



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 January 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a preliminary concept note for the one-day high-level meeting on the “Implementation of the Water-related Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda”, to be held on Thursday, 18 March 2021, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 73/226 of 20 December 2018 entitled “Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028”.

This high-level meeting is being convened under the theme “Scaling-up multilateral cooperation and accelerating concrete actions to meet the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and will highlight the importance and urgency of action at the highest levels in support of the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Further updates and a draft programme will be circulated in due course.

For further information, your office may contact Advisers Mr. Shaoxuan Liu (shaoxuan.liu@un.org) and Ms. Nehali Anupriya (nehali.anupriya@un.org).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER-RELATED GOALS AND TARGETS OF THE 2030 AGENDA



18 March 2021, United Nations Headquarters, New York

BACKGROUND

As per General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/226, the President of the General Assembly will convene a one-day high-level meeting to promote the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda in support of the implementation of the Decade on Water and Sustainable Development (2018-2028) and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

Water is essential for the survival and productivity of all life and ecosystems. Sustainable Development Goal 6 on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all underpins much of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Growing threat of water stresses in different parts of the world has far reaching consequences, impacting economic development, food security, health, ecosystems, energy production, poverty eradication and gender equality, amongst others.

The world is currently off-track to meeting the targets of SDG 6. Some 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water, 4.2 billion people lack safely managed sanitation, 3 billion people have no access to hand washing facilities at home, and 700 million people could be displaced due to scarcity of water by 2030. These figures indicate a concerning trend, but also an immense opportunity to bolster progress towards the attainment of all SDGs.

Taking place just prior to World Water Day (March 22), this high-level meeting will inspire action while drawing attention to the 2021 theme: Valuing Water. Water has environmental, social and cultural value that can vary depending on context. The different ways that water is valued reflects the broad linkages which require cross-sectoral cooperation in order to accelerate progress on all Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the New Urban Agenda represent a collective global commitment, a clear roadmap. However, Member States need support to strengthen their ability to comprehensively review and accelerate progress towards meeting the global water-related goals. With only 10 years to go to achieve the SDGs, we need an immediate and integrated global response to rapidly improve progress on SDG 6. The United Nations, Governments and key stakeholders are fully behind the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework which was launched during the HLPF in July 2020. This Framework is galvanizing the international community's support around five key accelerators: financing, data and information, innovation, governance, and capacity development.

With the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrating the critical importance of adequate access to safe water and sanitation for preventing and containing diseases, and climate change increasing variability in the water cycle, the Decade on Water and Sustainable Development (2018-2028) must succeed. The meeting will seek to showcase solutions in various contexts, and also identify the lessons learnt and best practices in implementing the water related targets and goals.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the high-level meeting are as follows:

- Raise global awareness among people on the importance and urgency of implementation of SDG6.
- Support the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, the recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Water and encourage announcement of actions in this regard.
- Identify gaps and obstacles in the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda whilst sharing solutions from various contexts
- Highlight the urgency of the need for mobilization of resources and enhanced investment in the water infrastructure including in the context of advancing urgent action to promote water and sanitation as key to contain COVID-19 and build a more resilient and just future.
- Reinforce the role of partnership between the global, regional and national actors from different sectors to engage with water sector, share lessons and experiences, improve collection and allocation of resources and synchronize actions on water and sanitation.

THEME

Scaling-up multilateral cooperation and accelerating concrete actions to meet the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

OUTCOME

Summary of PGA

A President's summary will be prepared and circulated. The summary will be a key input to the HLPF and the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade.

SDG 6 Acceleration Actions

Member States and other stakeholders will be encouraged to announce their commitments to advance SDG 6 as well as related goals, as part of the ongoing Decade of Action. The SDG 6 Acceleration Actions will be captured on an online platform (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>) and the SDG 6 Action Space (<https://www.unwater.org/sdg6-action-space>)