Water's history is part of a long tradition of collaboration within the UN family. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General Emeritus of the World Meteorological Organization, was its former Chair. Having had a front row seat to watch UN-Water evolve into what it is today, he remembers how coordination has gone from being considered "not so important" to something central to success.

"When former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, with support from the Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson, decided that water and sanitation would be discussed and reported on in the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, it was a significant shift," Jarraud says. "It enabled UN-Water to move from purely technical coordination to linking to the 'big issues' like poverty, climate change, sustainable development and disasters."

It was in this new context that Jarraud was appointed Chair. *"I came to UN-Water when there was a lot of competition for visibility and funding. One of my main priorities was for us all to work more closely together and I am happy that when I left the spirit of cooperation was much stronger. But this was not because of me!"* Jarraud says. *"Everyone became aware of the need to move in this direction as we realized that together we could achieve things that none of us could have done in isolation."*

The 2030 Agenda process is a case in point: UN-Water took a dynamic and proactive position towards supporting the process and almost everything proposed was taken into account. *"If we had gone in the traditional way – each of the entities on their own – there would probably not be a dedicated goal on water and sanitation today,"* Jarraud argues.

But coordination remains challenging on many levels, and Jarraud sees three obstacles. First, he says the culture of working in silos is still very strong. In a difficult financial environment, the competition for funds translates into competition for visibility that can lead to tension.

The second challenge regards implementation. *"In too many countries, there is still very little coordination of water issues. It's important that Member States set up coordination mechanisms on a national and sub-national level where this is still lacking,"* Jarraud argues.

The final challenge in Jarraud's view is about the way Member States and the UN family work together on water issues. Currently, if Member States want to give guidance to the UN on water and sanitation they have to direct it via multiple UN entities.

"We have to have a new interface [which does not mean a single organization] that Member States can deal with when it comes to water and sanitation. This will allow them to provide coordinated guidance and enable all actors to be in better marching order."

SDG 6 indicators and the tiering system

The IAEG-SDG has categorized all the SDG global indicators into three different tiers, depending on the maturity of the methodology to monitor the indicator, and to what extent indicator data are already collected. Tier I indicators have an established methodology and standards, and data are regularly produced by countries; Tier II indicators have established methodology and standards, but data are not regularly produced by countries; Tier III indicators lack established methodology and standards. All indicators are equally important and the purpose of the categorization is to make sure that due attention is paid to developing methodologies and implementing data collection for Tiers II and III indicators,

including a strong focus on country capacity-building. The IAEG-SDG will review the tier categorization once a year and, when an indicator has credible data from at least 50% of the population in each SDG region, it will be included in the annual SDG progress report. Only Tier I and Tier II indicators are included in the two annual SDG reports: the Secretary-General's Progress Report and the SDG Report (often referred to as the glossy report).

For SDG 6, four indicators are Tier I, four are Tier II and three are Tier III (6.3.1 and 6.5.2 were reviewed for fast-track modification from Tier III to Tier II at the fifth IAEG-SDG meeting). The process to develop methodologies and implement data collection for all the SDG 6 global indicators takes place under the UN-Water integrated monitoring framework for SDG 6.



Photo by Ingmar Zahorsky

SDG 6 global indicators	Tier	Custodian agency
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking-water services	I	WHO, UNICEF
6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	I	WHO, UNICEF
6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated	II	WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD
6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	III	UN Environment
6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time	III	FAO
6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	II	FAO
6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)	II	UN Environment
6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	II	UNECE, UNESCO
6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	III	UN Environment
6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan	I	WHO, OECD, UN Environment
6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management	I	WHO, OECD, UN Environment



July 2016 – Follow-up and review of the first steps towards the 2030 Agenda

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2016, New York, 11–20 July 2016

The High-level Political Forum is the mechanism for follow-up and review of progress towards the 2030 Agenda at the global level and is also mandated to play a central role in promoting United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination. The 2016 HLPF focused on the theme “Ensuring that no-one is left behind” in the context of all 17 SDGs. The Forum also welcomed the first set of voluntary national reviews by 22 countries. UN-Water observed the process leading to the adoption of a General Assembly resolution outlining HLPF themes until 2019, including clusters of goals for in-depth review for each theme, to inform

Members and Partners of the strategic entry points for water and sanitation issues. SDG 6 is included in the 2018 HLPF under the theme “Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies”. In addition, UN-Water

supported the HLPF through inputs to the Secretary-General’s report on mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development and the Global Sustainable Development Report.



September 2016 – High-level Panel on Water to raise political leadership on water and sanitation

Release of the High-level Panel on Water's Action Plan, New York, 21 September 2016

In September 2016, the High-level Panel on Water released an Action Plan for a new approach to water management, seeking to mobilize action through advocacy and partnerships, while drawing on the Panel's convening power. This two-year Panel, announced in Davos, Switzerland, on 21 January 2016, is co-convened by the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank Group and consists of 11 sitting Heads of State and Government and one Special Advisor. The Panel aims to increase political leadership for implementing SDG 6, including by mobilizing knowledge and resources and incentivizing investments, as well as by mainstreaming water across the 2030 Agenda, recognizing that solutions to water problems often lie outside the water community. In advance of the Budapest Water Summit 2016, UN-Water responded to two requests from the Panel. The first was related to possible priority action two under the universal access to safe water and sanitation challenge which encourages "the development and deployment of public awareness and education campaigns for civil society, business and government representatives around water quality, sanitation, gender and health. UN-Water consolidated input from Members and Partners on existing campaigns. The second request pertained to the water governance challenge and its priority action two on endorsing agreements that will likely help with water governance and transboundary issues. The UN-Water Expert Group on Transboundary Waters was consulted to provide input on treaty databases and dispute settlement mechanisms.

November 2016 – Turning the Paris Agreement into action



Participants at COP22 in Morocco, November 2016. Photo: UNFCCC

22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Marrakesh, Morocco, 7–18 November 2016

Following up on the ground-breaking Paris Agreement, which aims to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C, the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) convened in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 7 and 8 November, just weeks after the Agreement entered into force. Bringing together more than 22 500 participants, including nearly 15 800 government officials, the Conference was characterized by technical negotiations focusing on operationalizing the Paris Agreement. The Conference agreed to fast-track this operationalization process, outlining modalities, procedures and guidelines for implementing the Agreement.

Water is the key medium through which climate change affects people, planet and prosperity and, consequently, is central to many climate solutions in terms of mitigation and, primarily, in terms of adaptation. UN-Water organized a side event exploring how to bridge the gap between the producers and users of hydro-climate services, between water and climate communities, and between scientists, policymakers and negotiators (for further information please see "Participating in Global Processes" below).

December 2016 – A new decade for water

Adoption of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018–2028, New York, 21 December 2016

In December 2016, the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly



adopted resolution A/RES/71/222, that proclaims the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, to commence on World Water Day, 22 March 2018 and conclude on World Water Day, 22 March 2028. The Decade will focus on “the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for achieving social, economic and environmental objectives and on the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects, as well as on furthering cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda. The resolution invited the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, to take appropriate steps to plan and organize the activities of the Decade and to facilitate its implementation in cooperation with governments and other relevant stakeholders. In addition, the President of the General Assembly was requested to convene two working-level dialogues to discuss improving the integration and coordination of the United Nations’ work on water-related goals and targets during the General Assembly session.

Other major events shaping the global water landscape in 2016

Singapore International Water Week

Singapore, 10–14 July 2016

Singapore International Water Week is a leading event in the global water calendar. In 2016, it was held in conjunction with the fifth World Cities Summit and third CleanEnviro Summit. The Week delivered a range of flagship programmes where industry players shared the latest in business, scientific and technological innovation, along with policy developments.

High-level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets Dushanbe

Dushanbe Tajikistan, 9–11 August 2016

World Water Week in Stockholm

Stockholm, Sweden, 28 August–2 September 2016

World Water Week in Stockholm is an important annual meeting organized by the

Stockholm International Water Institute, a Partner of UN-Water. It brings together some 2 500 experts, practitioners, decision-makers and business innovators from around the globe to exchange ideas and foster new thinking on solutions to the world’s water challenges. In 2016, World Water Week was held under the theme “Water for growth” (see section “Strengthening the UN-Water corporate brand” for further information).



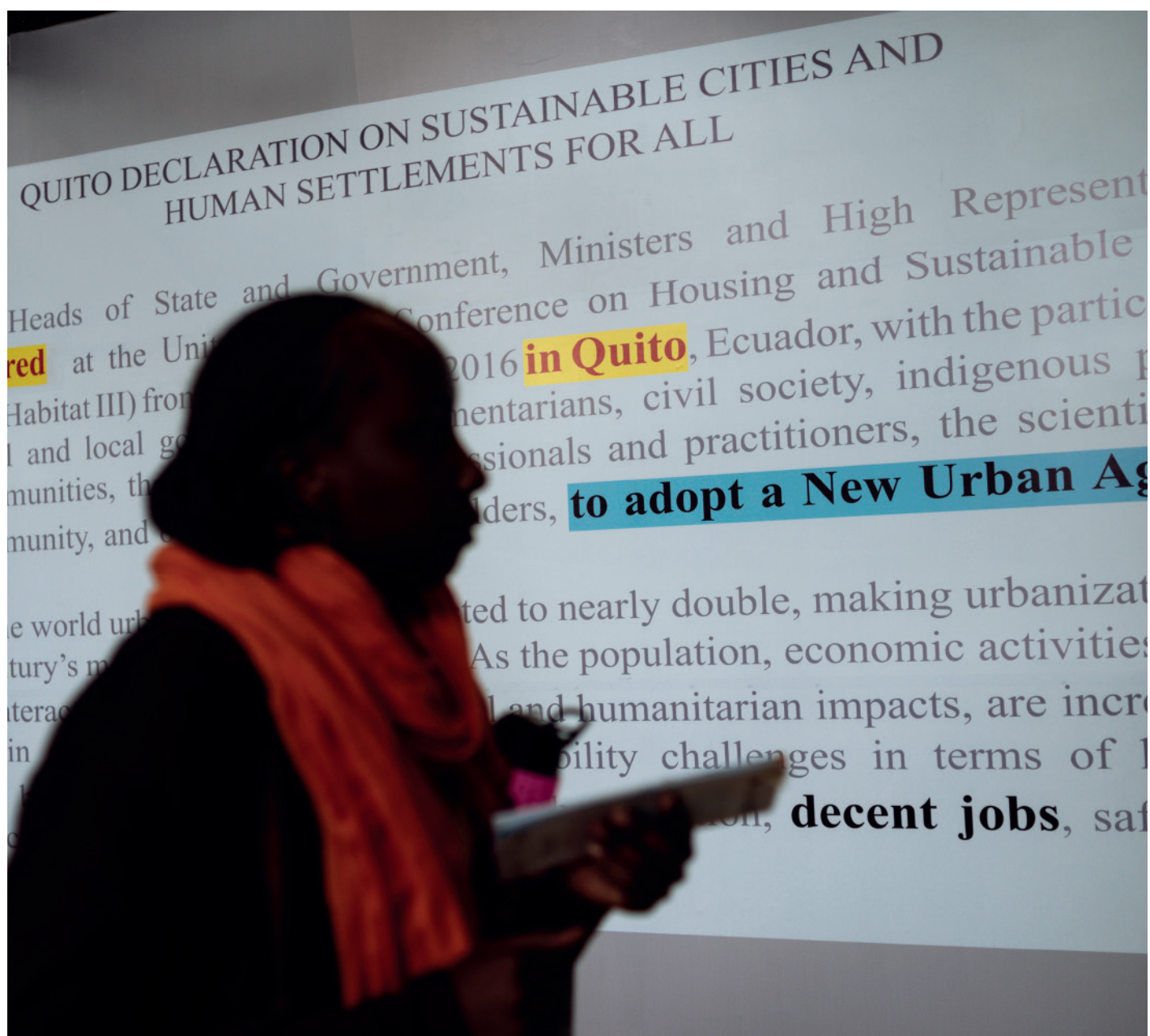


Photo by UN-Habitat

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

Quito, Ecuador, 17–20 October 2016

The third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) was organized in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. About 1 000 events attracted some 30 000 people, including representatives of 167 countries. The Conference concluded with the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and focusing on making cities safe, sustainable and resilient. Water and

sanitation have a central role in the New Urban Agenda.

Budapest Water Summit 2016

Budapest, Hungary, 28–30 November 2016

Building on the outcomes of the Budapest Water Summit 2013 as well as the 2030 Agenda, the Government of Hungary organized the Budapest Water Summit 2016 to focus on the means of implementation for SDG 6, including cooperation, peace, finance and political commitment. The Summit resulted in the Budapest Water Summit 2016 Messages and Policy Recommendations (see section “Addressing emerging issues” for further information).





Interview

"A priority for Sweden and for the world"



Mats Åberg

Senior Programme Manager,
Swedish International
Development Cooperation
Agency (Sida).

It was only just over 150 years ago that Swedes got safe drinking water and improved sanitation. Since then, access to these basic services, combined with sustainable management, has had profoundly positive impacts on public health and the environment and been a driving force behind the country's prosperity. Perhaps this is why Sweden and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, see water and sanitation as a priority issue.

"The management of water resources is a foundation of economic and social development", says Mats Åberg, Senior Programme Manager at Sida, and argues that if we are to ensure a sustainable and secure future for humanity, one of the top development priorities must be to improve the management of water resources and provide adequate sanitation. Sida believes that prompt action is needed – from governments, donor agencies, the private sector, civil society, communities and individuals – to avoid an imminent global water crisis.

"Somehow, we, the international development community, have failed to clearly communicate the importance and relevance of investing in the water sector," says Åberg. *"Accessibility, availability and quality of drinking water and sustainable sanitation will require not just a higher level of service delivered, but also a greater level of financial resources.*

We need to make sure that national policies are based on scientific research and evidence-based data."

Citing UN-Water's integrated monitoring initiative, Åberg says, *"This is of extreme importance and relevance. We are going to need more resources nationally and globally to monitor Sustainable Development Goal 6. This is why our support for UN-Water, that provides training and capacity support through the integrated monitoring initiative, is important."*

Sida has been a donor partner to UN-Water since 2011 and has recently extended the commitment to 2020, seeing their contribution as part of helping achieve the 2030 Agenda. In today's world, the structures that wield their influence most effectively are the ones taking the collective action that current and future challenges demand.

For the future, Sweden believes that UN-Water Members and Partners should jointly fund the agreed work program, and that it would then be needs-driven and not rely solely on voluntary contributions from a few donors. *"We would like to see a strategy to that end,"* Åberg says. *"But when it comes to funding, we think it is very important not to earmark funds but rather to give core coordination support that can realize the priorities set in the UN-Water strategy. This gives UN-Water the possibility to manage resources in the most useful way, and we encourage other partners to do the same."*

Achievements in 2016

UN-Water is more than the sum of its parts: it brings together and leverages the input from its Members, which are the organizations in the United Nations system (31 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions) that work on various and interlinked aspects of water and sanitation, and also gathers input from outside Partners (currently 38 international organizations representing civil society, academia and the private sector). A coherent and coordinated effort has meant that water and sanitation in all their aspects have received attention wherever technical input is needed. A 2016 survey, looking at Member and Partner contributions across all three UN-Water lines of work, revealed that they collectively invest more than US\$ 1.9 million per year in UN-Water related activities, which represents an increase of more than 60 per cent compared to five years ago. This clearly demonstrates a growing appreciation for system-wide coordination and collaboration.

In view of the needs of the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements, UN-Water underwent a major internal review in 2015/2016 and adopted changes to streamline its structure and further focus its activities, to improve its ability to effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of Member States. Building on UN-Water's overarching mandate to coordinate the United Nations' work on water and sanitation, the following three main lines of work were identified: inform policy processes and address emerging issues; support monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation; and build knowledge and inspire people to take action. The benefits of structuring UN-Water's efforts along these three lines of work is two-fold. Internally, it has resulted in a clarification of roles and outputs which has helped to rationalize the deployment of financial and human resources. Externally,

the three lines of work have helped to more clearly communicate what UN-Water does.

Informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues

The global water agenda is influenced by a wide range of environmental, sociopolitical and economic changes and challenges, which inevitably alter the priorities of UN-Water and its Members and Partners. For this reason, UN-Water has identified a need to work proactively in identifying emerging issues, to inform policy processes and to develop collaborative response actions.

Participating in global processes

In 2016, UN-Water continued to provide the consolidated input on water and sanitation within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. UN-Water supported the SDG review processes, including the HLPF, by providing input to the Secretary-General's report on mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development, the Global Sustainable Development Report and the 2016 SDG Progress Report. The latter included updates on all SDG 6 global indicators classified as Tiers I and II.

In terms of the indicator process, the IAEG-SDG convened two face-to-face meetings in 2016, in Mexico City in March and in Geneva in November; UN-Water attended both to listen to Member States' comments and respond to their questions regarding SDG 6 global indicators. UN-Water further attended a number of Web conferences organized by the United Nations Statistics Division and provided consolidated input related to tier



classification, data flows and international standards, standardized metadata and workplans for the SDG 6 global indicators. This technical input on the SDG indicator framework is intrinsically linked to the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, including the development and dissemination of monitoring methodologies.

In 2016, UN-Water provided consolidated technical advice to the work of the High-level Panel on Water, related to data and monitoring, awareness-raising campaigns and transboundary cooperation. The advice was provided through the Panel's Joint Secretariat.

UN-Water is also an observer in the Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace, which focuses on the promotion of water cooperation and the prevention of water-related conflicts. Consisting of high-level representatives from 15 countries, the Panel convened two meetings in 2016: in Dakar, Senegal, in April and in San José, Costa Rica, in December, both attended by UN-Water. In November, representatives of the Panel also took part in a United Nations Security Council open debate on Water, Peace and Security.

In November 2016, UN-Water organized a side event on water at the UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakesh, Morocco, exploring how to bridge the gap between the producers and users of hydro-climate services, between water and



climate communities, and between scientists, policymakers and negotiators. The event, for which a film is available on the [UN-Water website](#), included the participation of several experts and representatives of Member States.

Addressing emerging issues

To help countries implement the 2030 Agenda as effectively and efficiently as possible and in an integrated manner, UN-Water decided to map water- and sanitation-related interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda. The work resulted in the production of the UN-Water Analytical Brief [“Water and sanitation interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”](#), launched in August 2016 during the UN-Water Stakeholder Dialogue at World Water Week in Stockholm. The Brief analyses the links and interdependencies among the targets of SDG 6 and those of other SDGs, emphasizing how the active management of these interlinkages can support the realization of multiple SDGs and targets. The Brief further highlights the importance of mainstreaming water and sanitation in the policies and plans of other sectors.

UN-Water also produced the Analytical Brief [“Towards a Worldwide Assessment of Freshwater Quality”](#), launched at the Budapest Water Summit in November 2016. The Brief explores why a fully worldwide water-quality

assessment is needed and how it could be established, including suggestions on different strategic and methodological approaches to accomplish it.

Supporting monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation

One of UN-Water's key objectives is to provide coherent and reliable data and information on key water trends and management issues. During past decades, several initiatives, mechanisms and programmes, both within and outside the United Nations family, have been collecting information on the various components of the water cycle. To meet the needs of the 2030 Agenda, however, existing efforts need to be further refined and integrated into a harmonized monitoring framework for consolidated progress reporting on SDG 6, for which UN-Water is instrumental.

Coordinating United Nations data collection and management

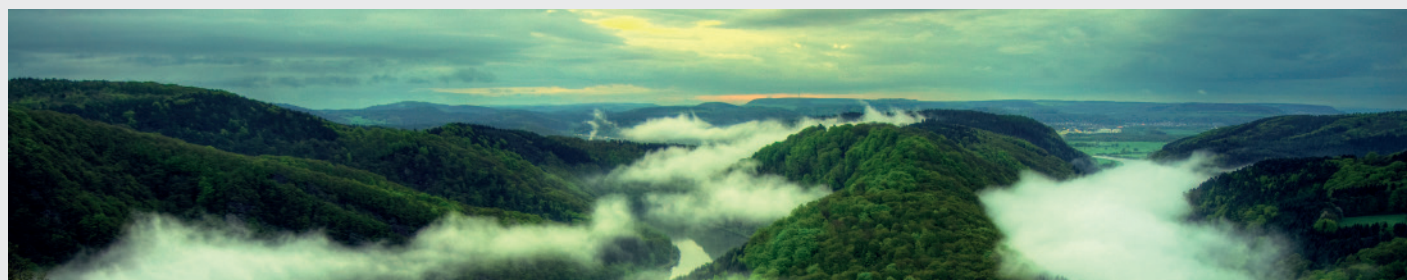
With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UN-Water intensified its work on designing an integrated framework to support countries monitor water and sanitation, building on the experience and lessons learned during the period of the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs). As the IAEG-SDG process advanced, clarity was also reached in terms of the custodianship of the SDG global indicators: which agencies have the responsibility of compiling country data on each indicator for the purpose of global reporting.

All the custodian agencies of the SDG 6 global indicators come together under the UN-Water integrated monitoring framework for SDG 6, comprising WHO/UNICEF JMP, GEMI and UN-Water GLAAS. The joint effort around SDG 6 is especially important in regard to the institutional aspects of monitoring, including the integration of data collection and analysis across sectors, regions and administrative levels.



Overview of the components of the UN-Water integrated monitoring framework for SDG 6



Components of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6	Description
<p>World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)</p>	<p>JMP is autonomously governed by WHO and UNICEF and affiliated to UN-Water. Building on its 25 years of experience, it focuses on drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene (SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2). In 2016, JMP focused on communicating with countries about the implications of moving from MDGs to SDGs, and worked towards a global baseline on 6.1.1 and 6.2.1, to be published in June 2017.</p>
<p>Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI)</p>	<p>GEMI is an inter-agency initiative composed of FAO, UNECE, UN Environment, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO and WMO, operating under the umbrella of UN-Water. Expanding on and harmonizing existing monitoring initiatives, it focuses on aspects related to water resources, wastewater and ecosystems (SDG targets 6.3–6.6). In 2016, GEMI focused on pilot-testing and revising its monitoring methodologies, emphasizing the importance of institutional aspects.</p>
<p>UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)</p>	<p>Implemented by WHO, GLAAS focuses on the means of implementation and is the mechanism in place for monitoring SDG targets 6.a and 6.b. In 2016, GLAAS entered into a new strategy period and is now focusing on aligning with the SDGs and working more closely with partners such as Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and the African Ministers Council on Water, including the monitoring of SWA Collaborative Behaviours. The GLAAS 2016/2017 country survey was launched in June 2016 and the latest report was published in April 2017. The TrackFin initiative, which tracks finance to water, sanitation and hygiene at the national level, was expanded to some 10 countries in 2016.</p>



Photo: Creative Commons - Sanjiv de Silva

Engaging countries and enhancing their capacity

The shift from MDGs to SDGs is a game-changer for water and sanitation. Countries need to move from providing access to improved sources of drinking-water and basic sanitation, to managing the whole water cycle sustainably in an equitable manner. This change is, of course, also reflected in the SDG global indicators, with the result that countries with high scores on the MDG indicators may see their results significantly drop with the SDG indicators. There is a great need to inform countries about these implications proactively and comprehensively – relating to both implementation and monitoring – and this was a focus for the UN-Water family in 2016. Another major shift is to a universal agenda whereby all countries now report against all targets and indicators.

The Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 has a strong focus on supporting countries in their monitoring efforts. To this end, the work on developing monitoring methodologies for the SDG 6 global indicators was initiated in 2014 and, in early 2016, draft methodologies were ready for in-country pilot testing. The testing – with a particular focus on the global indicators for SDG targets 6.3 to 6.6 – was carried out in Jordan (22–23 May), the Netherlands (7–9 September), Peru (30–31 May), Senegal (25–26 April) and Uganda

(15–16 June), looking at both technical feasibility and institutional processes to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the monitoring.

In support of the pilot testing, a number of documents were produced to inform countries about the role of water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda and the importance of monitoring:

- [Monitoring Water and Sanitation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [An introduction](#)
- [Monitoring Water and Sanitation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [An executive briefing](#)

...and to guide them in their monitoring efforts:

- [Good practices for country monitoring systems](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets and global indicators](#)
- [Step-by-step methodologies for monitoring SDG 6 global indicators \(one per indicator\)](#)

In each country, the testing started with a national inception workshop, gathering national, regional and global experts from across sectors, including the national statistics office, to discuss and plan how to implement SDG 6 monitoring in an integrated

manner at the national level. Following the inception workshop, an overall SDG 6 focal point was identified and, for each SDG 6 target, a national team was established to test the methodologies at scale. During the testing, the UN agencies provided technical back-stopping as necessary, including the engagement of a national consultant to support the overall process. Midway through the pilot testing, the Netherlands invited representatives from the other pilot countries and international experts to a workshop in Delft to discuss the process and methodologies. The pilot testing was concluded at the end of the year, with national closing workshops; the countries provided detailed feedback on the process and methodologies and discussed the way forward to establish a national baseline for the SDG 6 indicators.

In the autumn of 2016, the methodologies were also subject to an open external expert review, where about 20 international, non-governmental, academic and business organizations provided their detailed feedback. Based on the feedback received from the pilot countries, as well as the expert reviewers, the methodologies – and the process-related documentation – were revised in order to be ready for global implementation in early 2017. In this context, in late 2016, some 50 countries were invited to participate in this first phase of integrated data collection, aiming for a baseline on all the SDG 6 indicators by the end of 2017.

Further information is available at

www.sdg6monitoring.org



Photo: Creative Commons - Georgina Smith



Participants of the work-in-progress workshop in Delft, the Netherlands, 7-9 September 2016, including representatives from Jordan, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal and Uganda

Main conclusions from the GEMI pilot testing

- A great amount of data is already available at the country level but need to be collected from across ministries and institutions; novel sources of data present opportunities but need to be accepted by the national government; SDG 6 reporting can be successful also without complete datasets.
- The draft monitoring methodologies could be more comprehensive; clearer definitions are needed to ensure a universal understanding of the terminology; the monitoring ladder should be elaborated to reduce the monitoring burden on countries; further clarity is needed in the process and frequency of reporting.
- The model of an intersectoral monitoring team is very useful, bringing relevant stakeholders from across ministries and institutions together (sometimes for the first time).
- The purpose of data collection is to support policy and operations at the country level, to identify where action is needed (otherwise it is useless); the monitoring methodologies need to better explain how the data can be used to this end.

The SDG framework is a dynamic, 15-year long, learning and evolving process and so is the monitoring of SDG 6. To ensure sustainability over time, it is essential to align monitoring with existing structures and processes at the country level and to have sufficient resources.



Inception workshop for the Integrated Monitoring initiative, Dakar, Senegal



Reporting on global progress

Advancing its work on global monitoring and responding to its fundamental role, UN-Water decided in 2016 to produce a synthesis report on SDG 6, informing policymakers about the status of, and progress towards, water- and sanitation-related goals and targets. Building on the baseline data on SDG 6 global indicators, the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 will be launched in May 2018 as the consolidated input from the whole UN family to the HLPF and its in-depth review of SDG 6 on the theme “Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies”.

As part of UN-Water's reporting effort, the World Water Development Report – published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water – remains the reference publication of the United Nations family. The report, released on an annual basis on the theme of World Water Day, is the result of strong collaboration among UN-Water Members and Partners and represents the coherent and integrated response of the United Nations family to freshwater-related issues and emerging challenges. The 2016 edition focused on “Water and Jobs” and was launched during the World Water Day celebration in Geneva on 22 March. The report received a great deal of attention throughout the year and was widely presented in global and regional fora, such as World Water Week in Stockholm and the European Union Parliament; several countries collected communication kits to make their own presentations of the report. In terms of dissemination, the 2016 Report was downloaded on average 5 000 times every month.

Building knowledge and inspiring people to take action

Building on UN-Water Members', Partners' and other key stakeholders' efforts, UN-Water's communication and awareness-raising activities and materials focus on making information accessible, disseminating it and engaging with a wider audience through the global campaigns of World Water Day (22 March) and World Toilet Day (19 November).

Managing a knowledge hub on water and sanitation

UN-Water aims to be the first point of contact when stakeholders at all levels require up-to-date thinking on water-related issues, channelling enquiries to the relevant UN-Water Members or

Partners, where appropriate. A central component of the UN-Water knowledge hub is its Expert Groups, which gather technical experts on specific topics from across the UN-Water family and provide a platform to exchange information, knowledge and experience. During 2016, UN-Water also expanded its professional network on LinkedIn, from 8 600 members engaging through an average of 40 posts per month, to 9 500 members and an average of 55 posts per month.

Informing, engaging and inspiring action

UN-Water coordinates two annual global campaigns: World Water Day on 22 March and World Toilet Day on 19 November. Each has a rotating annual theme, and the appropriate United Nations Member(s) take(s) the lead to coordinate the campaigns. World Water Day also sees the launch of the World Water Development Report (WWDR) on the same theme, published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water. The year 2016 saw a significant increase in visibility, in terms both of reach and high-level engagement in these campaigns. Through social media, dedicated websites and other channels, these campaigns and related publications reached millions of people.

On World Water Day 2016, the UN system – working closely with its Member States and other relevant stakeholders – collectively focused attention on the connections between water and jobs. In addition to an event in Geneva, UN-Water Members and Partners organized their own activities around World Water Day, with many other organizations being inspired by the water and jobs theme. More than 500 events in 100 countries were registered on the World Water Day website, which had nearly 350 000 monthly page views in 2016. Social media engagement, including posting the hashtag #WorldWaterDay had a maximum potential reach of 1.6 billion people thanks to widespread use, celebrity involvement and films. Overall, media coverage was vast, with numerous articles and features in major media and newswires and several press briefings at UN headquarters in New York and Geneva.



Interview

Better water, better jobs

Carlos Carrion Crespo
Sectoral Specialist for
Public Services and Utilities,
International Labour Office (ILO).



Maria-Teresa Gutierrez
Technical Specialist on Employment
Intensive Investments, Department
of Employment Policies, International
Labour Office (ILO).

World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2016 had one thing in common: jobs. Both campaigns, and the World Water Development Report, focused on two things: how enough good water and sanitation quality can change workers' lives and livelihoods and transform societies and economies, and how half of the world's labour force works in water and sanitation.

"I am really satisfied with the outcomes" says Carlos Carrion Crespo, Sectoral Specialist for Public Services and Utilities at the International Labour Office, the specialized UN agency that coordinated both campaigns. *"At the ILO, we discovered a mini water community within the organization. We realized how many people here actually work with water. That has had a lasting impact both within the organization and in the communities we serve."*

"This was the same in my team", adds Maria-Teresa Gutierrez, Technical Specialist on Employment Intensive Investments, Department of Employment Policies. *"We work with investments in infrastructure and after having worked on World Water Day, the team realized that we wanted to continue to improve WASH for workers and committed to producing research using a labour-based approach. This had never been done before."*

For Carrion Crespo, the World Water Development Report, and all the messaging around the WASH@Work guidance and SDGs 6 and 8, helped everyone to see how water and sanitation interacted with their own domain and that this inspired action across diverse participants. *"There was real ownership from many organizations"* he said, noting that in the past this had been a challenge to achieve.

The regions where the ILO operates also got engaged. Gutierrez remembers: *"I had the opportunity to join a group of young people at an event in Albania. Since we had the report and campaign materials with us, we could work with employers and potential employees to show how improved awareness of and action on WASH can benefit workers and the wider society."*

She called the advocacy "an awakening" and says the organization plans to build on it for future years.

After an intense 2016, Gutierrez and Carrion Crespo are carrying on with raising the profile of water and sanitation in one of ILO's focuses called 'The future of work'. *"Water issues are firmly on the agenda now. Our campaigns continue in 2017!"* says Carrion Crespo with a smile.



WASH4Work

The Wash4Work initiative was launched on World Water Day 2016, to mobilize business to improve drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in their operations, supply chains and the communities where workers live. The initiative seeks to bring stakeholders together to encourage and support business action, as well as governments, the public and civil society to enable that business action.

For World Toilet Day 2016, UN-Water coordinated events on the topic of "Sanitation and Jobs". With the United Nations Mission of Singapore and through its World Toilet Day Task Force, UN-Water supported "A Toast for Toilets" in New York. Organized at UNICEF House, it was the occasion to launch the WASH@Work Toolkit as part of the WASH4Work Initiative. The event featured the UN Deputy-Secretary General, Jan Eliasson, where he was honoured, just prior to his departure from office, for his deep commitment to breaking the sanitation taboo.

Many groups internationally, as well as UN-Water Members and Partners, organized activities to promote the "Sanitation and Jobs" theme. Over 100 events in 40 countries were registered on the World Toilet Day website, which had nearly 75 000 monthly



On World Toilet Day, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, was honored for his commitment to breaking the sanitation taboo



page views during the main campaign period, October and November. Social media engagement, including use of the hashtag #WorldToiletDay had wide-ranging reach, in part because of a growing recognition of the World Toilet Day campaign. In 2015, the United Nations voices for World Toilet Day were widespread but scattered. In 2016, the online voices converged and drove the conversation from the centre.

Strengthening the UN-Water corporate brand

UN-Water's corporate branding of its products is important to show visually the "one voice of the United Nations on water and sanitation". This includes the production and dissemination of UN-Water communication material and the branding of other UN-Water products, such as policy briefs, analytical briefs, annual reports and other governance documents.

UN-Water contributed to the 2016 World Water Week in Stockholm with a UN-Water Pavilion, in which six Members and Partners participated, and by organizing and participating in several events. The organized events included the annual UN-Water Stakeholder Dialogue, which saw the launch of the UN-Water Analytical Brief "Water and sanitation interlinkages in the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development"; a session on SDG 6 monitoring with representatives from the pilot countries of the Integrated Monitoring Guide for SDG 6; a review and preview of WWDR; and an event on the World Water Day campaign 2017 on "Wastewater" featuring, among others, a presentation by an astronaut on the re-use of water in space. All events were well attended with about 100 participants at each.

In 2016, UN-Water's friends and followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram grew from 82 000 to 125 000 followers.

Governance and financial aspects

Documents

The UN-Water Strategy 2014–2020 and the UN-Water Work Programme 2016–2017 were the main documents that guided UN-Water's activities in 2016. All governance documents can be accessed at <http://www.unwater.org/about-unwater/governance/>.

Annual meetings

The 24th Meeting took place from 1 to 3 February 2016, in Geneva, hosted by ILO. In view of the needs of the 2030 Agenda and building on the recent review of UN-Water's internal structure and work modalities, the main discussions related to how to improve UN-Water's ability to effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of Member States,



Astronaut Christer Fuglesang spoke about wastewater in space in the UN-Water World Water Day session at the World Water Week. Photo: NASA



including the Work Programme for the 2016–2017 biennium. It was decided to streamline UN-Water's activities around three main lines of work and that the work modalities of UN-Water should include Expert Groups and Task Forces, resulting in a reorganisation of UN-Water's existing work modalities.

The 25th Meeting took place on 26 and 27 August 2016 in Stockholm, Sweden, at the headquarters of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Main items under discussion were UN-Water's ongoing and future activities related to the 2030 Agenda, including monitoring and reporting. It was noted that the work of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 and, more specifically, the in-country pilot testing of SDG 6 monitoring, provided valuable lessons for inter-agency collaboration at the country level. It was decided that UN-Water would produce a Synthesis Report on the status of, and progress towards, achieving the water and sanitation targets in the 2030 Agenda, to be launched in May 2018. It would serve as UN-Water's input to the HLPF that year, including the in-depth review of SDG 6. Themes for World Water Day and World Toilet Day beyond 2018 were also discussed.

UN-Water Joint Steering Group

The Joint Steering Group steers the operational management of UN-Water in-

between UN-Water Meetings. In 2016, it discussed, via e-mail, issues related to the management of the UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund, the review of Partner applications, and the oversight of Expert Groups and Task Forces.

UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund

The UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund is administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services. The financial status in 2016 is presented below as the total for targeted and core coordination activities:

Balance forward (2015):	USD 1 439 866
Income (2016):	
Netherlands:	USD 216,279
Germany:	USD 55,650
Sweden	USD 677,261
Switzerland:	USD 4,501,170
Interest (2016):	US\$ 22,714
Total income (2016):	US\$ 5,473,074
Total expenditure (2016):	US\$ 4,063,879
Balance (31 December 2016):	US\$ 1,409,195

ANNEX 1. Members and Partners

Members

(31 as of December 2016)

United Nations Secretariat

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

Programmes and funds

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

World Food Programme (WFP)

Regional Commissions

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

The World Bank Group (WB)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Other entities

United Nations University (UNU)

United Nations related organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Conventions

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Partners

(38 as of December 2016)

Aquafed

Center for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)

Conservation International

Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)

Global Water Partnership (GWP)

International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR)

International Association for Water Law (AIDA)

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)

International Groundwater Centre (IGRAC)

International Hydropower Association (IHA)

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC)

International Water Association (IWA)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

Mandate of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water*

Mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation*

Public Services International (PSI)

Ramsar Convention

Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

United Nations Global Compact*

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)*

Water.org

WaterAid

WaterLex

Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)

World Resources Institute (WRI)

World Water Council (WWC)

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)

* Partner with Special Status

ANNEX 2. Task Forces and Expert Groups

Expert Groups

Drinking-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) [UNICEF, WHO]

Transboundary Waters [UNECE, UNESCO]

Water and Climate Change [WMO]

Water Quality and Wastewater [UNEP]

Water Scarcity [FAO]

Task Forces

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [UN-Water Vice-Chair]

Water Security [UNESCO, UNU]

Regional Level Coordination [UNESCWA, UNESCAP]

SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 [UNESCO]

World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2016 [ILO]

World Water Day 2017 [UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNU, WHO]

ANNEX 3.

Human Resources

Members of the UN-Water Joint Steering Group

Guy Ryder, Chair UN-Water
Federica Pietracci, Interim Secretary UN-Water
Joakim Harlin, Vice-Chair UN-Water
Giuseppe Arduino, UNESCO (from August 2015)
Murray Burt, UNHCR (from August 2016)
Carlos Carrión-Crespo, ILO (until August 2016)
Carol Chouchani Cherfane, UNESCWA (re-elected in August 2015)
Andre Dzikus, UN-Habitat (from February 2015)

UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit and others

Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Adviser
Lis Mullin Bernhardt, Programme Officer (until August 2016)
Leanne Burney, Senior Consultant (from October 2016)
William Reidhead, Global Monitoring Officer (from May 2016)
Daniella Boström Couffe, Communications Manager
Maria Schade, Associate Expert
Nicolas Franke, Assistant to the Interim Secretary
Tamara Slowik, Administrative Assistant

ANNEX 4. Acronyms

COP	Conference of the Parties (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
EG	Expert Group
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GEMI	Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets
GLAAS	Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAEG-SDG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (WHO/UNICEF)
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
TF	Task Force
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNU	United Nations University
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWDR	World Water Development Report

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