



Outlook

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**Brazil's Input on Themes for the Interactive Dialogues – 2026 UN Water Conference**

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**From** Melina Espeschit Maia <melina.maia@itamaraty.gov.br>**Date** Fri 4/11/2025 4:52 PM**To** Stephanie Rambler <rambler@un.org>**Cc** Ruoshi Geng <ruoshi.geng@un.org>

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Dear Ms. Rambler,  
Cc: Ms. Geng,

In response to your invitation for additional input on the themes of the Interactive Dialogues of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, and pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 78/327, the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations has the honor to submit the following contribution.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represented a significant step forward in how water-related challenges are understood. By establishing a dedicated goal — SDG 6, “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” — and related targets, the international community recognized water not only as an essential service, but also as a heritage and strategic resource, with a cross-cutting role across all dimensions of sustainable development.

Brazil supports the continuation of discussions on the themes of “Water for Sustainable Development” and “Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment.” In addition, Brazil respectfully suggests that the 2026 Conference also include the theme of access to sanitation, potentially under the title “Water and Sanitation for All.”

The proposed Interactive Dialogue entitled “Water and Sanitation for All” would aim to explore, in an integrated manner, the multiple aspects of water governance, with emphasis on the specific challenges faced by developing countries. This proposal stems from the understanding that the SDGs must be implemented in an integrated way. In the case of SDG 6, this is particularly evident, as water promotes synergies across policy agendas such as health (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), climate action (SDG 13), ecosystem conservation (SDGs 14 and 15), and food production (SDG 2).

Since 2008, when the world became predominantly urban, challenges related to access to water and sanitation have become more acute. Rapid and unplanned urbanization exerts pressure on water ecosystems and infrastructure, compromising watersheds, degrading wetlands, polluting water sources, and threatening aquifers. In developing countries, social inequalities further exacerbate these challenges.

Yet, urban issues do not exhaust the complexity of water-related challenges. Millions of people, especially in rural and marginalized areas, still lack adequate access to sanitation services, increasing vulnerabilities and undermining health, safety, and human dignity. Infrastructure gaps are often accompanied by institutional and financial limitations, which hinder the implementation of adequate solutions.

In this context, the Dialogue proposes to go beyond the lens of urban sanitation to emphasize broader aspects — notably the needs of rural, riparian, and Indigenous communities whose ways of life are deeply connected to water cycles. Related ecosystems also play a key role in maintaining those cycles, including evapotranspiration rates (linked to rainfall patterns) and infiltration rates (linked to the recharge of surface and underground water systems).

The Dialogue could be structured around pillars that highlight experiences capable of breaking this cycle of exclusion by valuing local and traditional knowledge, ecosystem functions, community-based management, and context-specific adaptation strategies. At the same time, regional development and local governance would be promoted to encourage resilient and sustainable solutions.

One key pillar would be the exchange of good practices, showcasing lessons learned and replicable experiences in the restoration of riparian zones, protection of water sources and aquifer recharge areas, and the inclusive and sustainable improvement of basic services.

A second pillar would address financing, recognizing that many countries and communities face difficulties in mobilizing resources for water infrastructure, environmental conservation, and universal sanitation. The Dialogue would explore financing opportunities that enhance international cooperation, connect local and global governance levels, and foster public-private partnerships that provide technical support, legal certainty, and long-term economic sustainability.

A third pillar would be the strengthening of institutional and technical capacities, including the establishment of participatory and well-informed governance structures. This would entail investments in monitoring systems aligned with the SDG indicators, the use of appropriate technologies, and the training of professionals and managers — both in urban and non-urban settings — for integrated water resource management.

Finally, a fourth pillar could address climate adaptation and technological innovation in water, including decentralized solutions for water access and treatment, the use of sensors to monitor water quality, reuse programs, small-scale desalination systems, and nature-based solutions.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil remains at your disposal and reiterates its commitment to the success of the 2026 UN Water Conference.

Best regards,

**Melina Espeschit Maia** | Counselor

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