

### **Agenda Item 13.2: Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

DG, honourable delegates and colleagues. WaterAid welcomes the debate on Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, achieving Goal 3 will require clear linkages, cross indicators and reporting, and flexible and accountable finance, acknowledging the critical contribution of other Goals to health. In particular, Goal 6 on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is crucial to the success of the health goal. WaterAid wishes to highlight the following three areas:

First, health financing has been a challenge in most developing countries due to a number of issues, including ineffective planning mechanisms, opaque budget processes, weak accountability mechanisms and conflicting policies of aid agencies and development partners. It is important that in achieving the SDGs, financing is adequate and targeted at the poorest and most marginalised, strong and effective accountability mechanisms are in place to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of resources, capacity for resource planning and allocation is strengthened and countries have a health plan and budget that include WASH interventions.

Secondly, access to WASH must be measured as a contribution to achieving health outcomes, despite being included under a separate Goal. Without joint financing, monitoring and reporting, the integrated vision of the SDGs will not have meaningful impact. This is particularly key for hygiene.

Finally, WASH must be prioritised as a component of health systems strengthening, resilience, and global health security. WASH is critical to resilient community and health systems, infection prevention control, and preventing anti-microbial resistance, yet fewer than half of health facilities in developing countries have sustained access to WASH. It is critical to achieving Goal 3 that institutional WASH be prioritised by the health sector, including via national plans, budgets, and partnerships.