

07 June 2023

United Nations Department of
Social and Economic Affairs

SDG Summit 2023 Informal Stakeholder Dialogue
Statement about the Zero Draft Political Declaration for the SDG Summit
from Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Esteemed colleagues,

Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a network of 3000+ water organisations that promotes the effective, efficient, and sustainable management of water resources around the world. Spanning 13 regions, we partner directly with governments to provide technical expertise and support as they evaluate competing policy options and actions regarding sustainable water management. Country achievement of SDG targets, specifically SDG6 but increasingly others such as SDG13, is necessary for the global community to achieve the world we want.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to the comprehensive effort that UN DESA is making to ensure that the Political Declaration made at the upcoming SDG Summit reflects the collective voice of the people and organisations working tirelessly to meet to the ambitious targets of the SDGs.

In the spirit of enhancement through contribution, GWP respectfully submits the following three recommendations as input for forthcoming iterations of the Political Declaration:

Point 36, D (page 5): *"We will address water scarcity and stress and drive transformation from a global water crisis to a water-secure world, ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all."*

We suggest that this sentence be expanded to include a strengthened articulation of the role water plays in sustainable development by inserting the following clause before the existing sentence:

"Understanding the essential role that water plays in all aspects of sustainable development - from ending hunger to ending poverty, promoting good health and well-being, transitioning to a clean energy future, ensuring peace, and promoting sustainable consumption and production, we will address [...]". Water is an essential component (aka building block) for achieving most other SDGs but this understanding is not always fully appreciated. Expressing this linkage will help additional actors make the connection for themselves.

Point 36, F (page 5): *"We will accelerate the pursuit of policy, investment and innovation to reduce disaster risk and build the resilience of countries, economies, communities and individuals, and we recognize the need for a broader and more people-centered preventive approach to disaster risk reduction."*

We suggest that this sentence be enhanced by attaching the following clause to it: "including necessary upgrades to the delivery of services such as water and sanitation so that they may prevail in the face of intense weather events that are happening with increasing frequency". Reinforcing the importance of

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ensuring basic infrastructure can withstand the impacts of climate change can only help make apparent the connection between services so often taken for granted.

Mobilizing resources, boosting investment, and building capacity (page 6). We encourage the insertion of a new bullet, placed after O and before the current P, that builds on the reference to ODA: "We further encourage development partners to think expansively about how best to deploy their ODA in ways that might invite, inspire or otherwise motivate non-traditional actors to invest their resources in areas in support of SDG achievements that would otherwise appear to be prohibitively risky and outside the scope of their traditional investments." Specifically encouraging development partners to think differently about how to use their increasingly scarce resources may go a long way in propelling progress in attracting private sector investment.

Thank you again for your leadership of this effort.