

Proposed Terms of Reference

UN-Water Expert Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Context:

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit — officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. The international community is galvanizing around the 2030 Agenda with a vision to achieve the targets articulated in the SDGs by 2030.

This Agenda has major implications for all of UN-Water's Members and Partners. It is broad, ambitious and unprecedented. It includes SDG 6 on water and sanitation which sets out to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. SDG 6 expands the Millennium Development Goal (2001 – 2015) focus on drinking water and sanitation to now cover the entire water cycle including the management of water, wastewater and ecosystem resources.

The 2030 Agenda and UN-Water:

In the lead-up to 2015, UN-Water worked to provide consolidated recommendations and inputs to help shape a comprehensive and ambitious water and sanitation goal through its Working Group on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Since 2015, this group, renamed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Task Force has continued to engage with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs, has written policy briefs and has provided common inputs to the UN Reporting on SDGs. It is clear, however, that the initial “task” for this group has largely been accomplished.

UN-Water has included **Results Area 2: supporting monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation** in its 2016 – 2017 Work Programme - this area is focused on coordinating the integrated monitoring and reporting of SDG 6. It is clear, however, that the 2030 Agenda is wider than monitoring the SDG indicators. There remains a need for an Expert Group to cover this wider scope. With a focus on the 2030 Agenda, the Expert Group will mainly contribute to **Results Area 1: informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues** related to the 2030 Agenda.

Proposed functions:

- Sharing information on 2030 Agenda related developments of UN-Water interest
- Advising on the strategic scope of UN-Water's engagement in the 2030 Agenda and preparing (for SPM decision) proposals and plans for coordinated interventions among UN-Water's Members and Partners
- Mobilising technical advice and coordination of support from UN-Water Members and Partners for country-driven monitoring and reporting, gap analyses and needs assessments, dissemination of tools and good practices, capacity development, and implementation activities.
- Liaising with other SDG leads/coordinators

- Acting as the SDG 6 point of contact towards the UN Statistical Division, the IAEG-SDGs, the Statistical Commission and the SG's office for UN-Water common inputs to monitoring and progress reporting on SDG 6
- Being a rapid response body acting as a “front office” for requests coming to UN-Water from the UN system on the 2030 Agenda
- Fulfilling a “horizon scanning” function by tracking emerging issues (e.g. as was identified through the water and sanitation interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda analytical brief) as well as identifying strategic opportunities for water and sanitation
- As needed and as requested by the SPM, preparing policy/analytical briefs on topics relevant to the 2030 Agenda

Membership:

All UN-Water Members and Partners are welcome to join the 2030 Agenda Expert Group by expression of interest. In order to make the Expert Group operational, membership should include representatives for all SDG 6 indicator custodian agencies including target 11.5 along with the organisation coordinating other UN-Water Expert Groups (if not already represented).