



High Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets: Ensuring that No One is Left Behind in Access to Water and Sanitation

CALL FOR ACTION

Dushanbe, Tajikistan
9-10 August 2016

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes Sustainable Development Goal Six, “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, and stressing the vital importance of water and sanitation as a keystone for sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Building on the proceedings related to water and sustainable development of, inter alia, the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, on Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as on the achievements and lessons learnt of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”, 2005-2015, the International Year of Sanitation, 2008, and the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013,

Saluting the multi-stakeholder discussions that took place during the High Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind in Access to Water and Sanitation”, held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 9-10 August 2016, and the contribution of this platform aimed at ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation and at achieving SDG 6 and the water-related targets by 2030,

Expressing appreciation for the role of the United Nations in supporting the development and implementation of SDG 6 and in contributing to the progress on the availability and management of water and sanitation for all, including supporting the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation within states, for the leadership of the United Nations Secretary General and of the President of the World Bank, who established a High Level Panel on Water with the aim to mobilize effective action to accelerate the implementation of SDG 6 and the water-related targets, and for the continuous support of the Group of Friends of Water at the United Nations General Assembly,

Acknowledging that much progress has been made on access to water and sanitation with substantial benefits for human development throughout the world,

Recognizing that much still needs to be done, reaching out not only to regions and countries where significant progress is still needed, but also within countries to ensure that even the most vulnerable populations, such as children, women and marginalized groups, as well as populations in remote areas and conflict zones, and those vulnerable to disasters and extreme events, have access to acceptable and usable water and sanitation,

Expressing concern that many ecosystems are threatened by poor water management, unsustainable development, increased uncertainty and risk due to climate change and other factors, and that this represents a significant risk for the many ecosystem services they provide,

Considering pollution as one of the main causes of the widespread reduction in water quality and that preventing pollution is much more cost-effective than repairing the damage it causes,

Being convinced that increased water-use efficiency and appropriate structural and non-structural infrastructure are core elements to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, which requires integrating water efficiency planning across all sectors and the protection of water sources, but also innovative technical solutions, water storage, green infrastructure, financing and good governance together with *inter alia* greater gender balance, policy effectiveness, getting the most value for money from investments including, but not limited to, infrastructure and clarity about costs of drinking and sanitation services provision, including all social, economic and environmental externalities, positive and negative alike,

Highlighting the key role of integrated water resources management and of approaches that take into account the nexus between water, food, energy and the environment for all basins and aquifers, at all levels, and the need to support implementation, especially in Least Developed Countries, Land-Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States also in the context of trans-boundary cooperation and disaster risk reduction,

Stressing the need for the all-of-society engagement and partnership that the 2030 Development Agenda envisages and that fits the specificities of places, situations and governance on the ground as one-size-fits-all and top-down solutions often do not produce the desired outcomes,

Acknowledging the prolonged process of establishing and maintaining effective and efficient multi-stakeholder platforms for consultations and for building partnerships for water and sustainable development,

The representatives of governments, international organizations, local governments and civil society who met at the High Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets,

Call upon the international community:

1. To deepen cooperation at all levels and across all sectors through strengthening and creating effective multi-stakeholder initiatives to support the implementation of SDG 6 and the water-related targets,
2. To address emergent water issues, such as, but not limited to, increasing water scarcity, water-related disasters, water-related environmental problems, as well as new patterns of variability and increased risk and uncertainty,
3. To improve the capacity of countries to implement and monitor integrated water resources management plans at the local, national and regional level through, *inter alia*, improved institutions and partnerships related to financing, technology, capacity building, data and access to information,
4. To consider the further support that the proposed International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” can provide to achieve SDG 6 and the water-related targets by 2030 and therewith contribute to equitable and sustainable development overall.

Encourage governments and other stakeholders to build on the outcomes of the thematic sessions and side events to be reported in the Chair’s Summary, and to translate, to the extent possible, the visions contained therein into concrete actions;

Recommend the Government of Tajikistan to submit this Call for Action accompanied by the Chair’s Summary of the Symposium to the United Nations General Assembly for further consideration;

Express sincere appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan and to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for organizing this High Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all participants.