

# High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021

## SDG 6 Special Event

Friday, 9 July 2021, 8:00-9:30 EDT  
Virtual Event

### Draft Concept Note

#### **Co-chaired by:**

Mr. Gilbert F. Hounbo, Chair of UN-Water and President of IFAD  
Mr. Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

#### **Background**

Billions of people worldwide live without safely managed drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, which are critical for protecting human health and containing the spread of COVID-19. Currently 2.3 billion people live in water-stressed countries, and challenges are increasing related to water pollution, water scarcity and floods caused by climate change and mismanagement.

Even before COVID-19 struck, progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 was alarmingly off track. According to the latest UN report, the current rate of progress on achieving water and sanitation for all will have to quadruple to meet the 2030 deadline. A sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through water and sanitation related measures provides a unique opportunity to promote the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and build an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, launched by the UN-Water family at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2020, aims to deliver fast results for SDG 6 at an increased scale and strengthen system-wide collaboration at the country level. The Framework will also contribute to progress across the 2030 Agenda and other relevant global targets. By committing to the Framework, the UN system, governments, civil society and the private sector will work together in a coordinated way to advance the water agenda. The five accelerators outlined in the Framework – Financing, Data and Information, Capacity Development, Innovation, and Governance – will dramatically improve the international community's support to country progress.

Since the launch of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, progress on achieving SDG 6 has been made by a variety of stakeholders. The Framework has been recognized and included in different UN resolutions and processes. In March 2021, the President of the General Assembly High-level Meeting on Water focused panel discussions on the five accelerators. UN-Water Members and Partners have also been contributing to the Framework – expertise and support have been provided to eight country level engagement pilot countries, and several initiatives and reports have been developed around the Framework.

### **Objectives**

In line with the theme of the 2021 HLPF, the Special Event will focus on how the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework can support a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and builds an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework introduces this multi-stakeholder, high-level, annual stock-taking event to enable stakeholders to keep up momentum on SDG 6 as well as share lessons and best practices. The SDG 6 Special Event will review the progress to date and showcase some of the projects that have been developed around the Framework. As a new contribution to the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, progress on the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative will be introduced by the co-coordinators UN DESA and UNESCO.