

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Sustainable Development Goal 6

New York – UN-HQ – 9 July 2018

“The world is not on track to reach Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation by the deadline set for 2030”

Back on this event...

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, the UN's platform for review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), took place in New York City from 9 to 18 July.

Gathering some 2,000 representatives from UN member states, business leaders, mayors, the scientific community, foundations, UN agencies and civil society organizations, the HLPF had the objective to provide an opportunity for stakeholders, to engage and share solutions to SDG implementation. INBO General Secretary was accredited to participate.

The first day, on Monday 9 July afternoon, only 3 hours were dedicated to a review of SDG 6 **“Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”**...

At the opening of this half day, **UN-Water’s Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation** was presented. It is built on the latest data available for the 11 SDG 6 global indicators. It immediately set the scene by concluding:

“The world is not on track to reach Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) on Water and Sanitation by the deadline set for 2030. Today, billions of people lack safe water, sanitation and handwashing facilities. Ecosystems and water sources are becoming more polluted, and funding for water and sanitation services is inadequate. In addition, governance and delivery systems are weak and fragmented”.

Modest progress is being made, but most countries will not meet the target by 2030 at current rates of implementation.

However, in the foreword of this report, the UN Secretary-General, HE Mr. António Guterres, wrote:

“Water is life: Progress in nutrition, health, education, work, equality, environmental protection and international cooperation are all related to the availability and sustainable management of water and universal access to effective systems for disposing of our waste.

These are the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 6. If we remain off track to deliver on SDG 6 then we jeopardize the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Yet, today, billions of people still lack access to safe water and sanitation, resulting in needless deaths, chronic disease, missed education and reduced productivity.

At the same time, demand for water -- from agriculture and industry as well as domestic use -- is rapidly rising and water pollution and ecosystem degradation are being made worse by increasing amounts of untreated wastewater. And all of this is happening against a backdrop of climate change, which is playing havoc with the predictability of our most precious resource.

What this report makes clear is that we must tackle weak funding, planning, capacity and governance of water and sanitation services as a top priority. New partnerships are needed, involving stakeholders within and beyond the water and sanitation sectors, to address these fundamental issues, balance competing needs, and act to get SDG 6 back on track. Data and smart technologies must be embraced so interventions can be as effective as possible and progress tracked overtime”...

Despite these depressed findings and this assertion that the failure to achieve the objectives on the water would also jeopardize the other SDGs, the session dedicated to SDG 6 was reduced to a long series of interventions agreed in advance leaving no room for a debate nor for solution proposals.

As a fact of “Forum”, practically only the Member-States expressed themselves, if one leaves apart three very short interventions of the representatives of the Major Groups...

Representatives of civil society, local authorities, companies, NGOs had only a limited access to a reserved area in the conference room without any opportunity to speak: we cannot really talk about a “Forum”!

As for the “High Level”, it must be recognized that most of the seats of the Member-States were not occupied by ministerial level representatives, but often only by a representative of their national delegation to the UN..... The water issue did not make a real high-level recipe!

While the different interventions of UN Water and Member States focused on the need for urgent and coordinated action, the format of the HLPF did not allow for more in-depth solutions.

The discussions therefore remained very general, in contradiction with the urgency to act to achieve the objectives.

This format has been criticized by many Member States: **“Is it enough to discuss the issues related to water and sanitation for 3 hours every 4 years?”** and some speakers called for the establishment of regular intergovernmental political meetings to monitor the SDGs for water... We must support this idea, but provided that it is not yet to say anything concrete!

The final Ministerial Declaration is paved with good intentions, but remains very general, non-binding and without concrete conclusions to solve the identified problems.

To stay positive, let's say that, at least, the interventions and the UN-Water report reflect the messages conveyed, for decades now, by the Water Community, in general, and INBO, in particular, and presented during major international events on water.

Although this is not really new, as some pointed out that many of these diagnoses were already made at the Mar del Plata UN Conference in 1977, 41 years ago, we can be pleased to see the emphasis on the importance of water in all other SDGs, on governance, integrated management, stakeholder participation, lack of data, inadequate funding, cross-border cooperation, resource pollution, nature-based solutions, the impact of climate change on floods and droughts.

The importance of the delay in access to drinking water and sanitation is very legitimately a priority, but it masks the fundamental problems of resources management and protection, which are still put in the background.

The management of aquifers is only mentioned in a secondary way and the basin approach hardly appears and, even if the report and some speeches insist on the transboundary cooperation over shared water resources and present the successful experience of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), which we can rejoice as OMVS was entrusted with the INBO World Presidency 2010 - 2013, they do not go so far as to recommend clearly and explicitly that it is organized at the scale of the entire transboundary basin, probably for not offending some Members States that are diplomatically opposed to it?

But why not also say that integrated basin management of national rivers, lakes and aquifers has proved its effectiveness for decades and is adopted and implemented now in many countries and sometime as a regional commitment as in the European Union for example ?

TO SUMMARIZE:

Let us stay positive with the UN –Water report!

The 2030 Agenda lists rising inequalities, natural resource depletion, environmental degradation and climate change among the greatest challenges of our time. It recognizes that social development and economic prosperity depend on the sustainable management of freshwater resources and ecosystems and it highlights the integrated nature of SDGs.

Economic growth is the priority for most countries. SDGs cannot be met without growth, which tends to over-shadow other issues. But unsustainable use of water and land resources will not help to meet these targets. Climate change is focusing minds on sustainability and the fact that the natural resources of future generations are being consumed to satisfy the economic demands of today.

The findings confirm that water insecurity acts as a major constraint to global economic growth.

Fresh water, in sufficient quantity and quality, is essential for all aspects of life and sustainable development. The human rights to water and sanitation are widely recognized by Member States. Water resources are embedded in all forms of development (e.g. food security, health promotion and poverty reduction), in sustaining economic growth in agriculture, industry and energy generation, and in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Agriculture (including irrigation, livestock and aquaculture) is by far the largest water consumer, accounting for 69 per cent of annual water withdrawals globally. Industry (including power generation) accounts for 19 per cent and households for 12 per cent.

There is a growing consensus that the challenges can be met by adopting a more integrated approach to managing and allocating water resources, including the protection of ecosystems upon which societies and economies depend.

Expanding international cooperation and support for capacity building is fundamental and contributes to achieving many goals including SDG 6.

THE DATA TO ASSESS THE PROGRESS OF SDG-6 ARE STILL LARGELY INSUFFICIENT

This obliges the UN Agencies to produce estimates that partially reflect the realities.

Less than half of Member States have comparable data available on progress towards meeting each of the global SDG 6 targets. Almost 60 per cent of countries do not have data available for more than four global SDG 6 indicators, and only 6 per cent reported on more than eight global indicators, representing a major knowledge gap. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) targets have accumulated data since 2000 during the Millennium Development Goal period, whereas most other targets have a much shorter history of data acquisition.

Few data are available and aggregated for national and regional assessments. Many countries lack the capacity to collect and analyze the data needed for a full assessment. Reliable water quality monitoring is essential to guide priorities for investment.

It is also important for assessing the status of aquatic ecosystems and the need for protection and restoration.

Insufficient data are generated by countries to adequately measure progress. Further detailed data will be essential for accurate understanding of water-related ecosystems and the benefits they provide. Earth observations can complement local ground data and support the national burden of data acquisition and reporting.

Member States will need to strengthen capacity, increase financial resources, and implement clear roles and responsibilities for data collection and processing. Monitoring at the ecosystem level and at the basin scale is important. Local level monitoring provides evidence for practical action, and **larger basin-level monitoring provides an overall perspective.**

Data underpin the governance elements of accountability, transparency and participation.

They enable progress to be monitored and service providers, governments and development partners to be held accountable. Many countries lack the financial, institutional and human resources to acquire and analyze data to support governance. Less than half of Member States have comparable data available on progress towards meeting each of the global SDG 6 targets.

Progress monitoring is dominated by information from the WASH sector, because of the extensive availability of GLAAS data. However, data from other areas such as IWRM were included in the latest cycle of data collection (2016/2017), although trend data are still lacking. Refined monitoring is needed to give a “voice” to groups in other sectors, particularly in agriculture, where there is a long tradition of farmer participation in water user associations.

GOOD WATER GOVERNANCE IS AN ESSENTIAL PILLAR FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 6.

Yet governance structures tend to be weak and fragmented in many countries. Good water governance provides the political, institutional and administrative rules, practices and processes for taking decisions and implementing them.

Good water governance comprises many elements, but it principally includes: effective, responsive and accountable State institutions that respond to change; openness and transparency providing stakeholders with information; and giving citizens and communities a say and role in decision-making.

SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT DEPENDS ON THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

Most progress towards implementation of IWRM is found in cross-sectoral coordination and public participation at national level...

The concept of integrated water resources management (IWRM) is embedded in the 2030 Agenda and requires governments to consider how water resources link different parts of society and how decisions in one sector may affect water users in other sectors. It is an approach that must involve all actors and stakeholders, from all levels, who use and potentially pollute water so that it is managed equitably and sustainably.

CURRENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE INADEQUATE TO ACHIEVE SDG 6.

Financial needs in the water sector remain high. More funding is required, ranging from more-effective use of existing resources through to providing new financing paradigms to create greater opportunities for making rapid progress in future years. The World Bank estimated the annual capital costs of meeting SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 at US\$114 billion per year. This does not include other SDG 6 targets. Nor does it include operation and maintenance, monitoring, institutional support, sector strengthening and human resources.

Water sector official development assistance (ODA) has remained constant at around 5 per cent as a proportion of the total ODA disbursements.

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION OVER SHARED WATER RESOURCES IS A KEY ISSUE

The 2030 Agenda fully commits Member States to IWRM and transboundary cooperation over shared water resources. Putting this into practice will be the most comprehensive step that countries make towards achieving SDG 6.

Water offers an opportunity for cooperation between countries rather than a source of conflict. Implementing IWRM at the transboundary level demonstrates the critical need to strengthen cooperation over shared water resources. The average of the national percentage of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement is 59 per cent (based on 2017/2018 data from 61 out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters).

These included: lack of political will and power asymmetries among riparian countries; fragmented national legal, institutional and administrative frameworks; lack of financial, human and technical capacity; and poor data availability, especially in relation to transboundary aquifers and their boundaries.

Implementing IWRM at the transboundary level provides further justification for the critical need to strengthen cooperation over shared water resources and the benefits they provide. Countries need to cooperate to ensure that transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers are managed in an equitable and sustainable manner.

INTEREST IS GROWING IN NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBSs)

Water-related ecosystems and the environment have always provided natural sites for human settlements and civilizations, bringing benefits such as transportation, natural purification, irrigation, flood protection and habitats for biodiversity. However, population growth, agricultural intensification,

urbanization, industrial production and pollution, and climate change are beginning to overwhelm and undermine nature's ability to provide key functions and services. Estimates suggest that if the natural environment continues to be degraded and unsustainable pressures put on global water resources, 45 per cent of the global gross domestic product, 52 per cent of the world's population and 40 per cent of global grain production will be put at risk by 2050. Poor and marginalized populations will be disproportionately affected, further exacerbating rising inequalities.

Water-related ecosystems underpin other SDGs, and yet they also depend on them, particularly those relating to food and energy production, biodiversity, and land and sea ecosystems. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems cannot be achieved without progress on these other goals and vice versa.

The world has lost 70 per cent of its natural wetland over the last century, including significant loss of freshwater species.

Interest is growing in nature-based solutions (NBSs), which use or mimic natural processes to increase water availability (e.g. soil moisture retention and groundwater recharge), improve water quality (e.g. natural and constructed wetlands and riparian buffer strips), and reduce water-related risks by restoring flood plains and constructing decentralized water retention systems such as green roofs.

NOT ONLY WATER QUANTITY BUT ALSO WATER AND ECOSYSTEMS QUALITY

Water quality problems persist in developed and developing countries and include the loss of pristine quality water bodies, impacts associated with changes in hydro-morphology, the rise in emerging pollutants and the spread of invasive species.

All these water uses can pollute freshwater resources. Most wastewater from municipal, industrial and agricultural sources is discharged back into water bodies without treatment. If not treated, this pollution further reduces the availability of freshwater for drinking and other uses, and also degrades ecosystems.

Much of the pollution affecting oceans and coastal zones comes from human activities and poorly managed land-use practices. This also applies to solid waste dumped at or near coastal areas, which eventually ends up in the sea. Reducing pollution and minimizing dumping of hazardous materials into upstream ecosystems will benefit marine environments and reduce the impact on coastal ecosystems.

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON FRESHWATER SYSTEMS.

Most effects due to climate change will be experienced through changes in the hydrological cycle, such as overall water availability, water quality and frequency of extreme weather events (e.g. floods and droughts).

Water-related hazards account for a large part of disaster loss and impact. Between 1990 and 2015, more than 1.6 million people died, and 5.5 billion people affected in internationally reported natural hazards. Water-related hazards accounted for 62 per cent of the deaths and 96 per cent of the people affected and 75 per cent of total damage costs amounting to US\$2.5 trillion.

While floods are immediate and visible and receive much attention, droughts are a creeping phenomenon, like climate change. They contribute to overall water scarcity, stress water supplies, and affect agriculture and aquatic ecosystems.

Proactive drought policies and drought risk management can build greater societal resilience to the effects of drought and reduce the need for an emergency response. But this requires a fundamental shift in the way droughts are perceived and managed.

Overall, climate change, and its exacerbation of floods and droughts, necessitates a more adaptable approach to water management for countries and societies to be able to cope with the increasing uncertainty.

Migration (often partly caused by environmental degradation and water insecurity) adds to the pressure on water resources. In recent years, rural incomes have fallen due to drought, land degradation and groundwater depletion, resulting in low agricultural productivity. This has fuelled rural to urban migration, expanded informal settlements and increased social unrest.

Few countries have the natural resources to continue increasing water supplies. More than 2 billion people live in countries experiencing high water stress.

The alternative is to make better use of available resources. This target addresses the issue of water scarcity and the importance of increasing water-use efficiency, with the latter being a measure of the value of water to the economy and society.

Alternative water sources, such as wastewater, storm run-off and desalination, can also relieve water stress. Safe wastewater reuse and recycling is a significant untapped resource for industry and agriculture, but its use must overcome political and cultural barriers.

Agriculture is by far the largest water consumer, accounting for nearly 70 per cent of all withdrawals globally and as much as 90 per cent in some arid countries. Saving just a fraction of this can significantly alleviate water stress in other sectors.

ANNEX

UN-Water report key messages:

1. Integrating Sustainable Development Goal 6 into the 2030 Agenda

- **Achieving SDG 6 is essential for progress on all other SDGs and vice versa. Sustainable management of water and sanitation underpins wider efforts to end poverty, advance sustainable development and sustain peace and stability.**
- **The time to act on SDG 6 is now. The world is not on track to achieve the global SDG 6 targets by 2030 at the current rate of progress.**
- **Global SDG 6 targets must be localized and adapted to the country context. National governments must decide how to incorporate SDG 6 targets into national planning processes, policies and strategies, and set their own targets, taking into account local circumstances.**
- **Effective water resources management needs more and better data. Data underpin good water governance. Less than half of Member States have comparable data available on progress made towards SDG 6 targets.**

2. Understanding the baseline status and trends of the global indicators

- **Extending access to safe drinking water presents a huge challenge. Achieving universal access to safe and affordable drinking water means providing basic water services to 844 million people and improving service quality to 2.1 billion people who lack safely managed drinking water services.**
- **Billions of people still need access to basic toilet and handwashing facilities. Over 2.3 billion people lack basic sanitation services, 892 million still practice open defecation and 4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services.**

These will not be eradicated by 2030 with current trends. Only 27 per cent of the population in LDCs has access to soap and water for handwashing on premises.

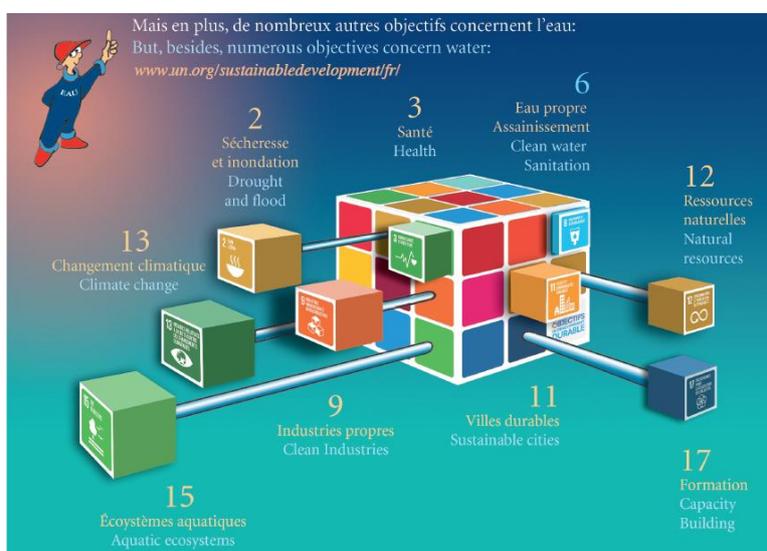
- **Improving water quality can increase water availability. Worsening water pollution must be tackled at source and treated to protect public health and the environment and to increase water availability.**
- **Agriculture offers opportunities for significant water savings. The agricultural sector accounts for nearly 70 per cent of global freshwater withdrawals. Saving just a fraction of this would significantly alleviate water stress in other sectors.**
- **Implementing IWRM is an important comprehensive step towards achieving SDG 6. Integration across the water and water-using sectors is essential for ensuring that limited water resources are shared effectively among many competing demands.**
- **Sustaining water-related ecosystems is crucial to societies and economies. The world has lost 70 per cent of its natural wetlands over the last century. Sustaining and recovering water-related ecosystems are vital for societal well-being and economic growth.**
- **Improved international cooperation and more and better use of funding is needed. Over 80 per cent of countries reports insufficient financing to meet national WASH targets. ODA funding is important, but so is stronger domestic financial engagement, including the private sector, and better use of existing resources.**
- **Public participation is critical to water management. Community participation in decision-making can yield many benefits, but better means of measuring quality and effectiveness of such participation are needed rather than just relying on quantity of engagement.**

3. Enabling and accelerating progress

- **Good water governance is essential. Good water governance provides the political, institutional and administrative rules, practices and processes for making decisions and implementing them. It is key to implementing IWRM.**
- **Inequalities must be eliminated. Effective policies, strategies and subsidies must be developed to ensure that no one is left behind. The 2030 Agenda will not succeed if governments fail to support the most vulnerable people.**
- **Water and sanitation require a new financing paradigm. This means increasing the efficiency of existing financial resources and mobilizing additional and innovative forms of domestic and international finance.**

- **Capacity must be developed. A serious lack of institutional and human capacity across the water sector is constraining progress, particularly in developing countries. Investing in capacity building requires a long-term view as well as short-term measures.**
- **Smart technologies can improve management and service delivery. Smart technologies supported by information technology can effectively improve all aspects of water resources and WASH management.**
- **Multi-stakeholder partnerships can unlock potential. Sharing, accessing and adapting new solutions needs cooperation. SDG 6 provides the ideal platform for multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure more effective and efficient progress on poverty reduction and sustainable development.**

More than SDG 6, many other Goals concern water



ANNEX

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Goals and targets

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
- Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- 1.1. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
- 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
- 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
- 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
- 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
- 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
- 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
- 3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
- 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
- 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- 4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
- 4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
- 7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year

framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

- 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
- 8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
- 8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and crossborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
- 9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
- 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
- 9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
- 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
- 9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

- 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
- 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- 10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with the World Trade Organization agreements

- 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
- 10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
- 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- 12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- 12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

- 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

- 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- 13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
- 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities
- Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
- 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
- 14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- 14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries
- 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- 14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
- 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

- 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Finance

17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Capacity-building

17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Trade

17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Systemic issues

Policy and institutional coherence

17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Data, monitoring and accountability

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Economic and Social Council

Ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development

Extract from a text:

“We, the Ministers and high representatives, having met at United Nations Headquarters, we.....

18. Emphasize that high quality, accessible, timely and reliable data and statistics are central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We urge countries to further strengthen collaboration at the bilateral, regional and global levels for capacity-building and sharing of best practices for collecting, producing, disseminating, analyzing and using quality data and statistics, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. We welcome the adoption of General Assembly resolution [71/313](#) on the work of the Statistical Commission;

19. Stress that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its widespread, unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. We recognize that 2017 was one of the three warmest years on record and that the average temperature was 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. We recognize the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge. We welcome the Paris Agreement⁵ and its early entry into force, encourage all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ⁶ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible. We recognize the synergies between the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. We acknowledge the importance of continued support for and international cooperation on adaptation and mitigation efforts and on strengthening resilience. We stress the necessity of adequate and predictable financial resources from a variety of sources, including public and private ones. We highlight the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

23. Note with concern that 844 million people lack basic water services, 2.1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water on premises that is available when needed and free from contamination, 4.5 billion lack access to safely managed sanitation, and 892 million still practice open defecation. Water pollution is affecting, among other things, water quality, public health and the environment and decreasing water availability in a world that has lost 70 per cent of its wetlands over the last century.

Water stress is above 70 per cent in some countries and regions. Insufficient financing continues to prevent countries from meeting national water, sanitation and hygiene targets. Creating multi-stakeholder partnerships and ensuring quality public participation and integrated water resources management at all levels are the keys to effectively tackling these issues. We aim to increase water use efficiency across all sectors and water resource allocation, and emphasize the need to address challenges of water scarcity. We commit to improving cooperation across borders, in transboundary waters. To achieve universal and sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation and to end open defecation, substantial long-term investment and capacity-building will be required, particularly in rapidly growing urban areas. Strengthening the institutional capacity of local, subnational and national authorities, as appropriate, to manage and regulate sanitation systems is a high priority.

In particular, we must pay special attention to ensuring access to sanitation and hygiene facilities, taking into account the specific needs of women and girls for menstrual hygiene management and of persons with disabilities, without compromising their safety and dignity. Political leadership to raise awareness of the matter's urgency, concrete actions and cooperation from all stakeholders are essential. We call on the United Nations system to support countries in their efforts, according to national plans and priorities. We welcome the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 and take note of other water-related reports and panels and the outcomes of the major water conferences;⁷

Mar del Plata 1977 United Nations Conference on Water

"In 1977, the UN Conference on Water was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina. Its goals were to assess the status of water resources; to ensure that an adequate supply of quality water was available to meet the planet's socio-economic needs; to increase water use efficiency; and to promote preparedness, nationally and internationally, so as to avoid a water crisis of global dimensions before the end of the twentieth century.

The conference approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan, which was the first internationally coordinated approach to IWRM. The plan had two parts: a set of recommendations that covered all the essential components of water management, and twelve resolutions on a wide range of specific subject areas. It discussed assessment of water use and efficiency; natural hazards, environment, health and pollution control; policy, planning and management; public information, education, training and research; and regional and international cooperation.

The Mar del Plata conference was a success, in part due to the active participation of the developing world and the discussions on various aspects of water management, specifically the country and region specific analyses.

The conference considered water management on a holistic and comprehensive basis, an approach recognized as one of the key IWRM issues in the 1990s. To provide potable water and sanitation facilities to all, and to accelerate political will and investment in the water sector, the conference recommended the period 1980 to 1990 as the International Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The Mar del Plata conference was undoubtedly a major milestone in the history of water resources development for the 20th century.

Viewed from any direction, the conference has become an important yardstick in water resources management, particularly for IWRM”.