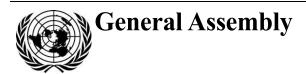
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#### Seventy-seventh session

Item 18 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

#### Sustainable development

Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21

Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028

Report of the Secretary-General

#### Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/226, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations system, to prepare a report for the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, to assess progress in the implementation of the first half of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, including the Secretary-General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028, and to identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives needed to overcome them during the second half of the Decade and activities planned by Member States, the Secretary-General and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system. The General Assembly reiterated its request in its resolution 75/212. The present report outlines the key activities that have been implemented during the first half of the Decade and provides information to Member States on the way forward.

\* A/77/150.





#### I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 73/226 on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system, to prepare a report for the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, to assess progress in the implementation of the first half of the Decade, including the Secretary-General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018-2028, and, taking into account best practices and lessons learned, to identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives needed to overcome them during the second half of the Decade and activities planned by Member States, the Secretary-General and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, which would serve as an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The General Assembly reiterated its request in its resolution 75/212.

#### II. Background

- 2. In December 2016, the General Assembly unanimously adopted its resolution 71/222 to help place a greater focus on water over a 10-year period. Emphasizing that water was critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, Member States expressed deep concern over the lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene and over water-related disasters, scarcity and pollution being exacerbated by urbanization, population growth, desertification, drought and climate change.
- 3. Since the adoption of the resolution, while implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 has progressed, the progress made is not nearly enough. In the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022, it is noted that from 2015 to 2020 the percentage of the population using safely managed drinking water services increased from 70 per cent to 74 per cent, the percentage of the population with safely managed sanitation increased from 47 per cent to 54 per cent, and the percentage of the population with access to handwashing facilities with soap and water in the home increased from 67 per cent to 71 per cent.
- 4. Despite these positive trends, the world is not on track to achieve Goal 6 and related priorities by 2030. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has only worsened the situation, and all countries must quadruple their rate of progress, since the current rate will provide sanitation for all only by the twenty-second century.
- 5. With the objectives of the Water Action Decade in mind, namely: (a) to advance sustainable development; (b) to energize implementation of existing programmes and projects; and (c) to mobilize action to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the present report the Secretary-General will highlight what has been accomplished from 2018 to 2022 and pinpoint best practices and lessons learned so as to identify obstacles and propose actions and initiatives needed to overcome them.
- 6. In the following sections, some of the actions carried out in support of the Water Action Decade are highlighted. While not exhaustive, this offers a snapshot of key milestones achieved that demonstrate the international community's ambition and common priorities related to water.
- 7. The present report should therefore be read in conjunction with other reports of the Secretary-General, such as his reports on the progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and with publications, including those by UN-Water, such as the United Nations World Water Development Report and the publications of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, among others.

# III. Activities in the implementation of the first half of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028

- 8. As the coordination mechanism for United Nations entities and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues, in 2016 UN-Water established a task force to support the planning, organization and launch of the Water Action Decade. This task force helped to create the Secretary-General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018-2028. The Plan was developed along the four work streams for the Decade: (a) facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices; (b) improving knowledge generation and dissemination, including new information relevant to water-related Sustainable Development Goals; (c) pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action; and (d) strengthening communication actions for implementation of the water-related Goals. After the launch of the Decade in 2018, the terms of reference for the task force evolved to focus on implementation. Most recently, the task force prepared proposals by UN-Water on the themes of the interactive dialogues to be held at the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028. Both iterations of the task force have been co-coordinated by United Nations University and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- 9. To accelerate progress on Goal 6, the United Nations system and its partners launched the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Global Acceleration Framework in 2020. The Framework is aimed at unifying the international community's support to countries along five accelerator areas: financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation and governance. The Framework introduced new elements, including a commitment at the highest level to address the water and sanitation crises among the heads of the United Nations entities, an annual opportunity to take stock of progress made on Goal 6 on the margins of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and an increased focus on country engagement. As such, the activities carried out during the first half of the Water Action Decade have focused on getting Goal 6 back on track to be achieved by 2030. In its above-mentioned resolution 75/212, the General Assembly took note of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. While not an exhaustive list, the following actions and initiatives highlight the work undertaken along the lines of the four work streams for the Decade.

#### A. Facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices

10. The Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 has facilitated the exchange of good practices on Goal 6 monitoring and reporting, including through regular exchanges among country focal points. As part of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, which unifies the international community's support to countries, UN-Water has established the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Capacity Development Initiative as the inter-agency coordination platform on fresh water, sanitation and hygiene-related capacity development actions. The Initiative is coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and enables the United Nations system and its multi-stakeholder partners to align efforts and "deliver as one".

22-11955 **3/19** 

# B. Improving knowledge generation and dissemination, including new information relevant to water-related Sustainable Development Goals

- 11. The Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 supports countries in monitoring water-related and sanitation-related issues and in compiling country data to report on global progress made towards Goal 6. The UN-Water Sustainable Development Goal 6 data portal brings together the information held by the United Nations on water and sanitation and shows how the world is progressing towards the various Goal 6 targets.
- 12. The strategic plan (2022–2029) for the ninth phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme identifies key water priority areas to support Member States in achieving water-related Sustainable Development Goals and other water-related global priorities.
- 13. The CEO Water Mandate promotes guidance and best practices for companies to support the water-related Goals and to help build the case for company investment in watershed nature-based solutions. It is also fostering knowledge and the capacity of companies to take an integrated approach through the publication of analytical papers on business action for water and climate.

### C. Pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnerships and action

- 14. UN-Water has developed a website to support the advocacy for the Water Action Decade. <sup>1</sup> Emphasizing the fact that much can change in 10 years, the website documents the United Nation's commitment to focus on water for the Decade. Information on taking action is set forth, along with countries' activities and commitments. Most recently, the road map for the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action was shared on the website. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs also hosts a web page on the Water Action Decade with information on the intergovernmental process and related news on water activities in the United Nations system.
- 15. UN-Water coordinates the global public campaigns for World Water Day (22 March) and World Toilet Day (19 November). Each year, these two international observances follow the theme set out in the United Nations World Water Development Report. Over the past five years, the topics have included groundwater, valuing water, climate change, leaving no one behind and nature-based solutions. The theme for both observances in 2023 is "Accelerating change through partnerships and cooperation".
- 16. The United Nations system has been advancing multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote the Water Action Decade. The CEO Water Mandate continues to serve as the leading platform for the private sector to address global water challenges through corporate water stewardship. In 2020, the CEO Water Mandate launched the Water Resilience Coalition, which is an industry-driven, CEO-led coalition that aims to elevate global water stress to the top of the corporate agenda and preserve the world's freshwater resources through collective action. The companies that join the Coalition will aim to meet overarching, water-related commitments by 2050. Currently, the Coalition features 30 corporate members representing a market capitalization of

<sup>1</sup> See wateractiondecade.org/.

- \$3.5 trillion. A comprehensive system of impact metrics has also been developed to track the progress made through these collective action projects.
- 17. The Water and Climate Coalition, a multi-stakeholder initiative led by the World Meteorological Organization, addresses data and information gaps and supports sustainable development and national climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

## D. Strengthening communication actions for implementation of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals

- 18. UN-Water produces the United Nations World Water Development Report as the United Nations system's flagship report on water and sanitation issues, coordinated by the World Water Assessment Programme. In the report, UN-Water provides insight into the main trends concerning the state, use and management of fresh water and sanitation, on the basis of work carried out by UN-Water members and partners. Launched in conjunction with World Water Day, the report provides decision makers with knowledge and tools to formulate and implement sustainable water policies. It also offers best practices and in-depth analyses to stimulate ideas and actions for better stewardship in the water sector and beyond.
- 19. UN-Water produced the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2018, which represents a joint position of the United Nations family on the global status of Goal 6 and other water-related targets. In 2021, on the basis of country data compiled in 2020, UN-Water published a summary progress update to inform global policymakers about overall progress made towards Goal 6 and about the needs regarding acceleration, noting that countries must work on average four times faster to achieve Goal 6 by 2030. The summary progress update was accompanied by separate updates on most of the Goal 6 indicators, which provided in-depth analysis.

#### IV. Galvanizing the international community

## A. Intergovernmental processes at the midpoint of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028

20. Several intergovernmental processes contributed to discussions surrounding water and related priorities, focusing on key messages that offered solutions to water-related challenges and highlighted areas for potential action.

#### 1. General Assembly

#### (a) Launch event for the Water Action Decade

21. On 22 March 2018, the President of the seventy-second General Assembly convened the launch event for the Water Action Decade. The Secretary-General presented the action plan for the Decade, and the President of Tajikistan also presented a report. Panel discussions addressed contributions of the Decade to the implementation of water-related Sustainable Development Goals, addressing challenges and seizing opportunities by strengthening cooperation and partnerships, as well as the role of relevant stakeholders in mobilizing necessary resources for the implementation and follow-up of water-related Goals. The launch of the Decade focused attention on water and sanitation challenges. A photo exhibition entitled "Clean Water Here" was displayed in the gallery in the public lobby of United Nations

22-11955 **5/19** 

Headquarters, and at the delegate's entrance an exhibition opened that was entitled "Water for Sustainable Development Decade – Countries' Perspectives".

## (b) High-level meeting to promote the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda convened by the President of the General Assembly

- 22. The President of the General Assembly convened a high-level meeting to promote the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda on 18 and 22 March 2021, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/226. The meeting was aimed at promoting the implementation of the water-related goals and targets in support of the implementation of the Water Action Decade and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.
- 23. The meeting consisted of an opening segment, a high-level plenary, two panels on (a) "Data and information and governance" and (b) "Financing, innovation and capacity-building", and a brief closing segment. Seven Heads of State and Government, 48 Ministers and over 100 representatives from various organizations participated.
- 24. Participants demonstrated clear support for tackling water challenges and highlighted priority areas for accelerating actions to meet the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. They also acknowledged the significant role of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and contributed to the preparations for the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action. A special feature of the meeting was a "civil society organization spotlight" as part of each panel, in which NGOs, activists, scientists, youth champions and representatives from the private sector made urgent calls for action and shared their experiences, views and innovative methods for addressing water and sanitation issues.
- 25. The meeting participants noted that clean water and sanitation were the first line of defence for a successful COVID-19 pandemic response and that pandemic recovery plans needed to be resilient, green and inclusive. Effects of climate change had increased the risks of disasters such as droughts, floods and sea level rise and had led to serious food insecurity and malnutrition, primarily affecting children, who were the most vulnerable. Closing the financial gap of the necessary investment in water-related infrastructure requires a whole-of-society partnership between Governments and a diverse group of stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic organizations. There was a call to establish a new platform for global water discussions, such as an international panel on water in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- 26. In addition, 168 countries co-signed a cross-regional statement on water to mark the high-level meeting on water convened by the President of the General Assembly.

#### 2. High-level political forum on sustainable development<sup>2</sup>

#### (a) In-depth review of Sustainable Development Goal 6

27. The high-level political forum on sustainable development of 2018 met under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council from 9 to 18 July 2018 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. On the afternoon of 9 July 2018, the forum undertook an in-depth review of progress made on Goal 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Economic and Social Council, "President's summary of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development", available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/205432018\_HLPF\_Presidents\_summary\_FINAL.pdf.

- 28. The review represented a unique opportunity for Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to gather for a discussion on the global status of Goal 6 implementation. Understanding the importance of this dialogue, UN-Water produced the first Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation to build on the latest data available for the 11 Goal 6 global indicators.
- 29. During the high-level political forum on sustainable development, many countries shared positive examples of how they were adopting sustainable management of their water resources, with several noting the continued need for support from the international community. Participants highlighted the report of the High-level Panel on Water, in which the United Nations and the World Bank had called for United Nations meetings on water to be held at the highest level a call echoed by a number of speakers. Participants stressed that good water governance and integrated water resources management were crucial for the achievement of Goal 6. Protection and management of ecosystems that capture, conserve and regulate water flow, especially forests and wetlands, were also critical. Integrated cross-sectoral water management must ensure coordination among water-using sectors such as agriculture and energy, ensure equal access and eliminate inequalities to ensure that no one is left behind.
- 30. The human right to water and sanitation was emphasized as a way of addressing inequalities in access to water and sanitation services, which required enabling policies that allowed for participation by all stakeholders at all levels, provided conditions for private sector investment, promoted water conservation and water use efficiency, protected water rights and regulated pricing to ensure affordability. The role of local governments, local communities and indigenous people in water resources management was emphasized. The private sector could do more to support research on the application and use of technology and innovation to increase water management and water use efficiency. The establishment of a "blue fund" was also suggested to provide support for investment in integrated water management.

#### (b) Sustainable Development Goal 6 Special Event

31. The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework introduces an event focused on multi-stakeholder, high-level, annual stocktaking to enable the international community to keep up the momentum on Goal 6 at the high-level political forum on sustainable development. At the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Special Event, participants reviewed the progress made to date, showcased best practices and shared lessons learned. The UN-Water Chair and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs have co-chaired the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Special Event since 2020.

## 3. United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028

- 32. On 20 December 2018, in its resolution 73/226 on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the Water Action Decade, the General Assembly decided to convene in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023 the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action.
- 33. The Conference will be a major milestone to create momentum and accelerate progress on internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda, as the first United Nations conference on water held since 1977.

22-11955 **7/19** 

- B. Milestones as part of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028
  - 34. As reflected in General Assembly resolution 75/212, Member States held several constructive meetings with the aim of contributing to the midterm review of the Water Action Decade, including the Conference. Below are some of the key milestone events and their outcomes.

#### 1. Water Dialogues for Results, held in Bonn, Germany

- 35. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection initiated the "Water Dialogues for Results". With the aim of accelerating the cross-sectoral implementation of Goal 6, the Federal Ministry held a series of virtual dialogues from February to June 2021, involving States Members of the United Nations, representatives of the United Nations major groups and international organizations. The outcome of the dialogues were policy recommendations and key messages for Governments and service providers, multilateral organizations and the United Nations system to take fast, coordinated and cross-sectoral action to reach Goal 6 by 2030.
- 36. The five key messages, supported by more than 60 States Members of the United Nations, were as follows: (a) a new paradigm for financing – Governments, national and international financial institutions and multilateral actors need to improve the targeting and effective use of existing funding, mobilize national resources and attract additional investment from private and public sources; (b) data-based decisionmaking – decision makers (from the household to the policy level) need access and need to be enabled to employ quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data for the analysis, planning and implementation of effective, cross-sectoral action so as to leave no one behind; (c) an inclusive approach to capacity - capacity development needs to holistically transfer knowledge beyond training to foster crosssectoral decision-making, planning and implementation, intensifying horizontal and vertical cooperation on all levels; (d) a transformative pathway for innovation decision makers need to combine traditional knowledge with modern technology and innovative methods by involving multiple stakeholders to increase the efficiency of water use and ensure sustainable freshwater supplies, especially in water-stressed and transboundary regions; and (e) a cross-sectoral, cooperative, good water governance approach – growing water demands in view of increased water uncertainty call for improved vertical and horizontal governance and intensified cooperation among stakeholders, sectors and countries.

#### 2. Ninth World Water Forum

- 37. Senegal hosted the Ninth World Water Forum from 21 to 26 March 2022 with the main theme of "Water security for peace and development". This marked the first time that the Forum had been organized in sub-Saharan Africa. The Forum comprised a high-level political segment with Heads of State and major international institutions, a multi-stakeholder exchange platform, the Initiative Dakar 2022 and exhibitions.
- 38. At the Forum, participants adopted a declaration called the "Blue Deal", which was aimed at guaranteeing access to water and sanitation for all, ensuring adequate financing and inclusive governance and strengthening cooperation. The declaration was intended to accelerate the implementation of the right to drinking water and

<sup>3</sup> See https://waterdialogues4results.com/.

sanitation for all by providing appropriate legislative frameworks.<sup>4</sup> In the declaration, participants also emphasized the need to mobilize all stakeholders through integrated and inclusive strategies. Water stakeholders were invited to adopt sustainable and integrated management plans to preserve water resources and ecosystems and ensure resilience in the face of climate change and demographic pressure. Strategies will be put in place to raise awareness about these issues, so as to encourage a shift towards more sustainable and responsible modes of production and consumption. In the declaration, the importance of strengthening the protection of wetlands was also stressed, and the conservation of traditional water systems, recycling and reuse of treated wastewater were encouraged. Stakeholders were also urged to mobilize adequate public financial resources, as well as those of development partnerships, to invest in water and sanitation infrastructure, and to develop "blue" and "green" jobs, especially for young people, women and the rural world.<sup>5</sup>

#### 3. Fourth Asia-Pacific Water Summit

39. The Asia-Pacific Water Forum and Kumamoto City, Japan successfully organized the Fourth Asia-Pacific Water Summit on 23 and 24 April 2022 with the theme "Water for sustainable development: best practices and the next generation". The Summit provided an opportunity for government leaders to exchange best practices and reaffirm that their strong leadership was essential to solving water issues. A total of 18 Heads of State and Government, 19 ministers and 28 leaders of international organizations participated in the Summit. It culminated with the adoption of the outcome document entitled "the Kumamoto Declaration". The Summit comprised nine parallel thematic sessions, four integration sessions and two special sessions, and participants adopted a Chair's summary at the closing ceremony.

40. At the Summit and in the Kumamoto Declaration, quality-oriented growth was defined as growth that satisfied all three factors: (a) resilience to the meteorological phenomena, floods and drought intensified by a changing climate, maintaining or restoring a sound water cycle; (b) inclusiveness, ensuring that no one will be left behind – irrespective of gender, and including the poor and socially vulnerable – in access to safe water and sanitation, as well as in access to food and nutrition, measures to prevent water-related disasters and water resources management; and (c) sustainability to protect and maintain social activities and the environment. <sup>6</sup>

### 4. High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028

41. As a contribution to the Water Action Decade, the first High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 was held in Dushanbe on 20 and 21 June 2018, organized by the Government of Tajikistan. The outcomes of the Conference included recommendations for the in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goal 6 to be conducted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development of 2018. The second such conference focused on "Catalysing water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels" to find the water-smart recovery path in a

22-11955 **9/19** 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Ministry of Water and Sanitation of Senegal and Executive Secretariat of the Ninth World Water Forum, "Briefing note on the 9th World Water Forum Dakar, March 21–26, 2022", available at www.worldwaterforum.org/en/practical-information/briefing-note.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Executive Secretariat of the Ninth World Water Forum and ACT Afrique Group, "The Forum's newsletter", vol. 5 (26 March 2022), available at www.worldwaterforum.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/bulletin-en-05.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Japan Water Forum, "Outcomes of the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit", 19 May 2022, available at www.waterforum.jp/en/news/19574/.

post-COVID-19 world and was held on 7 and 8 June 2022, culminating in the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration.<sup>7</sup>

- 42. The Declaration, entitled "From Dushanbe 2022 to New York 2023", highlighted the following key immediate actions needed to address water-related challenges: invest more in water supply and sanitation infrastructure to achieve universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene as a basic human right; strengthen sustainable and resilient water management and advance transboundary cooperation to ensure food security and access to energy and water; reduce water-related risks, taking into consideration the impact of climate change, natural disasters and biodiversity loss; and increase the exchange of data and knowledge among different stakeholders at all levels, and develop solutions underpinned by science and innovation.
- 43. The Declaration also brought forward key messages for the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, such as the following: encourage the use of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG6 and the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Capacity Development Initiative; support the proclamation of 2025 as the International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers; and envision the development of a water action agenda mechanism as an outcome of the Conference.

#### High-level symposium on water at the United Nations Ocean Conference of 2022

- 44. The Government of Portugal, in close cooperation with the United Nations, hosted a high-level symposium on water in Lisbon on 27 June 2022, during the United Nations Ocean Conference, as an input to the preparatory process of the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action. The symposium included an opening ceremony with speeches by key high-level representatives, three high-level round tables and a closing ceremony.
- 45. The three high-level round tables were devoted to the following themes:
- (a) Synergies between Goal 6 and Goal 14 an integrated vision of the whole hydrological cycle: strengthening cross-sectoral approaches to accelerate implementation of related targets, including financing and governance;
  - (b) Water and sanitation services: bridging Goal 6 and Goal 14;
- (c) Existing successful and innovative partnerships to support the implementation of Goal 6 and Goal 14: challenges, opportunities and actions.

#### 6. Cairo Water Week

46. The first edition of Cairo Water Week, organized annually by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, was held in 2018. The Cairo Water Week of 2021 built consensus among water-scarce countries on five priority areas: (a) water scarcity and accessibility, calling on the United Nations and relevant entities to support water-scarce countries by strengthening activities and coordination and by better integrating water-related mandates and activities; (b) water and climate cooperation, calling for joint actions that addressed climate and water issues and that could reduce risks and save lives, especially in transboundary watercourses; (c) opportunities and challenges in financing, which required incorporating sustainable financing, regulation, monitoring, reporting and maintenance mechanisms

**10/19** 22-11955

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> For further information on the second conference and the Dushanbe Declaration, see https://dushanbewaterprocess.org/conference/.

into water-related project interventions; (d) innovation tools for sustainable water management through appropriate technology transfer, financing and capacity-building that engaged national and regional institutions and research centres and local knowledge; and (e) opportunities and challenges in transboundary cooperation, to be strengthened and to be based on the rules and principles of international law and to include data-sharing, monitoring, forecasting, early warning and capacity-building, among others.<sup>8</sup>

#### 7. Sanitation and Water for All sector ministers' meeting

47. The Sanitation and Water for All sector ministers' meeting was held on 18 and 19 May in Jakarta, bringing together more than 54 ministers for water, sanitation, health, the environment and the economy. The meeting enabled in-depth discussions on increasing the prioritization of water, sanitation and hygiene and ensuring their integration into national climate, health and economic policies, while navigating the complexities and uncertainties of the "triple crisis" to turn it into a "triple win". A global review of country commitments under the Sanitation and Water for All mutual accountability mechanism was a key component of the meeting. The meeting concluded with an outcome document and an agreement on the need for urgent action to ensure: (a) political leadership to prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene; (b) reforms to support a stronger enabling environment with transparent and participatory processes; (c) innovative ways to secure resources; and (d) accountability as a central tenet for accelerating sustained progress and building resilience.

#### 8. Seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

48. The seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in Bali, Indonesia from 25 to 27 May 2022, was a critical mechanism for reviewing progress made in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The Global Platform was considered to be a wake-up call to accelerate implementation across the priorities set out in the Sendai Framework to stop the spiral of increasing disaster impact and risk. A core recommendation was to apply a "think resilience" approach to all investments and decision-making and to integrate disaster risk reduction with the whole of government and the whole of society. The Global Platform also encouraged Member States to leverage the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework to enhance the integration of disaster risk reduction in forthcoming intergovernmental processes, including the midterm review of the Water Action Decade. The seventh session concluded with the issuance of a Co-Chairs' summary entitled "Bali Agenda for Resilience". 10

#### 9. Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

49. The United Nations Environment Assembly reconvened at its fifth session from 28 February to 2 March 2022 in Nairobi. The theme for the session was "Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals", and it provided an opportunity for Member States to share sustainability best practices.

22-11955 **11/19** 

<sup>8</sup> See Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, "CWW 2021 conclusions", available at www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/event/materials/I\_4\_Key\_Findings\_and\_Recommendations \_Cairo\_Water\_Week\_EmanSoliman\_MoWRI\_Egypt.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Sanitation and Water for All, "2022 SMM outcome document", available at www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/news/2022-smm-outcome-document.

<sup>10</sup> Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Co-Chairs' summary: Bali agenda for resilience", available at https://globalplatform.undrr.org/publication/co-chairs-summary-bali-agenda-resilience.

50. Member States adopted a number of resolutions to curb pollution and to protect and restore nature worldwide, many of which specifically referred to water. In a resolution on sustainable lake management, which made reference to the Water Action Decade, Member States were called on to protect, conserve and restore, as well as sustainably use, lakes, while integrating lakes into national and regional development plans. Another key resolution adopted by the Assembly was focused on nature-based solutions, marking the first universally agreed definition of such solutions. In the resolution, nature-based solutions were defined as actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage ecosystems. Member States also committed to binding agreements on ending plastic pollution and reducing nitrogen waste.

#### 10. UN-Water Summit on Groundwater

51. The UN-Water Summit on Groundwater will be held on 7 and 8 December 2022 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Pre-summit day side events will be organized on 6 December. The UN-Water Summit will be the culminating event of the 2022 campaign "Groundwater: making the invisible visible" co-coordinated by UNESCO and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre on behalf of UN-Water. The Summit will explore the contribution of groundwater to the five accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. A joint message from UN-Water members will be presented at the Summit to draw countries' attention to groundwater resources at the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action and beyond.

#### C. Regional key messages and initiatives

#### 1. Economic Commission for Africa

- 52. Regional consultations in Africa included the Africa regional preparatory meeting in Addis Ababa on 13 and 14 June 2022, held jointly by three key African institutions the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Ministers' Council on Water and the African Development Bank. The meeting brought together States members of the African Union, development partners, United Nations agencies, academia and civil society organizations to take stock and reaffirm their commitment to solving the water, sanitation and hygiene crisis in Africa and to collectively implementing the actions to achieve the objectives of the Water Action Decade. Consultations were organized around overarching water needs in Africa as set out in the Africa Water Vision 2025, in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and in the objectives of the Water Action Decade. The focus was on major pillars of sustainable development: economic development, environmental development and social development.
- 53. Key messages from regional consultations in Africa included the following: (a) strengthen coordination between United Nations agencies and other multilateral organizations active on the continent to support the African Ministers' Council on Water in accelerating actions to achieve the objectives of the Water Action Decade, and recommended the revival of UN-Water/Africa in this regard; (b) improve open access to information on African water resources by reviving the African Water Information Clearing House to serve as a continent-wide information system supported by subregional networks of water and geoinformation specialists and institutions; (c) strengthen mechanisms and coordination for cooperation on transboundary water resources management and investments in groundwater for socioeconomic development in Africa; (d) mobilize high-level political leadership for accelerated action on water resources management, sanitation and hygiene and enhanced collaboration between the African Union Commission, the Economic

Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to support countries in accelerating implementation in the second half of the Decade; (e) change strategy for the Africa region to focus on the mobilization of national resources, private sector participation and improved efficiency in the use of funds and of institutional and human resources, which have become vital for the water sector in Africa; and (f) enhance spending to close the financing gap with greater quality and efficiency, taking into consideration competing national goals and the financing challenges for water infrastructure brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 2. Economic Commission for Europe

- 54. Consultations in the pan-European region included a preparatory meeting held on 12 and 13 April 2022 in hybrid format, both in Geneva and virtually, at which Member States and key stakeholders representing the private sector, civil society, young people and academia identified priorities as outlined below.
- 55. Freshwater challenges differ significantly among subregions. There are significant disparities between urban and rural areas with regard to problems of affordability and access by vulnerable groups and in schools, hospitals and workplaces. The Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, jointly serviced by the Economic Commission for Europe and the World Health Organization, has strengthened national water governance. European Union legislation, such as the drinking water and water framework directives, has significantly driven progress in the region, including in many non-European Union countries.
- 56. Thanks to advances in wastewater treatment, point source water pollution has decreased overall across the region. However, complex chemical environments and micropollutants cause growing problems for human health and ecosystems. Plastic pollution is a common concern for bodies of fresh water and seas. Moreover, diffuse pollution and wastewater discharges remain significant in many countries. Restoring bodies of water and protecting ecosystems and biodiversity require concerted action. Circular economy approaches and nature-based solutions are key to addressing both pollution and water scarcity challenges.
- 57. The region is the most advanced globally with regard to transboundary water cooperation, thanks in large part to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes a powerful global instrument and intergovernmental platform to advance cooperation, develop agreements and prevent conflicts. However, challenges and gaps remain, especially with regard to aquifers and some basins in South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
- 58. Climate change impacts, including floods and droughts, cost the region billions of dollars annually, and integrated disaster risk management and climate change adaptation are urgently needed at the national, transboundary and regional levels. While basin organizations are increasingly addressing this new challenge, more needs to be done to integrate water into climate action.
- 59. Groundwater overuse is a growing challenge. Improved management and governance are urgently needed, along with improved mapping and data.
- 60. Significant investments in water and sanitation infrastructure, and in sustainable water resources management and transboundary cooperation in general, are needed, requiring increased public and private financial resources, innovations and partnerships.
- 61. Considering the water footprint of Economic Commission for Europe countries, transformative action is needed for fair water footprints that will have durable benefits for communities, ecosystems and economies and will help to achieve Goal 6.

22-11955 **13/19** 

#### 3. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

- 62. Despite having a significant endowment of water resources, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean faces multiple challenges, such as gaps in access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation, increased frequency of both droughts and floods, and water-related conflicts and migration. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is therefore promoting a sustainable and inclusive water management transition that provides evidence of the socioeconomic and environmental benefits and costs of advancing the human right to water and sanitation, reversing negative externalities associated with pollution and overexploitation, and fostering a circular economy approach to water usage, thus decoupling water extraction from gross domestic product (GDP).
- 63. In the context of the upcoming Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, and to accelerate the achievement of Goal 6 in accordance with the abovementioned priorities, the following activities were undertaken with Member States and key stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and academia in Latin America and the Caribbean: (a) annual water dialogues; (b) consolidation of the regional water expert group; and (c) online regional consultations on water priorities. Through these activities, it was found that various actions had been taken, such as: committing to strengthen water governance through the development of intersectoral water institutions, such as a water cabinet; including the human right to water in a State's Constitution; establishing social water tariffs; developing economic incentives for ecosystem conservation; and promoting water-related innovation and circular technologies.
- 64. It is recognized that resource mobilization is still lacking, despite the high potential for job creation. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, an annual investment of 1.3 per cent of regional GDP until 2030 would result in universal access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation, generating up to 3.4 million jobs annually and closing gender gaps in key issues such as education, health and employment.
- 65. The topics prioritized by stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean are mainly related to enhancing integrated water resource management and improving the access to and affordability of safely managed drinking water and sanitation, in particular in rural areas. The latter are followed by concerns related to sustainable water management in the context of climate change.

#### 4. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

- 66. The Asia and the Pacific region is one of the most prone to climate-related disasters in the world, making climate and disaster risk reduction a key priority for water resource management. Water resources are increasingly under threat owing to overuse and pollution, an increasing population, growing and competing water demands, climate change, rapid urbanization, inadequate sanitation services and a lack of transboundary cooperation.
- 67. Key challenges include: a deep divide between urban and rural areas with regard to access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene services; water stress, water scarcity and efficient use of water; rising competition in demand for water; disasters affecting water, sanitation and hygiene; adaptation to climate change; cooperation of key stakeholders at all levels; a lack of integrated approaches for water management; and a lack of adequate data.

68. During the regional consultation for the midterm review of the Water Action Decade, 11 coordinated by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Governments and other stakeholders highlighted the following priorities as being necessary to meet the objectives of the Water Action Decade in the region: (a) governance and cooperation through multi-stakeholder approaches, a shared vision for transboundary water management and better monitoring, evaluation and accountability; (b) policy coherence to better support water management, mainstream water issues and support increased investments in water; (c) data collection, accessibility and use, as well as data-sharing and innovation; (d) institutional strengthening for national institutions, especially on wastewater and groundwater management, on challenges associated with climate change and disasters, on gaining access to climate finance and on national water accounting and allocation, as well as sector professionalization for young people; (e) gender equality, disability and social inclusion; (f) finance, especially for water, sanitation and hygiene, wastewater management, disaster risk reduction and to support regional collaboration; and (g) integrated approaches addressing the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, integrated water resource management and nature-based solutions, and for enhancing the linkages between water and disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and mitigation, energy and health.

#### **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

- 69. The Arab regional preparatory meeting for the midterm comprehensive review of the Water Action Decade, held in Beirut on 18 and 19 May 2022, was aimed at consolidating regional progress and priorities on internationally agreed water-related goals. The meeting was attended by senior officials from Arab Member States, as well as representatives of international, regional and national organizations and institutions, academia, the private sector, civil society and young people. Recommendations were grouped under six thematic priorities and four accelerators to move towards the achievement of the Decade's goals in the region.
- 70. The thematic priorities include: (a) integrated water resource management despite noted progress in integrated water resource management implementation between 2017 and 2020, the region still needs to double its implementation rate to reach target 6.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030; (b) water for all despite being ahead of the global average in meeting the targets on access to water and sanitation services, significant disparities remain between urban and rural areas, and situations of conflict and occupation present difficulties in ensuring access to these services; (c) transboundary water cooperation - almost all Arab countries depend on transboundary water resources to meet their water needs, with a high percentage of transboundary river basins and aquifers lacking cooperative transboundary arrangements; (d) water and climate change - climate change adaptation is mainly related to water in the region, which receives 3.5 times more financing for mitigation than for adaptation; (e) water use efficiency and water resource management - the region lags behind the global average for water use efficiency, which is estimated at \$19 per cubic metre, compared with \$10 per cubic metre at the regional level; and (f) water across sectors and non-conventional water resources - there is a great need in the region for cross-sectoral cooperation to enhance water availability and productivity.
- 71. Proposed accelerators include financing for water, data to inform decisionmaking, monitoring and implementation, innovation, and capacity development and

22-11955 15/19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See UN-Water and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, "Report summary: mid-term review of the UN Water Action Decade: input from the Asia Pacific consultation", June 2022, available at www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ UNWaterActionDecade AP consultation 0.pdf.

regional knowledge networks. During the preparatory meeting, nine countries presented initiatives that contributed to achieving the goals associated with the Water Action Decade. Those initiatives included rationalizing water use, adopting modern irrigation techniques, improving supply services for drinking and irrigation water, promoting research and policy support systems, and improving water storage and water sector related national strategies and plans.

#### D. Alignment with other thematic processes and frameworks

#### 1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

72. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-203012 is aimed at achieving the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. The General Assembly decided to hold a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2023 (see Assembly resolution 75/216). On the basis of the synergies between the Sendai Framework and the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets (see Assembly resolution 73/226), it is expected that the two midterm reviews will be aligned so as to identify adjustments that promote risk-informed regenerative development while sustainably managing water resources and associated ecosystems. To foster this alignment, the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action and its preparatory meetings should consider how its deliberations and recommendations prevent and reduce risks before they manifest as shocks and how decisions can avoid the creation and propagation of risks across socio-ecological and technological systems. Integrating risk considerations and understanding the systemic nature of risk helps accelerate the achievement of Goal 6 and related Goals and provides a connecting tissue between sectors and across Goals, promoting a transition away from siloed approaches to the resolution of water issues. In turn, water community inputs will be integrated into the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework, which will conclude at a high-level meeting of the General Assembly and will feed into, inter alia, the high-level political forum on sustainable development of 2023.

### 2. Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- 73. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides the foundation for multilateral action to combat climate change and its impacts on humanity and ecosystems.
- 74. Below are some of the possible pathways to creating a climate-resilient future when implementing the Paris Agreement in the context of the Water Action Decade:
- (a) Implementing nationally determined contributions: countries communicate actions they will take to reduce emissions and to build resilience to adapt to the impacts of rising temperatures; 13

**16/19** 22-11955

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction 2015–2030", available at www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Nationally determined contributions", available at https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs.

- (b) Implementing national adaptation plans: countries are prioritizing the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans in their adaptation efforts and are steadily progressing;<sup>14</sup>
- (c) Implementing the newly launched programme of work: the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh programme of work for the global goal on adaptation will be carried out in 2022–2023:
- (d) Financing climate adaptation: countries could commit to doubling adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025, to ensure that vulnerable countries can meet their adaptation needs, reduce their vulnerability and increase their resilience to cope with climate hazards, such as floods and droughts. <sup>15</sup>
- 75. Below are some priorities that countries have communicated in their respective national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions in the context of building resilience with regard to water:
  - Inclusive approaches to adapt to the impacts of climate change, including droughts, floods and desertification
  - Measures for enhancing the availability, efficiency and quality of water supplies, including enhancing or building water infrastructure and water resource plans, strategies and systems
  - Measures for enhancing the climate resilience of public health systems
  - Efforts to promote transboundary water management and cooperation.

#### 3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- 76. At its fourteenth meeting, held in 2018, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and established an openended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the framework with a view to its adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.
- 77. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action towards the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature. The framework is aimed at galvanizing urgent and transformative action by Governments and all of society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and businesses, to achieve the outcomes in its vision, mission, goals and targets, and contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols, and other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments. The conservation, restoration and sustainable use of freshwater biodiversity and water provisioning as an ecosystem service will be critical to successful implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

#### 4. Food Systems Summit

78. The Food Systems Summit, held at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly in New York in September 2021, set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Prior to the Summit, a Food Systems Summit global dialogue on water had been convened in April 2021, along with a pre-summit held in July 2021 at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), including a panel discussion on how indigenous peoples' food systems were safeguarding biodiversity, protecting

<sup>14</sup> See https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans.

22-11955 **17/19** 

<sup>15</sup> See https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-glasgow-climate-pact/cop26-outcomes-finance-for-climate-adaptation.

watersheds and preserving ecosystems. The Summit became a "people's summit" and a "solutions summit" to make the transformative effects of food systems a driver for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, guided by five action tracks.

79. The global dialogue on water was aimed at exploring the fundamental interconnections between food systems and water systems and their relations to other areas fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals, such as energy, climate and the environment. During the dialogue, 117 participants from the food community and the water community discussed how water was an essential ingredient for sustainable food systems to: ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all; shift to sustainable consumption patterns; boost nature-positive production; advance equitable livelihoods; and build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

#### 5. United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030

- 80. In its resolution 73/284, the General Assembly proclaimed the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and made reference to the Water Action Decade. The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration runs from 2021 to 2030, which is the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the timeline scientists have identified as the last chance for preventing catastrophic climate change.
- 81. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme and FAO, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is building a broad-based global movement to ramp up restoration and put the world on track for a sustainable future, including political momentum for restoration, as well as thousands of initiatives on the ground. Priority ecosystems include freshwater ecosystems. Through communications, events and a dedicated web platform, the Decade provides a hub for everyone interested in restoration to find projects, partners, funding and the knowledge they need to make their restoration efforts a success.

#### V. Assistance to country programmes

- 82. At the country level, UN-Water members and partners work collectively to strengthen Member States in their efforts to ensure sustainable water and sanitation for all. To be effective, coherent and integrated actions of the United Nations system and its partners in the various countries are essential. To this end, with its country level engagement UN-Water aims to reinforce existing inter-agency collaboration in countries, as well as facilitating connection to non-resident expertise, initiatives and processes to leverage the full capacities of the United Nations system in countries systematically and at scale.
- 83. During the period 2020–2021, UN-Water piloted an offer to the United Nations country teams and resident coordinators, in coordination with the Development Coordination Office. UN-Water worked with nine pilot countries: Bahrain, Costa Rica, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe and the United Arab Emirates, as well as resident coordinator offices in Central Asia, South Caucasus and Latin America. Activities included inter-agency coordination, support for the common country analyses, capacity development, innovation, integration of the human rights to water and sanitation, and transboundary water cooperation.
- 84. On the basis of the pilot phase experience, UN-Water is scaling up its country level engagement to ensure that the mechanism continues to play a key role in coordinating and delivering support to Member States in the context of United Nations reform and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. To facilitate learning

across countries about how to accelerate progress on Goal 6, the first in a series of Goal 6 country acceleration case studies will also be launched in 2022.

#### VI. Conclusions

- 85. The pandemic has underlined the importance of clean water and sanitation as the first line of defence for a COVID-19 response. Furthermore, achieving water-related goals and targets, including through synergies with other Sustainable Development Goals, is also critical to tackling the triple environmental crisis of climate, biodiversity and pollution and to achieving sustainable development.
- 86. During the implementation of the first half of the Water Action Decade, progress has been made through several activities in the global water community. In addition, building on the momentum generated during the previous decade, the international community has galvanized efforts to hold important milestone events, which all lead to the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action.
- 87. Even before the onset of the pandemic, the world was alarmingly off track to achieving the water and sanitation goals. Estimates suggest that the international community must quadruple its rate of progress to achieve universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene as a basic human right. Data, knowledge and information is essential to making informed decisions.
- 88. Cooperation, partnerships and networking among all relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, remains important. UN-Water will continue to facilitate the coordinated system-wide response for the implementation of activities.
- 89. For the second half of the Water Action Decade, transformational actions are needed to trigger acceleration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will continue to provide the direction for countries to deliver fast results at an increased scale through multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- 90. The Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action will be a major milestone to create momentum and accelerate progress on internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda, as the first United Nations conference on water held since 1977.

22-11955 **19/19**