

Permanent Representatives
in Paris and in New York

18 November 2022

Dear Ambassador, Permanent Representative,

I have the honour to write to you in my capacity as Chair of UN-Water and to present the UN-Water Joint Message and Call to Action on Groundwater developed by UN-Water's 35 Members and 44 Partners.

The Joint Message and Call to Action will be launched during the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater to be hosted by UNESCO at its headquarters in Paris from 6 to 9 December 2022. This Call to Action is particularly timely in view of the UN 2023 Water Conference that has been convened by the UN General Assembly in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023. The main outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference will be the Water Action Agenda for the collection of all water-related voluntary commitments to accelerate progress in the second half of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 and the second half of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This Joint Message and Call to Action highlights the central role of groundwater in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the 2015 Paris Agreement within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Call to Action encourages governments, the donor community, the private sector, and civil society, to declare voluntary commitments and announce accelerated action in particular by financing sustainable groundwater development, its use and management; collection and sharing of data and information; strengthening human and institutional capacity in the field; innovation for groundwater management; and enhancing groundwater governance. These actions focus on the five cross-cutting 'accelerators' of the [SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework](#), a joint UN-Water endeavour developed in light of the need for an immediate and integrated global response to rapidly improve progress on SDG 6, including through the interlinkages with other sectors.

On behalf of the UN-Water family, I look forward to pursuing our joint efforts to address the global water and sanitation challenges and accelerate progress on SDG 6.

Yours sincerely,



Gilbert F. Hougbo
UN-Water Chair and ILO Director-General

Annex: UN-Water Joint Message and Call to Action on Groundwater