



Reference: DESA-25/00535

To: Ms. Stephanie Rambler (rambler@un.org)

Cc: Ms. Ruoshi Geng (ruoshi.geng@un.org)

Date: 9 April 2025

**Canada's comments and recommendations for the UN Water Conference 2026
Interactive Dialogue themes.**

Referring to General Assembly Resolution 78/327, outlining the modalities for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, the Government of Canada values the work of the Secretary General, UN-Water and co-hosts Senegal and the United Arab Emirates in support of the Conference. Canada appreciates the opportunity to contribute input and provide recommendations for the Interactive Dialogue themes.

The comments below take into consideration that the implementation of work relating to water and sanitation in Canada is a shared responsibility between the federal government, provinces and territories, municipalities, and Indigenous governments. Recognizing that the five Interactive Dialogues themes of the 2023 Conference were organized to capture the connectivity between SDG 6, clean water and sanitation, and all other SDGs, we encourage continuity of these themes. We further support the co-hosts' ambition to leverage previous milestones and we emphasize the need to engage stakeholders at technical and political levels for a high-impact, deliverables-focused event.

Interactive Dialogue 1, 'Water for Health', must clearly acknowledge the connection between water and sexual and gender-based violence, menstrual health and hygiene, gender inequality and the impacts of inadequate WASH on both children and youth, highlighting links to poverty restricted areas, rural villages, and conflict-affected regions/countries.

We propose that Dialogue 1 and/or Dialogue 3 should explicitly capture issues related to chemical waste and contamination, specifically plastics, addressing the global pollution crisis including plastic pollution.

Canada supports an inclusive conference with a clear role for Civil Society, ensuring meaningful participation of all actors, including marginalized groups, the most vulnerable, and Indigenous Peoples, both in the preparation for, and during the Conference. Inclusivity means providing a meaningful platform for all members of our global community. All Interactive Dialogue themes should acknowledge the centrality of

water rights beyond health to sustainability, development, cooperation, governance, and climate justice and the value of Indigenous knowledge systems.

Canada would be supportive of a sixth Interactive Dialogue theme that focused on one of: i) inclusivity in water governance (which requires no justification); ii) water finance; or iii) water technology and innovation, recognizing that without leveraging available financing and investment opportunities global efforts to meet targets will be constrained and acknowledging the clear need to mobilize the private sector. Engaging and incorporating diverse funding sources also opens opportunities to work together with other multilateral fora, focusing on the finance of water development such as the G7, G20 and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Any additional theme must have clear implementation pathways and partnership advantages. Further, water science must be incorporated into an evidence-based approach to support all themes. Looking forward, it is essential to situate water science to inform 'Our Path to 2030 and Beyond', emphasizing the importance of water governance and evidence-based foresight planning to reduce future water resource stress.