

March 24, 2023

SUBJECT: Statement by the Water Institute at UNC on Themes I and V: Water and Health and Accelerating the Implementation of the Objectives of the Water Action Decade

Good morning.

The Water Institute at the University of North Carolina is an academic institute focused on promoting water security through research, policy, and practice. The Institute focuses particularly on the connections between water, sanitation, hygiene (WaSH) and health. We believe that sound policies and practices must be based on sound science and evidence.

The Water Institute is also host to the world's largest, annual, international conference dedicated exclusively to water and health – the UNC Water and Health Conference. The Conference takes place in-person and is available free on-line for those that cannot attend in-person. Researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from over 140 countries have participated in the Conference to improve knowledge generation, facilitate access to knowledge and the exchange of best practices, strengthen communications and advocacy, and provide a platform for developing and scaling partnerships that advance implementation of SDG 6. **For these reasons, we believe the UNC Water and Health Conference is the ideal follow-up mechanism to advance each of the goals within the Secretary-General's Plan on the Water Action Decade and implementation of the commitments made at the UN 2023 Water Conference related to water and health (themes I and V).**

If so designated or requested, the Water Institute at UNC stands ready to incorporate the commitments made at the UN 2023 Water Conference related to water and health into our planning process and provide dedicated time and space to advancing and monitoring implementation of these commitments. We look forward to a stronger connection with the Water Action Decade and the efforts of the UN to achieve SDG 6.

Thank you.

Aaron A. Salzberg  
Director, the Water Institute at UNC  
Don and Jennifer Holzworth Distinguished Professor