Stockholm International Water Institute Input to the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

"Building back better from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

About Stockholm International Water Institute

SIWI is a not-for-profit water institute with broad expertise in water governance – from sanitation and water resources management to water diplomacy. Our research and policy advice support decision-makers worldwide.

SIWI organizes World Water Week, the world's leading annual water event, and awards the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize and Stockholm Junior Water Prize. Furthermore, SIWI hosts several flagship programmes, including the UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility, the International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC), the Shared Waters Partnership, and the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform). SIWI is also home to Swedish Water House, which bridges science, policy, and practice.

With this submission to the ECOSOC, SIWI wishes to highlight the multi-faceted contributions of water to the goals under review at the 2022 HLPF, with supporting examples from our own work. This shows the potential of water in catalysing efficient action to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Our message: Water is a crucial enabler for sustainable development

Water plays an important cross-cutting role for the fulfilment of the entire 2030 Agenda. Healthy freshwater ecosystems and oceans are fundamental for a biosphere in balance, which is especially important for vulnerable populations, who also need accessible, equitable, and resilient water and sanitation infrastructures. The experiences of the past two years, with the Covid –19 pandemic and ever-increasing impacts of climate change, have further demonstrated the crucial role of water for the needs of all societies, economies, and ecosystems.

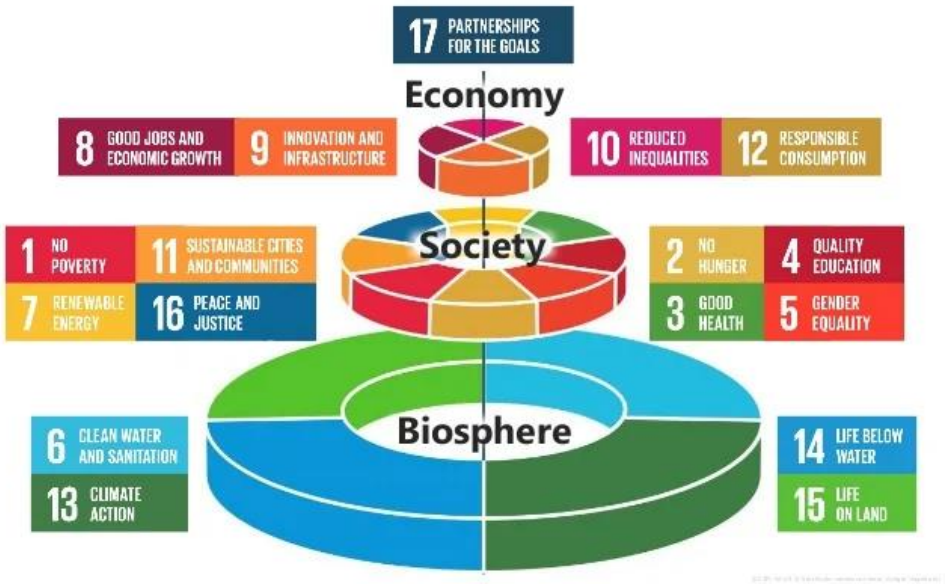

Figure 1: Chart over the Sustainable Development Goals

Our policy recommendations:

To advance the fulfilment of the goals under review this year, as well as the 2030 Agenda overall, SIWI proposes the following:

- Improve access to and governance of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

  Water, sanitation, and hygiene are essential tools to limit the spread of Covid-19. Improving access to WASH, especially for poor and marginalized groups and communities, can help limit the risks of infections and strengthen people's resilience against future pandemics. Stable, equitable, and affordable WASH services could also lift people out of poverty. It often means that more girls can go to school instead of fetching water, contributing to the goals of access to quality education for all (SDG4) and gender equality (SDG5).

- Use natural resources, including water, more sustainably.

  Covid-19 highlights that our current relationship with nature and natural resources is not a sustainable one. In the recovery efforts from COVID-19 and building back, focus must be on establishing a new pact with nature that ensures the sustainable use of natural resources, including water resources, that meet the needs of people as well as those of the planet. By protecting nature and water resources, we protect people and our planet (SDGs 14 and 15).

- Achieve sustainable development through an integrated and holistic approach across economic, environmental, and social dimensions.

  We need an integrated and holistic approach to sustainable development, across the economic, environmental, and social dimensions. Only if we move away from our current siloed approaches, working in isolated sectors, can we achieve the SDGs, as well as other global agendas such as the Paris Climate Agreement. Especially given the growing pressure on water, caused both by climate change and rising demand, can we see a new need for improved governance and intensified cooperation among stakeholders, sectors, and countries. Cross-sectoral and inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches need to become the new norm for sustainable development and offer inspiring contributions to the SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

  Source-to-Sea management is a particularly promising example of cross-sectoral water governance. It offers a solution to fragmented governance and the urgent need to consider the linkages between land, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems linkages. The recovery from Covid-19 offers an opportunity to rethink our societies, including governance, finance, and consumption. Now is the time for decision-makers around the world to drive meaningful change through policy reforms, sustainable financing, and collaborative management that restore and maintain the health of the ocean and reverse the trends of biodiversity loss. Catalytic examples will incorporate nature-based solutions and support innovative blue-green options, over yesterday's fossil fuel-dependent ones. (SDGs 14, 15 and 17)

In Detail: Water and the Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2022

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

For enabling **SDG 4 Quality Education**, schools need to possess adequate WASH services for providing a safe access to school, especially in the build back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

SIWI's work on water, sanitation, and hygiene has demonstrated the role of WASH services for providing quality education for all.

WASH in Schools- linked to *SDG 4: Quality education*

There are many water-related barriers to education, including how women and children are often forced to spend hours collecting water instead of engaging in paid work and education. A lack of sanitation services at schools can also mean that many girls drop out. Furthermore, extreme water events such as floods, droughts and pandemics can keep children out of classrooms. Thus, addressing local water challenges is a key element of improving opportunities for all children to learn and thrive (see SDG 4.1). The importance of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in schools has been recognized globally by its inclusion in the SDGs (targets 4.a, 6.1, 6.2) as key components of a 'safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment' and part of 'universal' WASH access.

Every child has the right to a quality education, which includes access to drinking water and WASH services while at school. Children spend a significant portion of their day at school where WASH services can impact student learning, health, and dignity, particularly for girls. No child should die or become ill because of attending a school where contaminated water is drunk, where they are exposed to other people's excrement, or where there is no adequate place to wash their hands. Moreover, no girl should be denied going to school because of water shores nor should they drop out of school because of a lack of menstrual hygiene management or access to basic toilets.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for safe WASH infrastructure and services in schools. It is important that they have a gender focus and that they are resilient to future health crises and climate risks. In response, UNICEF and SIWI jointly published the report, "Regional Outlook in Latin America and the Caribbean on the COVID response for a Safe Return to Schools" at the end of 2021. The report offers a regional view on the actions in five Latin American countries (Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay and Suriname) to ensure a safe return to school during the Covid-19 crisis The measures were analyzed in three areas of intervention: 1) the strengthening of an enabling environment (policies, strategies, funding, accountability, and other general aspects of the sector); 2) promotion of hygiene and infection prevention and control measures; and 3) availability of WASH services in schools. One of the main conclusions of the report is that there are no signs of more sustainable solutions being implemented to address the lack of access to WASH services in school facilities. Changing this would require new service delivery models, with a clearer definition of roles, responsibilities and accountability mechanisms for operations a beyond the pandemic.

Short-term recommendations are focused on the emergency response, while medium- to long-term recommendations aim to improve preparedness and resilience building. Most important short-term recommendations include installing necessary (temporary) equipment to ensure water availability on the premises; the continuing sharing of information, various precautionary measures, and a dialogue with municipalities to make sure that they ensure continued service provision.

Examples of long-term recommendations are to improve the coordination between the Ministries of Education and Health, as well as the local municipalities to clarify their respective roles and responsibilities. For example, this could clarify who should be providing services in schools, who

should establish clear standards for WASH infrastructure in schools, and how can a management system be created for the provision of WASH services.

Another similar report was developed to map the C-19 Safe return to schools response in Middle East and North Africa Region, which was conducted between December 2020 and January 2021, led by the UNICEF regional office and SIWI, through engagement with 14 UNICEF country offices. The mapping was structured using a framework derived from multiple global and regional Covid-19 school-reopening-readiness frameworks. The framework defined four broad "Intervention Areas": Enabling environment, Hygiene promotion, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), and WASH services; with 46 specific response activities across the Intervention Areas. The results generally showed substantial activity in the area of IPC and hygiene promotion, both at the enabling environment level and at the school level. However, there is limited information on the extent of coverage of schools with IPC and hygiene measures (i.e., percentage of schools covered). On the other hand, limited evidence was found for the establishment of monitoring and feedback mechanisms that support IPC protocol compliance assessment and effectiveness of the implemented IPC measures.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 5 - Gender Equality - is a pre-requisite for all other SDGs. For the world to gear towards more gender justice post the Covid-19 pandemic, power structures that foster unjust societies need to be removed. Progress towards Goal 5 was lagging already before the Covid-19 pandemic, which has further aggravated the situation threatening gender equality, as often happens in times of international and national crises.

SIWI is currently working to develop perspectives on what is needed for economic and structural empowerment of women in the African agricultural sector, as well as disseminating lessons learnt and best practises from SIWI's experiences as host of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile and the sister Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan. SIWI looks at how climate change, due to societal structures, tend to hit women harder and in what ways it is, thus, important to create gender-inclusive platforms for knowledge exchange and decision-making.

SIWI is committed to the advancement of SDG 5 and is mainstreaming gender perspectives across all the organization's work. As an example, SIWI contributes to achieving Target 5.5 - promoting women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. SIWI also works actively with Target 5C to adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels. SIWI, furthermore, has a specific focus on southern Africa, through its regional center located in Pretoria, which contributes to developing gender awareness and women empowerment.

Women empowerment in agriculture in the African context

The challenges faced by developing countries and drylands are well documented. The links between land, food and water, as well as between rural regeneration, poverty, and growth are increasingly recognized. Women play a significant role in agriculture, making up between 50 and 80 percent of the African agriculture labour force, where they are focussed on subsistence and smallholder farming. In addition, women are pillars of economic growth, especially in the agriculture and agribusiness sector that generates most of the incomes and employment opportunities in rural Africa. This is not least important for young Africans, since the region has the largest population of young people in the world with 200 million people between 15 and 24. Many of them are however unemployed – twice as many as among adults so, creating new, rural jobs is key to sustainable development.

Smallholder rainfed farmers are 'embedded' in the catchments of drylands and are the de facto day-to-day front-line managers of water. Typically, these farmers have little or no support or training in the management of scarce rainwater resources and the land on which they depend.

Farmers, especially women, receive minimal public support and are largely unable to access credit and markets to sell any surplus produce they can grow. As a result, poverty and malnutrition are increasing due to the combined effect of water scarcity and increased volatility in water availability. Helping farmers to increase their knowledge on water management is critical in establishing nature friendly and cost-effective solutions. Regenerating the rural economies of developing countries will only be effective if water is available and well managed.

Economic empowerment of women and girls through more productive agriculture and water management contributes to improving the resilience in smallholder farming and will have a positive impact on women's livelihoods. In addition, greater availability of water for domestic use will reduce labour requirement such as fetching water from far-off sources. The time saved from collecting water can be used for other productive activities.

The cumulative consequences of increasing the availability and improving the management of water with a gender perspective could simultaneously impact multiple SDGs and put the African continent back on track in terms of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Some of these impacts are direct while others are indirect:

SDG 1: No Poverty	Help to eradicate extreme poverty by improving livelihoods of farmers, increase productivity and the knock-on impacts along the agricultural value chain
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	Enabling smallholder farmers to produce enough to feed their families and increase food security.
SDG 3: Good Health and well being	Increased access to water, enough food and better nutrition.
SDG 5 Gender Equality	Economic empowerment of women and girls through more productive enhanced rainfed agriculture. Improving the client resilience in smallholder farming will have a positive impact on women's livelihoods. In addition, greater availability of water for domestic use will reduce labour requirement such as fetching water from far off sources. The time saved from collecting water can be used for other productive activities.
SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	Enhanced rainfed agriculture practices such as rainwater harvesting and storage, groundwater recharge will result in increased water availability for domestic use.
SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	Increased production will result in rural economic growth and create farm-level job opportunities including for the youth and women. This can mitigate rural-urban migration and reduce youth exposure to low-paying jobs, poverty, crime and drugs in the urban areas.
SDG 13 Climate Action	Enhanced rainfed agriculture promotes both mitigative and adaptive approaches and practices to climate change, increasing the resilience of farmers to cope with longer spells of drought and times of excessive rainfall.
SDG 15 Life on Land	Improved water and soil management, reduced catchment degradation and erosion, improved water quality in rivers and lakes, restored aquatic eco-systems, improved hydropower plant productive design life.

Figure 2: Achieving the Sustainable Developing Goals

Climate Change and Gender

In the Sixth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) it is concluded that climate change impacts are occurring more frequently and strongly than previously predicted and that these changes are often manifested through changes in the water cycle.

Water organizations such as SIWI can help raise awareness of how climate change is having a detrimental effect on gender equality:

- In many places, women lack access to platforms where information and data about climate change are shared. Therefore, women often have fewer opportunities to build preparedness and resilience to climate change effects, which aggravates already existing gender gaps.
- Women are more commonly caregivers and responsible for household duties. As climate change is predicted to increase drought and make freshwater sources less available, women and girls are more likely to have to spend more time fetching water from far-away resources, thereby making non-household related engagements, such as attending school, increasingly difficult (Das 2017).
- Likewise, women more commonly have occupations directly dependent on water, such as in washing and hair cutting services, which provides them with an additional vulnerability to hydric-related climate change effects, a matter that in turn can decrease the possibilities of economic empowerment of women (Ibid.).

For the above reasons, it is vital to increase the participation of women in decision-making bodies. That is both an issue of enabling just inclusion and access but also, through women's additional gender-sensitive knowledge, crucial for identifying efficient and sustainable climate adaptation and water management measures. Therefore, when building back from the Covid pandemic, advancing the rights and decision-making power of women and girls needs to be a core objective.

Water Diplomacy and Gender Inclusion

SIWI works actively to increase the participation of women in water diplomacy, which has produced important lessons and insights. The Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile (initiated in 2017) and the sister Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan (initiated in 2021) both serve as communities of practice for women water diplomats in fragile regions supported by SIWI. The Networks are designed as 'informal engagements for formal actors' (Track 1.5) and largely include representatives of the Ministries of Water and Foreign Affairs and other related line ministries. The overarching objective of the Networks are to support women's leadership in high-level decision-making in transboundary basins, with a focus on gender and youth empowerment, peer-to-peer learning and capacity development, research cooperation, and joint advocacy.

The women-led initiative has a track record of supporting inclusive representation and gender equality at all levels of transboundary water management with positive implications for regional peace, human security, and good water governance. The Network has demonstrated the importance of affording women decision-makers access and space to mentoring and knowledge exchange while fostering trust between key actors across the basin. One of the outcomes of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network is the launch this year of the global programme and statement 'A Rising Tide' with a call to action for dramatic improvements in inclusive governance and decision-making approaches across the 'Nile and Beyond'. The networks' format of how to create fruitful spaces for women provide valuable information to fields beyond the water world as well.

SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Tracing impacts on the ocean across landscapes and back to their source is central to tackling global development aspirations at a system scale. Managing from source to sea balances upstream and downstream interests and provides an avenue for coordination across all SDGs.

Societies continue to generate pollutant flows with a cascade of impacts on terrestrial and water-related ecosystems extending to coastal zones and the ocean. Enormous amounts of human and agricultural waste, wastewater and runoff wash into rivers and wetlands and from there into the ocean. Oceans become more acidic due to increased absorption of carbon dioxide, threatening the growth of calcifying organisms and entire food chains. History also demonstrates our limited capacity to safeguard the flows of water, sediment and biota needed to sustain ecosystem function along rivers and at the coast, with devastating impacts on freshwater and marine biodiversity as a result. With a growing global population, increasing consumption and accelerating urbanization, these pressures build towards a breaking point, where no-one will remain untouched. Whether directly depending on the ocean, or living inland, we all need healthy oceans. All sectors of society must understand and take responsibility for their impact on the ocean, whether it is through runoff from agriculture, untreated wastewater from industrial and domestic uses, inadequate solid waste management, extensive water diversion, sediment trapping in reservoirs, wetland drainage or habitat fragmentation as a result of encroachment.

To answer the above challenges, SIWI leads the development of the Source-to-Sea (S2S) approach and its application in locations around the world and to specific global challenges such as the devasting impacts of plastic pollution. It brings together a global community of practice by hosting the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management. Given that the impacts on the ocean often arise from land-based activities or through modifications of freshwater ecosystems and water flows, engaging a community of actors from across the source-to-sea system is essential. Doing so not only benefits coastal and marine systems but also stimulates actions that can benefit ecosystems on land, i.e., SDG 15. The Source-to-Sea approach is important for achieving sustainability across source-to-sea systems, managing trade-offs and directing investments toward activities that create benefits for the system as a whole. By recognizing the intrinsic link between development activities and their impacts – some of which may occur far downstream – upstream actors can contribute positively to the health of the ocean and revitalize their connection to it contributions to their and the world's well-being. The Source-to-Sea approach aims to strengthen coordinated governance of natural resources, acknowledging the continuity of water-related flows and interdependency between different natural systems.

More specifically, the Action Platform for S2S Management is a multi-stakeholder initiative that works towards a world in which marine, coastal, freshwater, and land are managed holistically. This means balancing effects for communities, environment, and economy. For this, the Action Platform for S2S Management together with its partners have developed a six-step Source-to-Sea approach. The approach is a structured process for building a shared knowledge base, engaging source-to-sea stakeholders, assessing the governance gaps and challenges and prioritizing actions that address source-to-sea challenges. The ultimate outcome of applying the Source-to-Sea approach is improved cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation between upstream and downstream stakeholder, i.e., Source-to-Sea management (representing the SDGs 14, 15, 17).

The approach is gaining recognition and is increasingly used in different parts of the world. Recently, Hoi An city in Vietnam has taken up the approach in their development of an environment strategy after participating in a three-day capacity development workshop led by SIWI and IUCN Viet Nam. Participants noted the value of combining the circular economy framework with the holistic S2S approach. Both approaches support each other and can be used to tackle challenges such as marine

litter pollution. The introduction of the S2S approach was attended by a wide range of stakeholders, i.e., city officials, university representatives, private companies, and civil society. The project in Hoi An demonstrates that the S2S approach can be adapted to the local context and serves not only as a large-scale tool but also for stakeholders working on a smaller scale with local challenges such as marine litter pollution. Thus, this approach is largely relevant for advancing the targets for SDG 14 and 15 when building back from the Covid-19 pandemic. Through its character, it also promotes holistic approaches to the development agenda.

SDG15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SIWI actively engages in the field of sustainable landscape management. One part of this work consists of contributing to the growing research field on the role of freshwater ecosystems not only for adaptation, but also mitigation of climate change. More specifically, freshwater plays an essential role in ecosystems' ability to store and sequester carbon, for instance in wetlands, forests, and agricultural lands. Nature-based solutions can, thus, be effective for mitigation of carbon emissions, while protecting ecosystems and ecosystem services, including biodiversity, as well as people living in close connection to them and by them. When building back from the corona pandemic and the demand for economic recovery is important for many actors, it is essential to apply effective mitigation measures that do not create additional pressures on neither the climate systems nor people living traditionally from and in nature.

Another part of SIWI's work with landscapes concerns advancing holistic and across-sector inclusive landscape management. This work has important lessons to bring on how to build effective connections between resilient landscapes, society, and human well-being, in times of growing demands for raw materials from the forest and soil. That is, it is imperative to restore landscapes so that they become resilient and productive and can support livelihoods and long-term socio-economic development. Reducing hunger and poverty rely on secure access to food and water, and a sustainable supply of natural resources. Many stakeholders are however still unaware of how land and water governance can help us achieve the water-related targets across the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. There is a great need for increased knowledge and capacity among policy- and decision-makers as well as practitioners. Furthermore, policies and regulations related to the management of shared water resources in agriculture and forestry in landscapes should be made stronger.

In response to this, SIWI's Team Water for Resilient Landscapes (WRL) targets policy- and decision-makers outside the water sector, e.g., in forestry and agriculture. Water for Resilient Landscapes focuses on source-water areas, such as upper catchments and forest landscapes, to ensure water recycling and infiltration of blue and green water. In this way, WRL fundamentally complements source-to-sea approaches that often focus on activities downstream and on blue water, not green. SIWI WRL holds a key role in supporting management of shared water resources in landscapes. WRL brings the water lens to landscape restoration and to policy processes at national and international processes and works with landscape actors and boundary partners to help them improve ecosystem functioning and services, and to support livelihoods.

Water and food security can only be achieved through the restoration of multi-functional landscapes and forest management with water considerations at the front and center. Contributing to SDG 15 requires the extension of priorities beyond conventional multi-stakeholder benefits, forest products, biodiversity and carbon storage. This is also a precondition for the resilience of the ecosystem services supporting human societies

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Water is a key enabler, providing multiple co-benefits to other sectors and answers for global challenges. Without water, sustainable development is impossible. Climate change directly impacts water availability and quality; urbanization, population growth, and economic development put more pressure on resources; ecosystems and biodiversity are threatened, and pandemics are more likely to emerge. Thus, the urgency for cross-sectoral action is evident. While SDG 6 is an essential enabler of the 2030 Agenda, water issues suffer from a lack of visibility in international processes. Water governance, from the local to the global level, is highly fragmented, with roles and responsibilities for closely linked water aspects assigned to different entities. Multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approaches are needed at the systemic level to optimize the use of scarce resources, accounting for the maximization of co-benefits and minimization of trade-offs to manage conflicting and cross-sectoral interests and to ensure accountability.

Key messages for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration:

The 2030 Agenda is a complex and intertwined framework with a diverse set of goals and targets. However, when attempting to identify solutions, individual goals cannot be tackled in an isolated manner. The Agenda's achievement can be enhanced when taking into consideration other goals and, hence avoiding trade-offs. One trait that is common to most of the SDGs' goals and targets is their dependence upon sustainable water resources. Sustainable water resources form the basis of a resilient, thriving society. We will not deliver on the 2030 Agenda without considering and enhancing the role that water can play in achieving the SDGs. Water is the blue thread that can connect and lend coherence to the 2030 Agenda and serve as a link also to other global processes, such as the Paris Agreement. We can make actionable and measurable strides in reducing poverty, inequality, hunger, aquatic and terrestrial environmental degradation, economic disparity and injustice by:

- ensuring equitable access to clean, reliable water resources for both humans and nature;
- improving the effectiveness, fairness and transparency of water governance from the local to transboundary level;
- establishing holistic management that creates coordinated ocean and source-to-sea management structures;
- recognizing water's value when it comes to social, environmental and economic prosperity;
- taking a human-rights based approach to water and ensuring that women, youth, indigenous populations and vulnerable groups are truly included, directly supported, and empowered to take action and become rights holders as well as duty bearers;
- providing support to research, capacity building, dialogues and multistakeholder platforms that can foster knowledge and exchange of experiences of water related matters;
- fostering new, innovative and increased partnerships and means of finance needed for transforming raised commitments into a reality.

Furthermore, in its resolution 73/226, the United Nations General Assembly has called for a Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028 (or the **UN 2023 Water Conference**) to be convened **from 22 to 24 March 2023** at the UN Headquarters in New York. The aim is to further improve cooperation, partnership, capacity development and catalyze actions in response to the ambitious United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To successfully implement the goals and objectives of the Water Action Decade, including SDG 6 and other internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, this Conference, co-hosted by The Netherlands and Tajikistan, will strive to become a watershed moment for the world. **SIWI supports this initiative and the vision behind the Conference that aims to highlight that by fundamentally understanding, valuing and managing water better, we can take stronger concerted action to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets.**

While the Water Action Decade is an essential enabler for the 2030 Agenda, including SDG 6, additional enhancement of a UN system-wide approach to water is necessary for the achievement of water-related goals and targets and to reinforce the international water voice and cross-sectoral connections. With this in mind, SIWI would like to recommend that the HLPF's Ministerial Declaration recognizes the importance of the **UN 2023 Conference** as a milestone moment that will highlight how water is a key factor to successfully implement and reach the targets of our shared global agendas as described below:

- Water as an enabler to fighting poverty and implementing a human rights base approach (SDG1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6, 10,11)
- Water enables to adapt and mitigate to climate change for a healthy and thriving planet (SDG 6,11,12,13,14,15, Paris agreement, SDRR)
- Water is the source to peace, climate security and reducing forced displacement (SDG6, 11, 13, 16, and UNSCR)
- Water cooperation is at the core of delivering on the transformative 2030 Agenda (All SDGs, esp SDG 17 and other global agreements)