

Rebecca Marmot, Water for Health Interactive Dialogue

- Thank you your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.
- We have heard from the distinguished speakers today on the urgency of the challenges, and transformative solutions needed to drive universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene by the end of the decade.
- The private sector has an instrumental role to play in unlocking the innovation, expertise and resources required to *creatively* address these gaps.
- At Unilever, we have a long history of working on improving people's hygiene. We were founded in the 19th century with the vision to make cleanliness commonplace.
- Over the last decade, our leading hygiene brands Lifebuoy and Domestos have reached over 1.3 billion people through their WASH partnerships.
- This is together with partners like GAVI, UNICEF, UNHCR and the Governments of India, South Africa, and the UK.
- Public private partnerships are key to enabling this scale of impact, as well as combining the unique expertise of partners.
- When the pandemic broke out, we launched a global response with the UK government and 21 UN and NGO partners. We reached over a billion people across 37 countries with hygiene awareness and products, as part of the Hygiene and Behaviour Change Coalition.
- Towards the Water Action Agenda, we commit to taking action, through our brands, to improve health and wellbeing, reaching a billion people per year by 2030. This will include handwashing and sanitation programmes focussing on behaviour change.
- But we in the private sector cannot do this alone.
- We call on ministers of all national governments, to develop and invest in national water, sanitation and hygiene plans.
- If we step up together, as the private sector, national governments, civil society, and the academic community - we can safeguard against future pandemics and other health crises, and ensure access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all.