

UN WATER CONFERENCE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
UN Headquarters October 24, 2022

Roundtable 5: Financing - 16:15-17:40 EDT

Remarks by: Water.org

At Water.org, we believe harnessing the power of private capital offers one of the best solutions to increasing access to water and sanitation at scale.

Our mission is to build a **global capital market that accelerates universal access to safe water and sanitation**. To date the amount of capital our lending partners have mobilized in market for water and sanitation is nearly **\$5 billion which has enabled over 50 million women**, children, and men the dignity of toilets and taps in their homes.

- Most borrowers are women living in poverty, they repay on time at a rate of 99%

Water.org has built the case for microfinance for water and sanitation. Our evidence proves the power of access to credit is the gamechanger needed get on track to meet SDG6.

Water.org innovated and spun off our sister organization **WaterEquity** which is the first water and sanitation dedicated asset manager which invests in financial institutions, enterprises, and infrastructure in emerging markets. Together our **#WaterAction vision is to bring 100 million more people water and sanitation** in the coming years through a vibrant sustainable capital market that leverages the power of water and sanitation to improve health, equality, and economic growth.

We implore this body and the distinguished members of the General Assembly to **enact policy now that ensures water and sanitation as a priority lending sector** – such as is done for health, housing, and education. Policies must *incentivize* and *recognize* capital investment in water and sanitation as the powerful financial resilience tool it is.

Thank you very much.

Claire Lyons, Global Lead, Advocacy & Influence, Water.org