

PGA Preparatory Meeting for the 2026 UN Water Conference
Statement on behalf of the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)
Representative: Ingrid Timboe, Deputy Executive Director, AGWA
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On behalf of my organization and its members, The Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) welcomes General Assembly resolution 78/327 and congratulates the co-hosts, the UAE and Senegal, on their constructive and proactive preparation thus far.

With less than a year and a half to go until we all meet again in Dubai, we must ensure that the UN 2026 Water Conference builds on the enormous efforts of the UN 2023 Conference, while beginning to chart a course for post-2030, providing a clear and compelling vision for what a water secure world will look like in 2050 – any beyond.

The Interactive Dialogues (IDs) and the priorities they encompass can serve as a frame for this vision and help to mobilize global action towards our collective future. While we welcome the overarching dialogue themes, in particular the emphasis on systemic water resilience in IDs 2 and 3, more must be done to refine the scope and proposed impact of each to reflect a more interconnected, resource-intensive, and unpredictable world.

While we agree it is important to link to ongoing international processes such as the SDGs, we encourage the organizers to think beyond these existing frameworks, to make certain that we do not artificially constrain the scope of our vision making process, and to ensure that the legacy of UN 2026 does not become irrelevant in 2031.

Non-state actors have a pivotal role to play. For example, as many of us are already actively engaged in these processes, NGOs and IGOs can provide a robust framework for ID3 by identifying synergies between UN processes to continue progress on the IDs ahead of and beyond December 2026. Ongoing efforts to harmonize efforts across these conventions, such as the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate, should be prioritized.

Finally, we urge the active engagement and inclusion of voices beyond the “traditional” water and sanitation community. Emerging knowledge of the range and depth of water crises around the world as well as their interdependencies with other critical priorities has illuminated the need for elevated, ongoing, and systemic prioritization of water across sectors, ministries, and levels of governance. Water-dependent sectors such as agriculture and food systems, energy, and industry as well as ministries of economic planning and finance must be included not only in the conference itself but in its preparation and outcomes. A bold vision for the future includes us all and we at AGWA stand ready to help build a water-secure world for everyone.

Thank you.