Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030:

SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

Value proposition paper: 22 April 2020

"Our world as we know it and the future we want are at risk. Despite considerable efforts these past four years, we are not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We must dramatically step up the pace of implementation as we enter a decisive decade for people and the planet. We must connect the dots across all that we do – as individuals, civic groups, corporations, municipalities and Member States of the United Nations – and truly embrace the principles of inclusion and sustainability."

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General[1]

I. Purpose

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework aims to deliver fast results in countries at an increased scale as part of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030[2]. With the objective of catalyzing and supporting broad stakeholder action, the multilateral system and its partners will dramatically improve its support to countries for SDG 6 on water and sanitation through swift and well-coordinated responses to country requests, coordinated action under five accelerator themes to unlock bottlenecks, and strengthened accountability.

II. Commitment

UN entities, coordinating through UN-Water[3], are committing to the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework to unify the international community for sustainable water and sanitation for all. The Framework will assist countries to raise their ambition to rapidly accelerate towards national targets for SDG 6 and, in doing so, contribute to progress across the 2030 Agenda: poverty reduction, food security, health, gender equality, peace, sustainability and climate resilience of communities, ecosystems and production systems.

The Global Acceleration Framework forms part of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030, and contributes to realizing the human rights to water and sanitation. It builds on ongoing processes, including awareness raising through the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General's global call to action for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in all health care facilities and the Agenda for Humanity[4]. The Framework will utilize the high-level events in 2021 and 2023[5] combined with strengthened system-wide collaboration at the country level to accelerate and showcase progress on SDG 6 and ultimately across the 2030 Agenda.

III. The problem

SDG 6—*ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*—is alarmingly off track[6]. At the current rate of progress, the world will not reach the SDG 6 targets by 2030. Rates of

[1] Foreword, Global Sustainable Development Report 2019.

[2] The Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030 was launched by Heads of State and Government at the SDG Summit in September 2019 in order to step up progress towards the SDGs and put the world on track to realize their targets by 2030. More information in the political declaration of the SDG Summit 2019.

[3] This paper is developed by UN-Water, which coordinates the United Nations' work on water and sanitation and aims to galvanize action across its over thirty (United Nations) Members and many other international Partners.

[4] The acceleration framework will also support implementation of other global commitments, such as the Sendai framework, the Paris Agreement and others.

[5] Mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028.

[6] SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation

progress dating back to 2000 show we have achieved on average 1% annual progress on access to basic water supply and sanitation, while at least 3% annual increases are needed to ensure everyone has just basic services by 2030. This does not include the aspects related to safely managed services included under SDG 6, and necessary for delivering significant improvements in health as part of the Global Acceleration Framework.

The SDG 6 targets also go beyond basic services—targets on water scarcity, water pollution, biodiversity and ecosystem protection, disaster risk reduction and water management reflect the ever growing global pressures on our most precious and finite resource are also off track. Water scarcity is already affecting more than 40% of the global population and is projected to rise.

The water crisis is getting worse, and put simply there are twin threats:

(1) water demand and withdrawals are increasing due to population growth, socio-economic development, urbanization and land-use change, inefficient use in water-using sectors and changing consumption patterns; and,
(2) water sources and associated ecosystems are degrading because of unsustainable use, increased pollution and climate change, while an increasing frequency/severity of floods and droughts poses additional threats.

Water is required to deliver almost all other SDGs; lack of progress on SDG 6 is undermining global health, prosperity, women's empowerment and gender equality, education, food security, and disturbing our ecosystems, compromising the entire 2030 Agenda, as well as the achievement of the Paris Agreement and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Sustainable water management, and delivery of water supply and sanitation services, underpins wider efforts to end hunger and poverty, advance sustainable development, and sustain peace and stability. Humanitarian crises that require water and sanitation responses are more frequent, affecting more people and lasting longer. Lack of safe water and sanitation negatively impacts nutrition, particularly that of children, impacting their physical and cognitive growth.

There are several bottlenecks impeding greater progress. Policy and institutional fragmentation between levels, actors, and sectors means that decisions taken in other sectors (e.g. agriculture, energy, health, environment) often do not consider the associated impacts on water availability and water quality, and that issues do not receive the necessary political attention. Funding gaps and fragmentation lag progress across levels, while data and information too often are not available or shared between sectors and across borders to effectively inform decision making. Meanwhile, gaps in institutional and human capacity, especially at the level of local governments and water and sanitation providers, slows implementation of SDG 6 along with outdated infrastructure and governance models.

IV. Solutions

The water and sanitation crisis can be solved. Various countries have proved that dramatic gains can be achieved in just a few years[7]. Actions to accelerate progress towards the SDG 6 targets can yield immediate benefits to the most vulnerable and deliver cost savings and economic opportunities in other sectors. For example, in rural areas, for every US$ 1 invested in basic drinking water, an average of nearly US$ 7 is

[7] Examples of rapid improvement include India's massive investment in sanitation, driven by political will at the highest level, and Thailand eliminating open defecation.

returned in saved medical costs and increased productivity[8]. Moreover, some of the solutions are inexpensive, effective, and can be rapidly deployed.

Rapid and more integrated action is now needed. As identified in the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation, this requires increased political will, scaling up of existing technologies and partnerships, development of capacities in countries, as well as optimization and mobilization of financial resources. Ultimately, the acceleration of SDG 6 implementation supports many –if not all– other SDGs, such as on health, education, food, gender equality, energy and climate change, thanks to its interlinkages with other goals which creates numerous co-benefits[9].

As identified in the the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report: "The Future Is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development", scientific evidence is a prerequisite for designing and implementing transformations to sustainable development.[10] This requires Member States to work with the scientific community (e.g. research consortiums, universities, centres), to accurately assess water externalities – in particular those that affect the global environmental commons – and change patterns of use through pricing, transfers, regulation and other instruments; to enhance the current levels of access to knowledge and disaggregated data, as well as scientific capacity and good-quality higher education, in low- and middle-income countries and countries in special development situations; to invite universities, policymakers and research funders to scale up research, guided by the 2030 Agenda, to sustainability science and other disciplines, with simultaneous strengthening of the science-policy-society interface.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a key accelerator and strategic enabler for the sustainable management of water and driving progress towards SDG 6. Innovative ICT solutions can improve accessibility to clean water, provide the necessary tools to assess and monitor water resources, and meet the growing water demands from around the world. There are four major areas in water management where ICTs can make marked progress on; mapping of water resources and weather forecasting; setting up early warning systems to manage water risks and demands; improving water distribution networks; and monitoring irrigation in agriculture and land scaping[11].

V. What is new? The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework's additionality

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework is driven by country demand and will align the international community to strengthen country planning, implementation and mutual accountability with a focus on unlocking observable bottlenecks. By mobilising action across governments, civil society, private sector and the UN system, the Framework will improve the collective delivery on SDG 6 in countries and align approaches across sector and actors. As such, the Framework aims to unify existing strategies and initiatives, such as the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, towards a common purpose, to accelerate progress on SDG 6 by collectively:

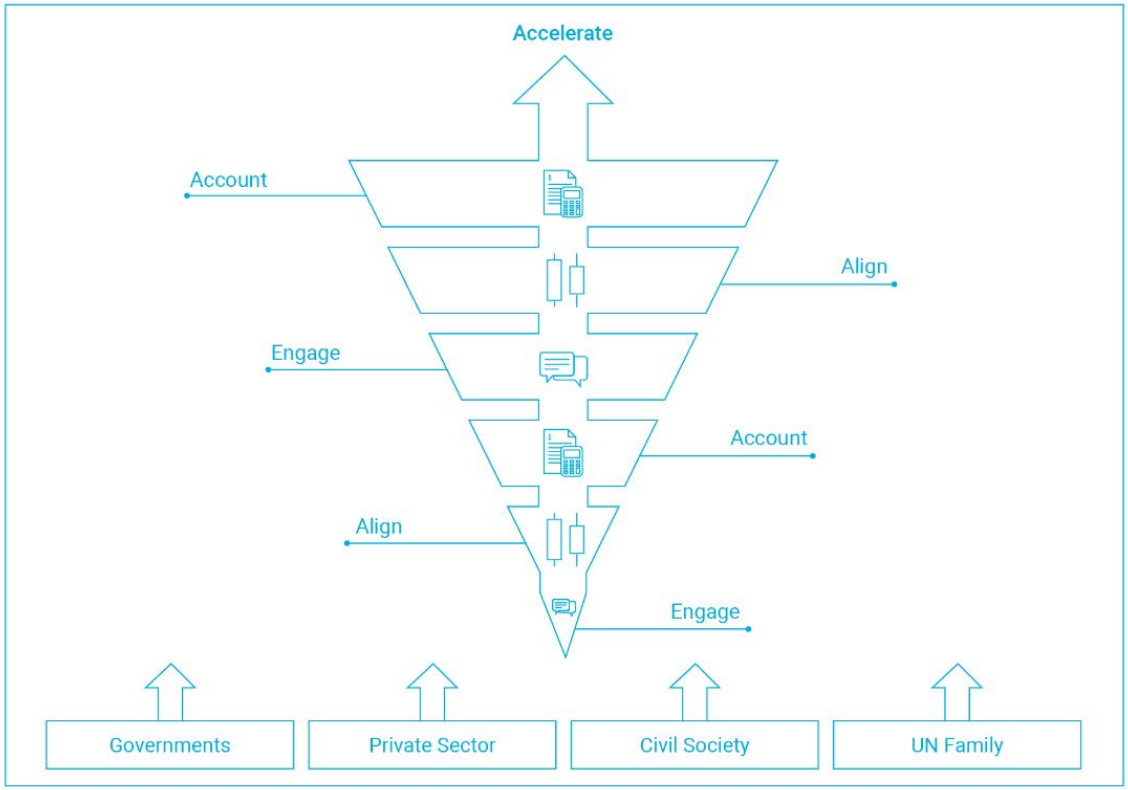
- **Engage** - provide coordinated response to country needs aiming at mobilising all stakeholder: individually and collectively, locally nationally, regionally and globally, enabling the participation of different groups of people, including women, girls, youth, migrants, rural and urban populations.

[8] Benefits and Costs of the Water Sanitation and Hygiene Targets for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Hutton. 2015.
[9] Water and Sanitation Interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN-Water. 2016.
[10] In the report, the UN Secretary-General stresses that "*Science is our great ally in the efforts to achieve the Goals.*"
[11] ICT as an Enabler for Smart Water Management. ITU.

- **Align** - reduce fragmentation through aligning operational and financial strategies, policies, and approaches in support of countries
- **Account** - An SDG 6 action platform and an annual high-level and multi-stakeholder moment to share progress on water and sanitation related issues

At its core, the Framework will support accelerated country progress on SDG 6 in five key accelerators:

(1) **Financing** – Optimize financing for water and sanitation, particularly for countries and communities with limited access to financial resources.
(2) **Data & information** – Build trust through data generation, validation, standardisation and information exchange for decision making and accountability
(3) **Capacity development** – Focus on inclusive human and institutional capacities at all levels to deliver SDG 6
(4) **Innovation** – Leverage and scale up innovative practices and technologies, including technologies that are accessible for rural areas and marginalized communities
(5) **Governance** – Make SDG 6 everyone's business through cross-sector and transboundary collaboration, clear roles, stakeholder involvement and effective and inclusive institutions



VI. Guiding principles

A set of cross-cutting fundamental principles underpin all aspects of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework:

- **Prioritizing the vulnerable -** it is critical to reach the billions today without basic services, that already suffer from water scarcity, disasters/crises and pollution and those left behind deserve immediate

prioritization especially forcibly displaced and others living in fragile countries, rural areas and disadvantaged periurban communities.

- **Inclusivity –** Exclusion and horizontal inequalities among groups and geographical areas can increase the risk of violent conflicts and need to be addressed. Inclusive management of water resources, bringing various groups together, can contribute to resilience and peaceful socieites. Dialogue and grievance mechanisms and participatory planning tools at community and municipal levels can enhance trust in and legitimacy of governments.
- **Conflict sensitivity** - Water can be a source of conflict. All activities need to be conflict sensitive and risk-informed, informed by a conflict and risk analysis.
- **Unleashing the potential of women and girls and youth and reaching gender equality** - effective planning and implementation and monitoring of water and sanitation depends on all-of-society engagement, especially the involvement of women and girls and youth and the integration of gender equality considerations. Untap opportunities such as engaging women to build skills on maintenance of water provision systems with water operators.
- **Planning for resilience/sustainability—**Adaptability is essential in a rapidly transforming world. Climate change, population growth, migration, urbanization and deforestation all impact water ecosystems and the water resources they supply both in terms of quantity and quality. Tapping into the potential of new best practices, such as climate-resilient approaches and nature-based solutions, as well as their better promotion and increased implementation, is critical for ensuring effective water management and enhancing action on adaptation. The Framework will contribute to strengthening linkages between environmental, development and humanitarian approaches to contribute to SDG gains and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
- **Scientific evidence as a prerequisite:** Science is a must for designing and implementing transformations to sustainable development. Given the urgency to act, the 2030 Agenda can serve as a shared compass to rapidly mobilize and harness the extensive knowledge available. Many low- and middle-income countries need to design and pursue development that breaks the path of Western-style path dependence of economic growth at environmental costs.

VII. SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework action pillars

A. Engage with countries better, including communities and people

- **Respond efficiently and effectively to country and regional requests** — Leverage UN's convening power to connect available expertise to the country and regional levels. Scale up support to countries from the entities within the UN system and other multistakeholder partners, including in response to country requests channeled through Regional Coordination Mechanisms and UN Resident Coordinators to UN-Water[12].
- **Unify external backing around government-led plans—**sustained progress on SDG 6 ultimately rests on governments being meaningfully and efficiently supported through providing coherent and aligned technical assistance and resources, often within the context of a joint sector review for water and sanitation.

[12] UN-Water, working in close collaboration with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), has shared an offer with UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators to access UN-Water expertise, with the intention of strengthening the implementation of the UN reform. The offer is being piloted in 2020.

- **Engage with local authorities, civil society, communities and people, particularly excluded groups and geographical areas** – We need to keep a people-centered approach, leave no one behind and focus on those furthest behind first, including excluded communities and groups. Local authorities are key in delivering SDG 6 and they are the interface for most people. The Framework will take a community-centric approach building on UN's collective ability to channel communities' voices.
- **Build and empower a multi-stakeholder movement –** Through advocacy, good communication, direct support and leading by example, it is envisaged that the UN system will catalyze broad stakeholder action; individually and collectively, locally and globally to address the water and sanitation crisis.
- **Finetuning existing international frameworks** - as well as additional dedicated institutional, analytical and operational frameworks, will facilitate effective implementation and achievement of fundamental goals, such as the reduction of poverty and gender inequality.
- **Establish/scale up powerful partnerships at the global, regional and river, lake and aquifer basin scales**—partnerships will aim to generate and sustain political will, to mobilise public and private entities across different sectors for cooperation, foster innovation and reform, prevent conflicts and promote effective, sustainable and peaceful management of water resources..

B. Align operations and financing in support of countries

- **Adapt our way of working to become more effective and efficient**—entities within the UN system and multistakeholder partners will continue to improve their way of working and coordinate action to pursue efficiencies in response to demands from countries and partners. Given the inter-dependence of the SDGs, with attainment of one being critical for the attainment of another, increased alignment will improve efficiency and effectiveness by harnessing synergies between different SDGs.
- **Commit to sustainability by supporting whole systems approaches**—water and sanitation services and resource management require holistic improvements to institutions, planning, financing, implementation, and oversight, all supported by competent human resources. In this context, the Framework will reduce policy and institutional fragmentation between levels, actors, and sectors including harmonization of mandates of institutions.
- **Raise the ambition—**strong political will and commitment at the highest level, at national, sub-national and local levels, is required. Collectively call on decision makers at the highest levels to raise the ambition for inclusive and sustainable water and sanitation solutions in order to support national development priorities, in turn promoting action within national, regional and global policies that cascade down to the sub-national and local levels. This includes scaling up support and action from all relevant actors and stakeholders, including in fragile and conflict-affected setting.

C. Accelerate progress in countries through joint action in five key accelerators

Entities within the UN system and multistakeholder partners will dramatically improve their support to countries by acting together to accelerate country progress in five key accelerators focused on unlocking bottlenecks.

(1) **Financing: Optimize financing for water and sanitation -** Funding gaps impede progress, whilst existing funding from different sources is often uncoordinated among donors or sometimes even counterproductive. Yet, the cost of inaction is often much higher. Improved targeting, better utilisation of existing resources including harnessing of synergies between different SDGs, and mobilization of additional domestic and international funding for the water sector, including in the rural and vunerable areas, together with innovative financing, including blended finance and smart water and sanitation investments, is required to catalyse efficient service delivery and implementation. In addition,

adequate funding allocations for the identification, implementation and monitoring of policies and actions towards an inclusive water governance should be ensured.

What success would look like: Costed plans related to delivery of SDG 6 are fully funded.

(2) **Data & information: Build trust through data generation, validation, standardization and information exchange, enhanced cooperation, decision making, and accountability** - Step changes are needed at all levels to generate data and optimise monitoring and assessment, to deepen disaggregation and analysis, especially for vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged groups. Sharing information transparently within and between sectors and across borders is essential to effectively inform decision making processes, including by drawing on coherent data and information systems, innovation and multi-stakeholder engagement and through policy advice and technical assistance. Innovative approaches and tools have great potential to support water monitoring and data assessments.

What success would look like: Appropriate information on SDG 6 indicators and interrelated environmental processes is shared through easily accessible mechanisms and used to inform decision-making, including in sectors that impact upon water resources. Water monitoring data are generated using innovative tools such as remote sensing. Information sharing is organised on the basis of open access.

(3) **Capacity development: Focus on human capacity to deliver SDG 6** - Previous output-based approaches have not paid sufficient attention to education, training, attracting, and retaining the skilled workforce needed to deliver water and sanitation related services. Capacity development, monitoring and evaluation are essential for improving service levels, operating and maintaining technology, increased job creation in the water sector, and monitoring performance, including at community level. Water education is necessary at all levels, as most of the decisions affecting water resources are made by stakeholders which lacked opportunities to develop a holistic understanding of the issues at stake. Capacity development is required in engineering, scientific and technical disciplines, and also across all areas related to water and sanitation, including in policy, law, governance, finance, information technology, environment, gender, stakeholder participation and management. This includes strengthening the capacity of local governments and water and sanitation providers in water and sanitation service delivery.

What success would look like: Skilled staff enhance sustainable implementation of SDG 6.

(4) **Innovation: Leverage all forms of innovation to accelerate SDG 6 including innovative finance and considering interlinkages with other goals** - If we are to reach the transformative progress needed to meet SDG 6, business-as-usual is no longer an option. Innovation in science, ICT, emerging technologies, ways of working, governance and business models, can significantly improve water resources and sanitation development and management in rural and remote locations and in a world with deep uncertainties, particularly in the context of climate change. Sharing and disseminating research and innovation will provide an enabling environment for sustainable solutions to water and sanitation and will support national action on the SDG 6 implementation. Focus on scaling up best practices and relevant innovations to countries, regions and globally, and enhance knowledge creation, learning and partnerships that enable innovative methods, accessible and disruptive technologies and sidelined ecological/traditional approaches to accelerate progress on water and sanitation and benefit those left behind. International standards should be leveraged to implement ICT solutions for sustainable water management and accelerate actions on SDG 6. UN entities have developed

international standards that identify the standardization need for smart water management, set the requirement for water sensing and early warning systems and more[13] and can also provide valuable guidance on leveraging disruptive technologies for smart water management[14].

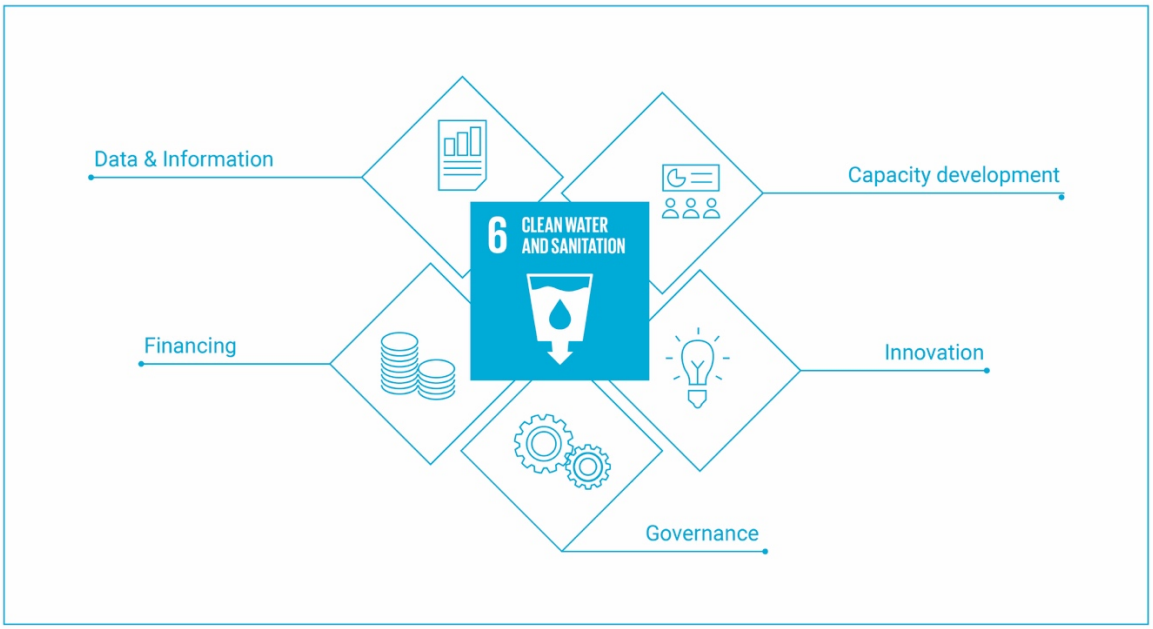
What success would look like: Innovative practices and technologies for water and sanitation are leveraged at the country level.

(5) **Governance: Make SDG 6 everyone's business though clear roles and strong institutions –**
Action on SDG 6 also depends on commitments and action in other dimensions including health, education, agriculture, social development, environment, energy, gender and climate. Currently roles and responsibilities are fragmented and unclear, with significant gaps and overlaps in mandates at all levels. Efficient and accelerated action on SDG 6 requires all relevant actors to clarify and take ownership of their context specific roles, recognize interlinkages, forge cooperation, build on complementarities and ensure effective institutions, policy frameworks and enabling environments, including promotion of integrated water and sanitation solutions. Coordinated efforts for a wide application of a nexus approach is needed in order to maximize synergies and minimize trade-offs across and within sectors. The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will urgently raise the visibility and ambition of water in sectors that impact upon SDG 6, acknowledging that inclusive progress on water is fundamental to success in those sectors, while highlighting the cross-cutting role of the social, economic and environmental dimensions. This requires Member States to work with the scientific community (e.g. research consortiums, universities, centres), to accurately assess their needs – in particular those that affect the global environmental commons – and change patterns of use; to enhance the current levels of access to knowledge and disaggregated data, as well as scientific capacity and good-quality of higher education, in low- and middle-income countries and countries in special development situations.

What success would look like: Efficient mandates for SDG 6 delivery in all sectors are established, institutions are strengthened to deliver and intersectoral coordination mechanisms operate effectively.

[13] For examples: L Suppl. 14: ITU-T L.1500 - Standardization gap analysis for smart water management and L Suppl. 14: ITU-T L.1500 - Standardization gap analysis for smart water management

[14] For more information: Focus Group on Environmental Efficiency for Artificial Intelligence and other Emerging Technologies



D. Account

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework promotes shared accountability among all actors and to the people by reviewing progress and learning together. The principal measure of success under the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework is the achievement of the SDG 6 targets and ultimately the achievement of the broader SDG framework. Progress towards the SDG 6 targets is regularly revieed by the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6. By 2023, the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Acceleration Framework will have brought about three major changes in ways of working:

(1) better coordination among the UN entities in their diverse global, regional, transboundary and in-country support to countries;
(2) streamlined support to countries as a result of better aligned operational and financial policies and approaches; and
(3) a purpose-driven collaboration among all stakeholders that is integrated into their organizational cultures, encompassing leadership at global, regional, and country levels.

The Framework will apply the following accountability measures:

- **Nimble evidence-based implementation**—a planning and delivery culture that breaks engrained modes of working across actors, uses latest evidence on what works, learns quickly from failure and adapts to changing realities.
- **An SDG 6 action platform**, the Global Acceleration Framework will bring awareness, localization, and activation through actions from all people, organizations (including the United Nations), and countries. The platform will be fully integrated with the Decade of Action online resources and will also connect to the existing global campaigns for World Water Day, World Toilet Day, and the Water Action Decade 2018–2028, all of which have strong buy-in from youth organizations globally. UN-Water Meetings will be used to discuss and follow up on commitments and identify bottlenecks.
- **A high-level and multi-stakeholder moment** to discuss water and sanitation related issues will be introduced on the margins of the High-level Political Forum or the SDG Action Forum. Such a moment

will bring all actors together, review progress, reflect, learn, and trigger increased and better directed action.

Overall coordination of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will be by UN-Water, through heads of agency commitment.

VIII. Examples of purpose driven application of the Global Acceleration Framework for each SDG 6 target[15]

SDG 6 target	*Examples of purpose driven coordinated action per key accelerator*
6.1	**Accelerator: Governance** **Example: Manage water quality** – by preventing pollution from unsafe sanitation (6.2), wastewater discharges (6.3) and agricultural runoff (6.4) and restoring natural system that improve water quality (6.6) **Example: Promote integrated water and sanitation solutions.** There is need to develop a spatial approach that goes beyond municipal boundaries and considers effective management of infrastructure systems with focus on integrated urban and territorial planning, proper land use management, and legislation. This should include urban agglomerations and rural areas, and especially peri-urban areas that are not attached to traditional trunk infrastructure of municipalities. Also essential are strong coordination mechanisms between national governments and local governments in water and sanitation infrastructure planning and development. **Example: Manage water availability and water quality through:** (a) scientific basis for sound water management practice through analysis of (primarily stable) water isotopes and, (b) water pollution vulnerability maps, to guide conservation efforts **Accelerator: Capacity development** **Example: Strengthen the capacity of local governments and water and sanitation providers in water and sanitation service delivery.** Many developing countries have devolved responsibility for water and sanitation services to local governments. To take on this responsibility, local governments and water and sanitation providers need to strengthen their capacity and institutional arrangements in planning, financing, implementation, monitoring and support of water service providers. This should include negotiate capacity to establish partnerships that mobilize investment for water and sanitation infrastructure. **Accelerator: Innovation** **Example: Reduce water loss and non-revenue water –** by scaling up innovative solutions that reduce and prevent water waste and optimize usage through decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation (8.3; proportion of informal employment in

[15] More detailed worked examples of concrete actions and commitments under the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework are currently being developed

	non agriculture employment, by sex.) **Example: Space technologies and space-based solutions can benefit water management overall, and can facilitate improved water use and water resource sharing internationally.** A large number of space-borne platforms address water-related issues. Space-derived data are used extensively in water management. Space technology and applications, sometimes combined with non-space technologies, play an important role in addressing many water-related issues, including the observation and study of surface water bodies, (coastal) aquifers, global water cycles and unusual climate patterns, the mapping of watercourses, wetlands, aquatic weed and algal blooms as well as water quality monitoring according to various relevant variables, the rehabilitation of water systems, the monitoring of glaciers, the estimation of snowmelt run-offs, the planning and management of reservoirs and irrigation projects, the monitoring and mitigation of the effects of floods, droughts and cyclones, the management of conventional and non-conventional water resources, including fossil groundwater, the reuse of agricultural drainage water, precision agriculture, the desalination of sea and brackish water, the reuse of municipal wastewater, precipitation mapping and estimates in near-real time and real time, the harvesting of rain, and reserve water resources, groundwater detection, protection of riparian States in accordance with international agreements and treaties, and the improvement of the timeliness and, accuracy of forecasts and can assist in related disaster management and crisis response activities as well.
6.2	**<u>Accelerator: Finance</u>** **Example: Target limited public finance (6.a) to sanitation service for the poorest** and mobilize market solutions to reach whole communities with safe services along the whole sanitation chain (6.3.1) to improve health (3.9) and prevent pollution (6.3.2) **Example: Promote Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPP) as a new water and sanitation infrastructure financing model** to encourage people's participation in issues such as land acquisition, investment in individual shares, in-kind contributions for water and sanitation infrastructure. Ministries of Water in over 50 countries have established national sanitation and hygiene improvement programs using Community-Led Total Sanitation, a methodology of sensitizing people about the links between sanitation and health that has empowered hundreds of millions of people to stop the practice of open defecation, invest own resources in improved sanitation, and adopt safe hygiene practices. **<u>Accelerator: Capacity development</u>** **Example: Build back better from pandemics** such as COVID-19 through job programs for water and sanitation as a form of recovering from the economic impact of the pandemics.
6.3	**<u>Accelerator: Innovation</u>** **Example: Leverage innovation in wastewater treatment and safe use** to improve water and nutrient availability for agriculture (6.4) , reduce ambient water pollution (6.3.2) and support cost recovery for WASH services (6.1,6.2,6.3.1). **<u>Accelerator: Data</u>** **Example: Water quality and its social, economic and ecologic implications are known.**

	Local, national and regional water quality monitoring networks provide stakeholders at all levels with necessary decision support. **Example: Radiation treatment of wastewater** for removal of organic pollutants, including dyes and endocrine disruptors. **Example: Machine Learning for a global water quality dataset** using all spectrums of Earth Observation data.
6.4	**<u>Accelerator: Data</u>** **Example: Remote sensing for water productivity** - Agriculture is a key water user. A careful monitoring of water productivity in agriculture and exploring opportunities to increase it are required. **Example: Fit for purpose water monitoring system –** Fit for purpose hydrologiocal monitoring systems allow to assess what is available to manage distribution and demand **<u>Accelerator: Innovation</u>** **Example: In-situ data for the verification of Remote sensing data.** The training and testing of machine learning models can facilitate and improve the verification process which is essential in the use of remote sensing data. Other examples include water cycle databases and pollution vulnerability mapping.
6.5	**<u>Accelerator: Governance</u>** **Example: Prioritise adaptation and resilience—**Adaptability is essential in a rapidly transforming world. Climate change, population growth, migration, forced displacement, urbanization all impact water resources both in terms of quantity and quality. Improve cooperation across borders and sectors (6.5 and SDG 16 and 17). Strengthen linkages between development and humanitarian approaches to contribute to SDG gains and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. This may include green works for water and soil restoration and conservation especially at community level for climate change adaptation, and Local Resource-Based Approaches in Water Works. Additionally, a comprehensive policy framework for resilience is the Recommendation 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience. **Example: Open information for water management —** An understanding of the national landscape is essential when it comes to concrete actions. To better coordinate the multi stakeholder cooperation within countries, innovative uses of technology for water management, initiatives for open data (portals), focal points for water data collection, ministries, thematic focus and specialization in the country, experts, could be shared on a voluntary basis and can inspire others, as well as foster the knowledge exchange. **<u>Accelerator: Finance</u>** **Example: Target finance and investment priorities towards cooperative projects** that establishes mutual benefits to facilitate and support transboundary water cooperation within the IWRM framework.

6.6	**<u>Accelerator: Finance</u>** **Example: Invest in rehabilitation of wetlands and ecohydrology approaches** to restore ecosystems their services that provide retention and treatment of polluted water (6.2, 6.3) for productive use in drinking- water supply (6.1) and agriculture (6.4).
6.a	**<u>Accelerator: Finance</u>** **Example: Untap innovative financing –** including financing models for crowding in the private sector: Public-private partnerships, guarantees, insurance, equity grants, tenor extensions, pooled financing, project preparation funds, hedging instruments, micro finance, credit ratings, tapping into pension funds and insurance companies, green bonds and technology transfer. **Example: Promote smart water and sanitation investments -** focus on financing the right type of water and sanitation infrastructure investments. Cash-strapped local governments, for example, should invest first in less expensive, retro-fitting of existing systems while at the same time improving the collection of municipal taxes that in the longer term will generate a viable revenue stream that they can use to refinance loans and debt instruments for future investments in new, more expensive infrastructure. **<u>Accelerator: Capacity development</u>** **Example: Operational technical capability to exchange information** and create trust through joint trainings, monitoring and assessments.
6.b	**<u>Accelerator: Capacity development</u>** **Example: Strengthen civil society engagement** – especially women's network, youth and indigenous and tribal peoples - in water management. Embrace transparency and accountability through the use of ICTs, open competition, citizen oversight and improved flow of information. **<u>Accelerator: Governance</u>** **Example: Automated exchange of capacity building and training material**, with interoperability between the portals.