

Sanitation and Water for All sees the 2023 Conference as an important opportunity to affirm the human face of water, i.e., the **human rights to water and sanitation, the elimination of inequalities and a call for accountability** in the realization of these rights.

The human rights to water and sanitation are the bedrock of SDG6. They should be explicitly reflected in the description of the five Thematic Dialogues, as well as other parts of the agenda.

By setting the target of universal access, we are obliged to examine those individuals or groups that are often forgotten, marginalized, or discriminated against. And to hold governments accountable to this duty. The fact that these people do not have access to safe water and sanitation is most often not a matter of engineering or lack of financial resources, but rather of policies and strategies that neglect or discriminate against certain population groups. **It is a matter of political will or lack thereof!**

Sanitation and Water for All is advocating for outlining “political will” to be defined as one of the “game changers” to be discussed at the conference.

Many other aspects are important, such as improved data, technical capacity, etc, but it is critical that Member States step up to act based on what we already know – that there are vast inequalities in access to water and sanitation which must be eliminated. Such action requires political commitment, and with such political support, financing, capacity, data, scientific solutions, and other relevant interventions will be more likely to follow. It is crucial that political mobilization comes out as a compelling input to this consultation and this Conference. We would be happy to work with everyone on the steps, actions and partnerships needed to make this happen.

Thank you!