# THEMATIC CONCEPT PAPERS

# **DRAFT OUTLINE**

(Template)

#### I. Introduction

This section will introduce the thematic topic in the context of the UN 2023 Water Conference and set the scene for the concept paper.

As part of the organizational arrangements mandated in A/RES/75/212, paragraph 9 (d), the Secretary-General of the UN 2023 Water Conference will prepare concept papers on the themes of the interactive dialogues, finalized during the one-day preparatory meeting for the Conference convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly on 25 October 2022. This concept paper is on the theme: [name of theme].

The world is not on track to achieve SDG 6 and related goals and targets by 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has further increased the challenge, and the world must quadruple the rate of progress to ensure water and sanitation for all by 2030. Water is inextricably linked to the three pillars of sustainable development, and it integrates social, cultural, economic and political values. It is cross-cutting and underpins the achievement of many SDGs through close linkages with climate, energy, cities, the environment, food security, poverty, gender equality, and health, amongst others. With climate change profoundly affecting our economies, societies and environment, water is indeed the biggest deal breaker to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## II. Overview of the challenge, current status and interlinkages

This section will highlight the current status, trends and the need for progress on the theme. In doing so, it will also highlight interlinkages across the theme, in particular the relationships inherent between the theme and the most relevant SDGs, with emphasis on the most relevant targets.

# III. Overview of opportunities for progress and transformative solutions

The existing and future water-related challenges we face require the rapid development and deployment of innovative and transformative solutions that go beyond business-as-usual. The international community must strive for concrete recommendations that can foster progress and transformative solutions. The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework aims to deliver fast results at an increased scale. The themes of the interactive dialogues will be addressed through the lens of five cross-cutting and interdependent accelerators namely: Financing, Data and information, Capacity development, Innovation, and Governance.

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### 1. Financing

This section will examine how to improve targeting, better utilization of existing resources and mobilization of additional domestic and international funding for delivery and implementation of all SDG 6 targets, bearing in mind the interlinkages with other goals. It may also explore the barriers that preclude finance mobilisation to date and offer action-oriented solutions.

#### 2. Data and information

This section will discuss how data generation, validation, standardization and information exchange can build trust and support leaders in making informed decisions and increase accountability. It will discuss how to ensure that high-quality information on SDG 6 indicators is shared and can be easily accessible by any decision maker.

### 3. Capacity development

This section will explore how inclusive human and institutional capacities at all levels can enable improved service levels, operating and maintenance technology, increased job creation in the water sector and the retaining of a skilled work force.

#### 4. Innovation

This section will discuss how innovative practices and technologies can be leveraged and scaled up to ultimately lead to improved water resources and sanitation development and management at the country level.

### 5. Governance

This section will focus on the need for cross-sector and transboundary collaboration, clear roles, stakeholder involvement and effective and inclusive institutions to make SDG 6 everyone's business.

#### IV. Recommendations

This section will outline the main recommendations for the theme, including possible voluntary commitments that would be relevant to address the global water challenges, specifically with respect to the theme of this concept paper. Please build as appropriate on and with reference to the three principles of the Conference:

- 1. Inclusive (e.g., who are the actors that should work together)
- 2. Cross sectoral (e.g., what are the sectors that need to be mobilized)
- 3. Action oriented (e.g., what needs to be done).

Due consideration may be given to contributions from other water-related meetings that served to provide input for the preparatory process for the Conference.

## V. Guiding Questions

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This section will present the guiding questions that will shape the discussion during the relevant interactive dialogue at the UN 2023 Water Conference.

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