

High Level Political Forum 2023

SDG 6 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Clean water and sanitation

10:00 – 13:00 EDT, 11 July 2023, Conference Room 4

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Excellencies, distinguished participants;

- At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda and Water Action Decade, it's clear that SDG 6 is alarmingly off-track. We are falling further behind, particularly in regions and countries where the needs are greatest.
- The SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023 provides a response at this critical junction.
- It is a “blueprint for acceleration.” The focus is two-fold:
 1. How to put SDG 6 progress on track
 2. How the United Nations can support.
- The report was prepared by UN-Water – the United Nations coordination mechanism for water and sanitation which consists of 35 UN entities and 45 international partners.

First, “How to put SDG 6 on Track”:

- The report provides a “*blueprint*” for acceleration.
- The main findings and recommendations are structured around the five “*SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework*” ‘accelerators’. This Framework was launched at the 2020 HLPF as part of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Decade of Action.
 1. Starting with finance- we need to “**Pour in more funds.**”
 - a. Better enabling environments can attract new investment. Existing finances must be used more efficiently and effectively.
 - b. Reforms to the global development finance architecture can increase funding and fiscal space for governments to invest in water and sanitation.
 2. On data and information – we must “**Fill the gaps**”.
 - a. National monitoring, reporting and data dissemination systems must be strengthened to cover all SDG 6 indicators, combining datasets from all stakeholders.
 - b. Earth Observation technologies and improved data practices, such as standardization and disaggregation, can improve decision-making and reduce inequalities.

3. On capacity development – we need to **“Invest in the workforce”**.
 - a. Education and employers should promote water and sanitation ‘literacy’ in curricula and actively attract, train and retain workers, especially women and youth.
 - b. National-level workforce assessments are needed to determine current in-demand and future skills.
4. **“Boost innovation”**
 - a. We must speed and scale up innovations to better utilize technology and customize to local contexts- to *get them where they are needed most*.
5. Lastly, to improve governance we need to **“Maximize cooperation”**.
 - a. Collaboration across sectors and borders magnifies the effectiveness of water and sanitation management.

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- With just seven years until 2030, swift and purposeful action is needed now. By applying these accelerators, SDG 6 can be put on-track.
- However, rising to this new level of ambition will require dramatically stepping up efforts. The United Nations system has a unique role to play.

This brings us to the second part, “How the United Nations can support”:

- The report shares ideas on how the UN system can support SDG 6 acceleration and implementation of the Water Action agenda and gamechanger initiatives.
 1. **Mainstream water and sanitation in all relevant intergovernmental processes**, such as climate change, health, biodiversity, food systems, energy and disaster risk reduction.
 2. **Regular intergovernmental meetings and conferences** can ensure progress is measured and momentum maintained at the top of the global political agenda.
 3. **Convene United Nations leadership at the highest level**, such as meetings of United Nations executive heads can increase dialogue and decision-making.
 4. **More effective country-level coordination interface**. The interaction between United Nations entities working on water and the United Nations development system, through the resident coordinator system, can be enhanced and upscaled to support country-level SDG 6 acceleration.
 5. A dedicated **United Nations system-wide water and sanitation strategy** can help leverage the full capacities of the UN-System.
 6. **United Nations agencies’ water and sanitation programmes** can be strengthened to address gaps and respond to emerging needs.

“Blueprint for Acceleration: SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023”

7. The addition of a **United Nations coordination office** can augment capacity to deliver results on water and sanitation. This office could serve the UN-Water inter-agency mechanism.
- To conclude, we invite you to the ***SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event*** on 17th July for an in-depth discussion on the Report.
 - Thank you for your attention.