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The absence of clear objectives and roadmaps is contributing to a lack of focus across stakeholder groups; forcing water to constantly compete with other governmental and political priorities; and to water losing priority on the global agenda outside of times of acute stress and/or crises.

In order to work better together, we first need a common platform and common understanding of objectives. International processes, and inclusive mechanisms have a vital role to play in this regard. These can make the most useful contributions to national progress on water goals. Examples of such mechanisms include the partnership platform of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, and the proposed Water Action Agenda resulting from this Conference. A UN platform for countries to make public their intended future actions in relation to water will help facilitate cross-sectoral alignment and attract funding.

It is also important that these mechanisms foster engagement with, and inclusion of, often underrepresented groups - such as women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Government Authorities. The challenge we face is enormous, and it requires concerted and coordinated action from every stakeholder group:

Government must foster the necessary policy environment, including ensuring incentives and inclusive governance, for implementation of the Water Action Agenda.

UN system must build the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and be a neutral platform for commitment, as well as follow-up and review.

Financial institutions must provide and leverage financing to implement the Water Action Agenda.

Civil society, including youth must implement, support, advocate for, and participate in the follow-up and review of actions. By 2030, youth below 30 years old must represent at least 30% of stakeholders engaged in water management and governance mechanisms, consultation and decision-making processes at the local, regional and global level.

Private sector: must invest, implement and commit to action.