



Concept Note

Event to Launch the State of the World's Drinking Water Report

***UN Headquarters, Tuesday, 25 October 13:15-14:15,
Conference Room 7***

Rationale:

Despite significant gains, the world is not on track to meet the SDG target for safe drinking water. However, there are inspiring examples of progress, using the lens of the SDG6 Acceleration Framework, which provides a model of success for both governments and development partners.

The event will launch the first-ever “State of the World’s Drinking Water” report, and will present the findings and recommendations from WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank. The report is aimed at governments and the development partners who support them and includes a strong call to action for accelerated progress on access to safe, accessible and reliable drinking water. The session will start with a concise presentation on the current status of drinking water: where we are, what progress is needed, and who is being left behind, while drawing on data sources such as the WHO/UNICEF JMP and the UN Water GLAAS. The recommendations of the report, which follow the structure of the SDG6 Acceleration Framework, will then be presented. A discussion will take place with government representatives that have used a combination of accelerators to achieve inspiring progress in their countries and with partners on what the report means in terms of actions and priorities.

The messages and learning from the session will be relevant in the preparation of the 2023 UN Water Conference and will assist participants to understand issues around drinking water that must be raised and discussed at the 2023 Conference. It will also enable participants to support advocacy on the importance of safely managed drinking water, and the urgent need for increased prioritization and swift action.

Key messages:

- A dramatic acceleration in progress towards universal safe drinking water is possible
- Safely managed drinking water protects health, has positive economic impacts, builds resilience to climate change, and is good for society as a whole
- Progress requires action by governments, supported by development partners, on governance, finance, capacity building, data and innovation

Proposed Session Agenda:

13:15 – 13:25 Opening remarks

- Sanjay Wijesekera, Director Programmes, UNICEF
- Werner Obermeyer, Director WHO in New York
- Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director for Water Global Practice, World Bank (remote)

13:25 – 13:45 Report preview: status update and key messages

- Bruce Gordon, Unit Head of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health, WHO
- Aidan Cronin, Director a.i. for Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) & Climate, Energy, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (CEED), UNICEF

13:45 – 14:10 Panel discussion with government representatives

Moderated by Joel Kolker, Program Manager, World Bank

- El Salvador: H.E. Ms. Egriselda López, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations
- India, H.E. Ms. Ruchira Kamboj, Representative of India to the United Nations (TBC)
- Republic of Tajikistan: H.E. Sulton Rahimzoda, Special Envoy
- The Netherlands: H.E. Henk Ovink Special Envoy / H.E. Ms. Yoka Brandt Ambassador Permanent Mission (Netherlands) (TBC)

14:10 – 14:15 Closing remarks

Logistics:

The event will be webcast via UN Web TV here: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1z/k1z1z5nazi>
Interpretation services in English <-> French, and English <-> Spanish will be available.
A light lunch will be available at 13:00 to facilitate participants to the PGA plenary to attend this session.