

**Meeting Report for Partners and Observers**  
**36<sup>th</sup> UN-Water Meeting**  
**7 – 8 April 2022**

This meeting report summarises the discussions and decisions taken during the open part of the 36<sup>th</sup> UN-Water Meeting.

**Thursday, 7 April 2022**

**Morning session (9:00 – 12:05)**

**Opening remarks**

The UN-Water Chair, Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo, welcomed participants to the 36<sup>th</sup> UN-Water Meeting. He thanked World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for hosting the meeting at its headquarters. He highlighted one major focus of the Meeting would be the UN 2023 Water Conference.

**Welcome remarks**

The Secretary-General of WMO, Mr Petteri Taalas, reviewed ways in which water is a key component of the climate system and ways in which WMO reforms have incorporated attention to water systems. Among other data points of concern, Mr Taalas noted that glaciers are experiencing a negative mass balance for the 33<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year and it is projected that, by 2050, approximately four billion people will experience severe water scarcity during at least one month every year. He recalled that the UN Secretary-General has announced an initiative to ensure that every person on earth will be protected by an early warning system within five years.

**Adoption of the agenda**

The Chair noted no objections and the agenda was adopted.

**Item 1 Selected reports and progress updates**

The Chair introduced this agenda item drawing attention to reports that were submitted for the information of UN-Water's Members and Partners.

**Item 2 SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework: Unifying the international community's support to countries**

**2.1) Scaling up country level engagement**

Ms Marianne Kjellen (UNDP) provided an update on the country level engagement work. Noting that country-level engagement requires strong institutions, skilled staff and high-quality data, she described the pilot phase that ran in 2020-2021 in nine countries with diverse needs. She noted that the activities during the pilot phase included: support to

Common Country Analyses (CCA) and Cooperation Frameworks; support to UN Country Teams (UNCT) coordination around SDG 6; connection to global, non-resident water and sanitation expertise for technical and policy work in countries as needed (e.g. wastewater management, innovation, human rights to water and sanitation); support to development of joint UNCT activities on water and sanitation; development of UN-Water initiatives in response to country demands; and overall connection to global processes and campaigns.. Ms Kjellen said while Covid-19 is a multiplier of challenges and a cause of delay, it is also an enabler of new virtual, integrated and inclusive ways of working.

Noting that the “false dichotomy” between UN-Water and UNCT members can hinder constructive engagements, Ms Kjellen outlined the activities for 2022-2023: to continued work with the pilot countries, publish the new offer on the UN-Water website for outreach, and to scale up the offer to target countries, including through developing an inter-agency guidance. She also underlined the importance of engaging with governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders.

Moving forward, UN-Water highlighted the power of learning by doing. Participants advocated for the need to promote and integrate different aspects of water and sanitation issues into future processes and guidelines, such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and human rights. One participant stressed the need to collect the feedback from the nine pilot countries before scaling up and to push the Country Teams to associate more with stakeholders, including civil society. Another speaker called for demand-driven activities and translation of documents into local languages.

Participants supported the development of guidance materials to help link regional structures and stakeholders to UN-Water efforts, meanwhile calling for stronger links with regional commissions, and linking up water with major issues such as climate change that countries are facing at the national level. A suggestion was also made to list the support and services that UN agencies can offer on the UN-Water website, rather than just asking members and partners to formulate what they need. A point on assisting UN-Water Partners and other stakeholders in better interacting with UN agencies was also raised.

*Decision 1: The SPMs thank the Task Force on Country Level Engagement for their reporting back on the country level engagement pilot phase 2020-2021. The SPMs decide that the Task Force remains in place for the 2022-2023 biennium and approve the recommended activities and budget. The SPMs ask the Task Force to report back on progress at the 37th UN-Water Meeting.*

## **2.2) Collaboration with AMCOW**

The Executive Secretary of the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), Mr Rashid Mbaziira, highlighted AMCOW’s African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Evaluation System. Noting that African member states have lamented how competing processes and reporting duties are putting a strain on their resources, he

stressed the need for: increased intersectoral collaboration on knowledge gathering and dissemination; practicable and functional systems for data collection and analysis; and national coordination platforms for this. Mr Mbaziira concluded that the focus of collaboration should be on collecting high-quality information and making it readily accessible to all stakeholders.

### **2.3) Update on the Country Acceleration Case Studies**

Ms Kjellen presented the update on the country acceleration case studies which aim to support leaning and sharing of good practices. In responding to the request of country proposals, 13 countries were proposed from 9 agencies. The sub-group of the Expert Group on 2030 Agenda assessed the proposals and the following three case studies was agreed:

- Costa Rica (case study development to be facilitated by UNDP)
- Pakistan (case study development to be facilitated by WHO and UNICEF)
- Senegal (case study development to be facilitated by UNECE and UNESCO)

The case studies will be presented by the countries at the SDG 6 Special Event during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July and Stockholm World Water Week in August 2022.

### **2.4) Update on the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative**

Mr Tomoyuki Okada (UN DESA) presented the recent developments of the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative, noting that capacity building initiatives are implemented based on Member States' needs. There are currently 35 institutional members in the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative. The initiative is planned for a ten-year period, from 2021-2031, and will start with Module A (Global overview of the United Nations System, 2030 Agenda and SDG 6) in 3 pilot countries this year. The estimated cost for Phase 1 (2022-2024) is US\$4 million (US\$1 million has been received from Spain).

The representative from Spain reaffirmed Spain's commitment to support the CDI and introduced their work related to capacity building and stressed capacity building and knowledge transfer is essential to achieve SDG 6. She emphasized the importance of good governance to attract resources for this initiative and the need for more resources to support it.

Ms. Alice Aureli (UNESCO) thanked UN DESA, UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit and other UN-Water Partners. She underscored the importance of knowledge sharing in the countries and called for countries to support this Initiative.

During the discussion, participants expressed their support to the CDI and asked UN-Water Members and Partners to help build on the Initiative. One participant highlighted that the floods in Germany in July 2021 demonstrated the need for capacity building in

all countries, not just developing countries. Other participants highlighted that a key part of the initiative is the ministerial coordination to evaluate the gaps, and it is important to keep the initiative demand- rather than supply-driven. One participant stressed the need to harness coordinating capacity to bring different interventions together. For example, that data on agriculture is available within some agencies but harnessing it to bring partners to the same table to use the data is a challenge. Several participants emphasized the need to address how the pillars of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework could work together.

*Decision 2: The SPMs welcome the presentation of the work plan for the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative and commit to participate in the mapping exercise of the UN-Water family's capacity development resources. The SPMs ask the Initiative to provide an update of its implementation at the 37th UN-Water Meeting.*

## **2.5) Roadmap on human rights to water and sanitation**

Mr Bruce Gordon (WHO) opened this agenda item, noting that the Roadmap had been framed in the vision of the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda, in response to a decision made at the 32nd UN-Water Meeting. The Roadmap is aligned with the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and the UN Reform Agenda, and contributes to the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Mr Rio Hada (OHCHR) outlined key elements of the Roadmap, including:

- Engage - Multistakeholder engagement, advocacy and dialogues on the human rights to water and sanitation
- Align - International human rights principles and standard
- Accelerate - Promote human rights-based approach to WASH and practical implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation
- Account - Reaffirm commitment to human rights and accountability for action

Moving forward, Mr Hada highlighted the results matrix including a listening exercise, senior-level dialogue on human rights, and a UN-Water toolkit on the human rights to water and sanitation.

During the discussion, a participant suggested that reports of Special Rapporteurs be appropriately taken into account in the process towards a Roadmap and called for increased focus on practical implementation. Two government observers emphasized that water is crucial to a wide range of human rights, not just the human rights to water and sanitation. Mr Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, called for recognition and support of the people who fight for the rights to water and sanitation on a daily basis.

Decision 3: *The SPMs approve the Roadmap for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, and reaffirm their commitment to upholding and further integrating human rights in their work.*

## **2.6) Shoutout: Initiatives by UN-Water Members and Partners**

Participants were invited to highlight their own initiatives and activities in support of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.

Ms Silvia Gaya (UNICEF) noted that UNICEF has been using the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework as guidance in its actions, and highlighted collaboration with WHO on Hand Hygiene for All and three key ‘State of the World’ report. She mentioned that UNICEF has registered different initiatives that reflect the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework on the SDG 6 Action Space (e.g. Water Security for All).

Mr Jason Morrison (UN Global Compact) introduced its Water Resilience Coalition and how its 30 member companies and 15 partner organizations are working collectively on having net positive water impact from three key dimensions of water: water quantity, quality and accessibility. He highlighted that the UN Global Compact’s 2030 Roadmap for Collective Action was approved at COP26 and concrete goals were planned, including: creating a positive impact in one hundred water-stressed basins, ensuring equitable and resilient access and sanitation for at least 100 million people; and engaging 150 companies with the potential to influence 1/3 of global water use. He also briefed Water Resilience Coalition’s work to support the Framework with a focus on data, innovation and finance.

Mr Lifeng Li (FAO) shared a proposal towards a national water roadmap approach, noting this would involve countries to draw up concrete plans to achieve all SDGs in their country in 2030 through a country-led participative approach.

## **2.7) Wrap up: Way forward**

The UN-Water Chief Technical Adviser (CTA), Mr Federico Properzi, noted that the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework helps the UN-Water family to be more effective and efficient in its work. He noted the essence of the Framework is the country-level support and called for increased focus on financing and innovation mechanisms.

### **Afternoon session (13:30 – 17:00)**

#### **Item 3 Interactive session: Climate Change and Water (13:30 – 14:30 60’)**

The co-coordinator of the Expert Group on Water and Climate Change, Mr Claudio Caponi (WMO), chaired this interactive session.

Ms Sonja Koepfel (UNECE) provided an overview of how the water community has reached out to the climate community. Among successes, she noted that water is not yet sufficiently discussed in climate negotiations and finance discussions.

Ms Lilian Daphine Lunyolo (UNFCCC) outlined linkages between water and climate in the Glasgow Climate Pact, which emphasizes the urgency of scaling up of action, including finance, capacity building, and technology transfer, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. Stressing the vital importance of climate-resilient water infrastructures, Ms Lunyolo said 2023 offers significant opportunities to evaluate the progress.

Ms Jasmine Moussa (Egypt) spoke as the host country of COP 27. Stressing that water-related climate hazards are already affecting millions of people worldwide, she said COP 27 would be a “COP for Africa” and a “COP for implementation”, with strong linkages with the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Ms Jennifer Jun (SIWI) addressed the success of the Water Pavilion during COP 26, which she reported was a multi-stakeholder effort by 33 partner organizations and 20 funding partners. Outlining lessons learned, she said the water community is prepared and well positioned to demonstrate the transformative power of water in climate action. She emphasized that water is also relevant to the other pavilions planned for COP 27, including those for nature, resilience, food and agriculture, and energy.

Mr Johannes Cullmann (WMO) elaborated on the Water and Climate Coalition, a cross-sectoral water action community under the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. The Water and Climate Coalition is promoting an integrated climate and water agenda, focusing on closing the data and information gap. Among tangible outcomes, he highlighted the Global Water Information System (GWIS) and the UNIFY movement, which promotes youth involvement in water and climate action. He clarified that the GWIS is not a new database, but rather brings together existing initiatives.

During the discussion, a participant stressed that: water is also crucial to mitigation; more accessible language should be used; and while water pavilions are a step forward, interaction with the COP negotiators is what really counts. Another speaker added that COPs should not become targets in themselves. Several speakers advocated integrated approaches to development, taking into account climate in conjunction with water and drought. Ms Jun called attention to an upcoming SIWI Water and Mitigation Report, which is funded by SIWI, UNDP, Stockholm Resilience Centre, the Potsdam Institute, and Germany’s GIZ and BMZ. Ms Lunyolo noted that the Glasgow Climate Pact also has a section on water and mitigation.

In summarizing, Mr Caponi underlined the need to mainstream water into future COPs and not just into all of its pavilions, with a focus on the negotiations and financing mechanisms.

#### **Item 4 Information session on the UN 2023 Water Conference**

This information session was hosted by UN-Water and WMO, aiming to update UN-Water Members and Partners as well as the Geneva-based missions to the UN on the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory process. Ms Carolina Tornesi Mackinnon (WYPW) moderated this discussion.

Mr Petteri Taalas (WMO) noted that WMO is applying a systems approach to addressing global challenges and has been invited by the UN Secretary-General to present an action plan for ensuring universal coverage of early warning systems within the next five years.

The UN-Water Chair encouraged participants to consider how the UN is prepared to support countries in meeting their water and sanitation objectives while avoiding fragmentation. He stressed that governments must quadruple their current rates of progress to reach the global targets of universal access by 2030. He recalled that 2023 has been named “The Year of Water Ambition”. He reaffirmed the UN-Water’s continuous support to the co-hosts and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

Mr Liu Zhenmin (Secretary-General for the UN 2023 Water Conference, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) stressed the importance of multistakeholder collaboration and cooperation to address water-related challenges. He reviewed proposals for the themes of interactive dialogues of the Conference from the Member States, stakeholders and UN-Water. The most common themes identified by Member States can be broadly classified under five clusters:

- Water, climate change and disaster risk reduction
- Water and peace and security
- Water for agriculture and food security
- Nature and water quality
- Universal access to water and sanitation.

Most stakeholders recommended themes on:

- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Transboundary cooperation
- Interlinkages between water and climate change
- Impact of COVID-19 on water access
- Data collection and sharing.

H.E. Mr Paul Bekkers, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UN Office at Geneva, stressed the need for the conference to focus on action and to adopt a cross-sectoral approach that engages everyone. He said the Netherlands, Tajikistan, and Egypt will organize a Geneva Water Dialogue on 22 June 2022.

H.E Mr Jamshed Khamidov, Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the UN Office at Geneva, highlighted the need to address the scarcity of water resources and invited participants to take part in the Second International High-Level Conference on the

International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, which is taking place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from 6-9 June 2022.

The co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference, Tajikistan and the Netherlands, proceeded to brief participants on planning for the Conference. Mr Sulton Rahimzoda, Mr. Sulton Rahimzoda, Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on water affairs, and Mr Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, emphasized that the UN 2023 Water Conference should not stop the day after the Conference, but should instead focus on partnerships that will work beyond the Conference. They noted that water is both a dealbreaker for achieving the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets as well as an opportunity, through which a green economy can be leveraged and a more sustainable and inclusive world achieved. They said the fragmentation of water policy and action across the world undermines the ability to address water challenges and stressed that the principles of the Conference should be:

- Inclusive: in terms of Conference process and the results.
- Action-oriented: the Conference aims to lead to concrete results through concrete actions and plans on the ground.

Cross-sectoral: the Conference should mobilise all other sectors to improve the way they manage and utilize water resources. These sectors need to bring their plans and actions to the Conference.

The co-hosts noted the UN 2023 Water Conference will involve: six plenaries during which Member States have space to make their statements; five interactive dialogues, the themes for which will be agreed by November 2022; three to five special events; side events; and cultural elements such as exhibitions and marathons that will lead to a global focus on water during the week of the Conference. The Conference will not result in a negotiated outcome, but will deliver a summary of the Conference proceedings, a set of voluntary commitments, and a roadmap towards the end of the Water Action Decade (in 2028), the SDGs (in 2030) and Agenda post 2030. They highlighted some events and meetings in the Roadmap in the lead up to the UN 2023 Water Conference, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dushanbe Water Decade Conference.

Mr Ziad Khayat (UN ESCWA) reported on the regional preparatory meetings for the UN 2023 Water Conference, noting that these regional consultations are already underway.

Ms Naiara Costa (UN DESA) highlighted the UN-wide efforts on raising awareness among stakeholders and creating space and providing opportunities for them to participate in preparatory meetings and the Conference itself. She drew attention to a water information mailing list and work on a Conference accreditation process.

In the ensuing discussion, participants debated which outcomes would make the Conference successful. Participants indicated a success would be if the Conference: is inclusive, action-oriented, open, transparent, and participatory; increases synergies to ensure water can be a catalyst for peace and sustainable development; helps bridge the gaps between innovation, pilots and scale-up; recognizes the disappearance of snow and



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ice as an urgent focus; feeds directly into high-level processes like the HLPF and the UN General Assembly; highlights water as a common good and a human right; and strengthens the UN architecture to ensure that water has “more voice and better coordination”.

**Friday, 8 April 2022**

**Morning session (9:00 – 11:55)**

**Item 5 Panel discussion: UN 2023 Water Conference (9:00 – 10:00 60’)**

This panel discussion aimed to define a vision of success in 2023 and specifics on what to achieve in 2023. This session was chaired by Mr Neil Dhot (AquaFed).

Ms Danielle Kamtié (WYPW) drew attention to the Youth Statement adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal in March 2022, which called for youth action to be implemented in all sectors and youth inclusion being the norm, rather than the exception.

Ms Angie Saleh (SWA) introduced SWA’s Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM), which is a tool for partners to hold each other accountable for progress in achieving the SDG 6.1 and 6.2, and an opportunity to collaborate and share their experience on the national and global stages. She shared some lesson learned from managing commitments system:

- If the commitments are not owned or lead by governments or not embedded into existing national planning processes of governments, they are not likely to be achieved;
- Multi-stakeholders are important to support the governments to achieve the commitments;
- Guidance should be given to track the commitments and commitments should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART).

Mr Marc Gordon (UNDRR) reported on efforts to insert into the UN 2023 Water Conference agenda a discourse on how water risks cascade across multiple agendas, and on addressing underlying systems, such as ecological systems. He highlighted that given the midterm review of Water Action Decade and Sendai Framework will both take place in 2023, there will be an opportunity to bring together the water community and risk community to support each other through the UN 2023 Water Conference and Sendai Framework.

Mr Dhot invited participants to reflect on the question: is the current international governance structure equipped to deliver on SDG 6? Some participants suggested stopping treating water as a “sector”, and instead adopting an approach that treats water as an underpinning theme for all sectors. Some expressed optimism, noting that “we are doing our best with what we have,” and “fragmentation” can also be framed more positively, namely as an opportunity for reinforcement of messages across sectors. Participants cautioned against “preaching to the converted,” with one advocating using

UN-Water as a platform to achieve a whole-of-society approach and another identifying water as a “mode to build bridges.” One participant suggested integration with the climate adaptation agenda. Several participants called for better communication and the use of more accessible language that is relevant to all stakeholders, notably youth and local and indigenous people, and that underlines the importance of water as an underpinning theme. One participant urged “creating a consistent drumbeat” to raise the attention of water and seek connections. He recommended reaching out to the business sector, highlighting to them their water risks and opportunities to help. Another suggested learning from other sectors how they approach cross-sector collaboration.

## **Item 6 Global campaigns**

### **6.1) Reporting back on World Water Day 2022 and the UN World Water Development Report 2022; and update on the planning for the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater 2022**

Mr Neno Kukuric (IGRAC) reported on World Water Day 2022 with the theme “Groundwater – Making Invisible Visible.” He presented the digital campaign, the pivot celebration and other sessions on groundwater during the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal. He noted that the campaign will continue during World Toilet Day and during the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater, which will take place from 7-8 December 2022. Mr Engin Koncagul (UNESCO) noted that the number of contributors to the UN World Water Development Report (UNWWDR) 2022 was higher than ever.

UN-Water Members and Partners agreed on the suggestion of a joint UN-Water statement to be prepared by the Task Force and issued as an outcome of the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater. The statement will also contribute to the preparation of the mid-term review of the Water Action Decade in 2023.

*Decision 4: UN-Water Members and Partners agree on the suggestion of a UN-Water joint statement to be prepared by the Task Force and be issued as an outcome of the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater and meant to contribute to the preparation of the mid-term review of the Water Action Decade in 2023. The SPMs request the Task Force to circulate for review by end of October 2022 the draft statement.*

### **6.2) Update on the UN World Water Development Report 2023**

Mr Koncagul reported on the process and timeline of UN WWDR 2023 with the theme of “Accelerating change through partnerships and cooperation.” He said the lead agencies had begun writing their chapters in March 2022, first drafts are due in April 2022, and the final report will be launched in March 2023 during the UN 2023 Water Conference.

### **6.3) Creation of the Task Force for World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2023**

The CTA introduced the theme of the World Water Day and World and World Toilet

Day 2023 as well as the UN WWDR 2023. He empathized the importance of this Task Force and invited the participants to express interest to participate in the Task Force. The Task Force will meet in May to decide the coordinators and discuss the next steps.

The meeting established the Task Force and requested the Task Force to present its work plan for approval at the 37th UN-Water Meeting.

*Decision 5: The SPMs decide to create the Task Force on World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2023.*

*The members of the Task Force are AMCOW, AquaFed, CDP, FAO, GCF, GWP, Human Right 2 Water, IHE-Delft, IAEA, IAHR, IGRAC, ILO, OHCHR, PSI, SWA, UNCCD, UNDP, UN DESA, UNEP, UNESCO, UN Global Compact, UN-Habitat, UNOOSA, WfWP, and WHO. A meeting will be facilitated by end of May. The Task Force members will select the coordinators.*

*The SPMs request the Task Force to present its work plan for approval at the 37th UN-Water Meeting.*

#### **6.4) Theme of water-related international observances 2024 and 2025**

The CTA started the discussion by introducing the background of this agenda item. Mr Koncagul presented following options for the themes of the World Water Days and UN WWDRs 2024 and 2025 and advantages and disadvantages of each theme:

- Water and a sustainable economy;
- Water and coastal zones;
- Water and human health;
- Water and gender;
- Water and a new world order;
- Water and small islands.

The participants expressed their preferences: objected to themes focusing on particular regions or groups of society; suggested extending “health” to include the health-and-environment nexus; and suggested avoiding a focus on “a new world order”, favoring instead “leveraging water for peace”, with some adding “justice” as well.

In summary, the UN-Water Chair noted a general preference for the themes on peace, health, and gender, and suggested they be adopted as themes in consecutive years in that order. The CTA clarified that these suggestions would be forwarded to UN Senior Programme Managers for a final decision.

*Decision 7: The UN-Water Members and Partners decide that the theme of the 2024 World Water Day campaign, the 2024 World Toilet Day campaign and the UN World Water Development Report 2024 is “ Leveraging Water for Peace”.*

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*The UN-Water Members and Partners further decide that the theme of the 2025 World Water Day campaign, the 2025 World Toilet Day campaign and the UN World Water Development Report 2025 is “Water and Gender”.*

*The UN-Water Members and Partners further decide that the theme of the 2026 World Water Day campaign, the 2026 World Toilet Day campaign and the UN World Water Development Report 2026 is “Water and Health”.*

*Should Member States declare 2025 the international year of glaciers preservation, the 2025 theme would align and become glaciers preservation. In this case, the theme that was selected for 2025 will move to 2026, and the theme that was selected for 2026 will move to 2027.*

**Afternoon session (13:00 – 16:50)**

**Item 7 Monitoring and reporting**

Mr Bruce Gordon (WHO) chaired this item given that the UN-Water Chair had other commitments.

**7.1) Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6**

The UN-Water Global Monitoring Officer, Mr William Reidhead, briefed participants on the recent work of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6). He reported that 30 countries have assembled their SDG 6 data monitoring teams based on the work of this Initiative, and its SDG 6 Data Portal, SDG 6 website, and baseline and progress updates and have provided a solid basis on which to build. He noted that participation in webinars hosted by IMI-SDG6 had increased substantially during the pandemic and the Initiative would continue to use virtual meeting options. Based on work on gender contextualization of SDG 6 data, IMI-SDG6 is piloting gender contextualization tools.

The Global Monitoring Officer further reported that challenges for the Initiative included building national ownership and capacity for intersectoral monitoring, coordination and data analysis for decision making. He said a continued focus on the width of SDG 6 data at the expense of depth of the data could undermine the credibility of the IMI-SDG6.

Phase 3 (2023-2026) will seek to make global indicator data more useful for policy-making, including through: disaggregation and contextualization; national target setting; and strengthening country integration and collaboration across ministries. He also noted the need for more sophisticated analyses, including on interlinkages among the SDGs.

During the discussion, a participant suggested providing Application Programming Interface (API) access, to allow better interoperability between data portals.

## 7.2) Planning for the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023

The CTA started the discussion by recalling the decision at the 33<sup>rd</sup> UN-Water Meeting, as well as the background information about the SDG 6 Synthesis Report. This report will be a contribution from the UN-Water family to the next SDG 6 in-depth review at HLPF 2023. He noted that the Steering Committee of IMI-SDG6 recommended drafting a short report building on the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference. The report should outline UN-Water’s vision for the second part of the SDG period and provide policy recommendations to Member States on how to achieve SDG 6 by 2030. The CTA underscored the message “we need to accelerate the progress 4 times to achieve SDG 6 by 2023”. The message was produced by the Summary Progress Update on SDG 6, and has been quoted many times at different meetings and events, and is a good example of strong messaging that could be delivered to the political level. The CTA also presented the planned structure, branding, production modalities and funding for this report (see details in Decision 7).

During the discussion, the participants noted the timing challenges due to the fact that the UN 2023 Water Conference will take place in March and the HLPF will review SDG 6 in July. Participants also called for the messages in other 2023 reports, including the UN WWDR, to be consistent. One speaker noted that an additional challenge for best positioning the Synthesis Report is that the themes of the UN 2023 Water Conference will only be agreed by November 2022. Some speakers suggested bringing on co-authors for the report, such as the World Bank, to help broaden the report’s perspective and “break down silos.”

*Decision 7: Recalling decision 10 of the 33rd UN-Water Meeting (September 2020), the SPMs re-confirm the intention to publish the next UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report to inform the SDG 6 in-depth review at the High-level Political Forum 2023. The SPMs further decide:*

- *Content: The UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023 will be a short document informing and building on the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference and contributing to the High-level Political Forum 2023. The UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report should outline UN-Water’s vision for the second part of the 2030 Agenda and provide policy recommendations to Member States on how to achieve SDG 6 by 2030*
- *Structure: The UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023 should be organized around the five accelerators as outlined in the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.*
- *Branding: Like its predecessor in 2018, the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023 is a Category 1 publication and will carry the UN emblem only, with UN copyrights and ISBN.*
- *Production modalities: The UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report’s production will be coordinated by the UN-Water Expert Group on the 2030 Agenda with the help of a senior consultant to act as main technical editor of the Report.*
- *Funding: In addition to resources already available as part of the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, core coordination funds are also*

*available as part of the UN-Water Work Programme 2022-2023, Main Activity 2.2 “Enabling policy- and decision-makers at all levels to draw upon the interdependencies between SDG 6 targets and maximize benefits of water and sanitation monitoring data in a holistic manner”.*

### **7.3) UN-Water gender work**

Ms Ginette Azcona (UN Women) presented work on an upcoming report that will include indicators that are relevant as well as case studies to inform SDG 6 gender story. The work will also include a strong communication strategy with clear and concise key messages, as well as high impact social media and data centred assets, such as infographics and data cards. The document will provide input to the UN 2023 Water Conference.

The Global Monitoring Officer provided an update on the IMI-SDG6 gender contextualization work. He added that the Indicator Working Group is looking at opportunities to contextualize data for gender and has recognized the need to be careful about which data are used. For example, some data points, such as the share of women in committees and public hearings, are hard to link directly to meaningful changes in water policy. He also noted challenges with linking small-scale data sets to a larger scale and said focus groups can answer some questions better than surveys. The Global Monitoring Officer recommended considering smaller data sets and alternative statistics. He highlighted that such “citizen science” might be hard to standardize across a country but can be useful to answer some questions.

### **Closing remarks to Partners**

Mr Gordon thanked the participants for their contributions.