

WaterAid response to the zero draft of the outcome document for the summit to adopt the post-2015 agenda

WaterAid welcomes the vision of member states in this draft outcome document. We are pleased to see the presence of water and sanitation as a dedicated goal with ambitious targets on universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene. In a world where one in ten people live without basic water, and one in three without basic sanitation, this is a crisis that demands global attention.

Key recommendations

WaterAid recommends the following improvements for this draft which we ask member states to consider:

1. Water is not an acceptable proxy for 'sanitation and hygiene'. Explicit references should be included to all three.
2. 'No one left behind' must remain at the forefront of the translation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to national context. Reaching 'safe water' and 'adequate sanitation and hygiene' for all means prioritising access for the poorest and most marginalised. The declaration should include an explicit commitment by member states to an inclusive and consultative process of identifying marginalised groups, who should be prioritised in goal progress and monitoring. It should also note that inequalities exist within countries. A huge number of citizens without basic services live in middle income countries and they must not be forgotten.
3. Integration of the different goals should be more explicit throughout the document. Water, sanitation and hygiene are critical to the outcomes of goals on nutrition, health, poverty and gender equality, as well as targets within the wider goal on water and sanitation. Member states should commit to articulating a national implementation strategy as a priority. These should build on existing national plans and ensure that national goals are communicated and well understood across all levels of government. It is critical that these plans are developed with cross-departmental collaboration.
4. Knowing whether we are making progress is critical and the indicators being developed by the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) must not lower ambition (as referenced in the declaration). Hygiene must be included as an indicator within the water and sanitation goal if the agenda of eradicating extreme poverty is to be met.

Comments on the declaration

- The declaration section repeats the mistakes of the MDG era by side-lining sanitation and hygiene. This can be rectified by the following amends:
 - (i) The preamble should include explicit reference to water and sanitation within the list of summary agenda issues. This should be included as 'secure education, health, water, sanitation and basic services for all'.
 - (ii) 'Water and sanitation' should be added to the list of traditional development priorities [paragraph 9].
 - (ii) The 'Our vision' section [paragraph 15] should call for a world free of 'hunger, thirst, disease and want'.
 - (iv) Paragraph 15 should also be amended to 'affordable drinking water, basic sanitation and access to hygiene'.

- The recognition that these goals are indivisible and integrated is an important principle and can be delivered through integrated national strategies. We welcome the reference to rights and obligations of states and call for the right to water and sanitation to be explicitly referenced.
- The importance of the poorest and most marginalised, as recognised in paragraph 20, is equally important. While this is a universal agenda, discussion should focus on addressing the problems of the poorest nations.
- The recognition of universal health coverage is critical. However, this must mean more than just providing financial protection. Prevention is better than cure, and including water, sanitation and hygiene as a preventative element of universal health coverage is an integral part of this. Like hygiene, the IAEG should include water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) access as an indicator, but in this case as part of a composite indicator for universal health coverage.

Sustainable Development Goals and targets

- We particularly welcome the inclusion of the targets in Goal 6 on universal access to drinking water (6.1) and sanitation and hygiene (6.2).
- Attention should be paid to the work of the WASH sector technical experts consultation led by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), which made proposals for very similar targets but with a great focus on measures of equity. To ensure progress is equitable and prioritises the poorest, targets to ensure universal access to basic services must be prioritised as a step towards safely managed. We encourage member states to read the outcome of the [technical experts consultation](#) and WaterAid's paper [Measuring what matters](#) for more information on how these goals and targets could be made more relevant for countries with very low existing access to water and sanitation.
- Throughout the declaration, integration is highlighted. The goals and targets still appear as silos and it is critical that a cross-cutting thematic approach is applied in their implementation. This could be further referenced in paragraph 9 of the declaration by including the following sentence: 'Many targets cannot be achieved without the completion of others and member states should identify effective measures to ensure collaboration between responsible government departments.'

Means of implementation

- We are pleased to see text in this document related to Means of Implementation and particularly welcome the retention of Target 4a which calls for the construction of quality school facilities, which would include basic, decent places to go to the toilet, wash hands and access clean water to drink.
- Equally important is the reference in paragraph 32 of the declaration to official development assistance (ODA). States can and will be able to fund more of their critical systems by 2030 but overcoming the staggering scale of the WASH crisis will mean more, not less, financing from dependable and public sources such as ODA.
- While ODA will play an important role, domestic commitments through greater resource mobilisation will be critical. The section on means of implementation should be strengthened by including of a paragraph on the importance of all member states ensuring national commitments are fully resourced.

Follow up and next steps

- We welcome the call for national ownership for the SDGs. WaterAid is ready to support and work with governments as a leading partner expert in the monitoring and delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene access.

- However, commitments mean little unless we can monitor them. To this end, the roadmap for the work of the IAEG is welcomed, and we encourage this to be included as an annex.
- As noted in the paragraph 3 of the SDG section, member states are committed to maintaining the ambition of the SDGs. Member states must not undercut the ambition of the targets by choosing fewer indicators than target elements. This is neither logical, nor would it promote meaningful accountability. Current proposals being discussed by the IAEG for hygiene and neglected tropical disease (elements of targets 6.2 and 3.3) risk just this. If no one is to be left behind, every target must have meaningful indicators that reflect the breadth of their ambition.
- Paragraph 33 explicitly refers to the importance of capacity building for sustainable development. The capacity to measure and monitor progress should be considered part of this. Where we are unable to fully monitor a target component, it is critical that member states carry through on this commitment to build the capacity.
- More explanation should be given on the role of thematic reviews. We recommend that a specific paragraph or section is added to make this clearer. It would give examples of the thematic reviews and explain how these would link back to the High-level Political Forum. We also recommend referencing the Sanitation and Water for All partnership as an example of a multi-partner body that conducts thematic reviews (relevant for targets 6.1 and 6.2).