

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the official name and theme of the Sector Ministers' Meeting?

The official name of the event is "SWA 2022 Sector Ministers' Meeting".

The 2022 SMM will have 'Building Forward Better for Recovery and Resilience' as its overall theme.

Building Forward Better for Recovery and Resilience requires attention to the connections between the triple crisis of health, economic recovery, and climate – to put in place solutions that are sustainable and effectively respond to global realities.

For additional information, please visit: www.smm-swa.org

Who is organizing the Sector Ministers' Meeting?

The Sector Ministers' Meeting is hosted by the Government of Indonesia and is co-convened by the Sanitation and Water for All global partnership and UNICEF.

When and where will the Sector Ministers' Meeting take place?

The Sector Ministers' Meeting will take place from 18–19 May 2022 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Who will participate in the Sector Ministers' Meeting?

The 2022 SMM will provide a unique opportunity for an active dialogue between ministers responsible for water, sanitation, and hygiene, and ministers responsible for health, climate, environment, and economy. Discussions will focus on the review of water, sanitation and hygiene-related policies and commitments, and on approaches to ensure that climate action, health, and economic recovery are well integrated. Delegations from the different SWA constituencies will also join the discussions. The event will be broadcast online to a global audience.

How can I request an invitation?

Kindly note that the Sector Ministers' Meeting is by invitation only. Please email us at info@sanitationandwaterforall.org so we can discuss your interest in the meeting.

How are delegations from SWA Constituencies selected?

As this is a ministerial-level meeting, generally a minister plus one senior-level advisor attends the meeting. Participants from development agencies and other SWA constituencies including CSOs, private sector, research and learning institutions, utilities and regulators are invited based on an application process which closed in January 2022.

What is the main purpose of the Sector Ministers' Meeting? What are the outcomes?

The 2022 SMM is taking place mid-way to the 2030 agenda. This makes the 2022 SMM an excellent opportunity to take stock of progress and to take any necessary corrective actions to reach set objectives.

In a fast-evolving global context characterized by increased public health risks and arising needs to mitigate immediate socio-economic impacts, the WASH sector must prioritize access to WASH commodities and continuity of WASH services, including in recovery plans, for the most socio-economic fragile populations and to critical facilities (e.g. treatment, refugee, displaced or migration centres etc.) to reduce the spread of COVID-19, maintain good hygiene practices and ensure a sustainable green recovery.

Ministers will identify actions they can take and experiences their countries can share or learn from for them to provide the political leadership and action needed to achieve progress. This will also guide, and facilitate progress towards, the achievement of national and global commitments; including those to be made in the context of COP27, to be tabled under the Mutual Accountability Mechanism. The main conclusions, key messages, priority actions and commitments resulting from the Meeting will also serve as part of the preparatory process for the UN Water Decade Conference to be convened in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, as well as contribute to the ongoing SWA High-level Political Dialogue, including the 2023 Finance Ministers' Meeting.

Can my country host a future Sector Ministers' Meeting?

The location of the Sector Ministers' Meeting is decided by the Steering Committee in respect to geographic diversity. Suggestions are always welcomed. Please contact the SWA Secretariat at info@sanitationandwaterforall.org to discuss.

I'm a journalist, can I attend?

The SMM is open to journalists, but numbers may be limited due to the capacity of the venue. If you are a journalist and want to attend the SMM, please contact Alexandra Reis, Head of Communications Team, alexandra.reis@sanitationandwaterforall.org for additional information, including the accreditation process for journalists.

Have there been other Sector Ministers' Meeting before this one?

In 2010, 2012, and 2014, the Sector Ministers' Meeting was organized back-to-back with the Finance Ministers' Meeting in Washington DC. Since 2016, the Sector Ministers' Meeting has become a standalone meeting. The past SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) was convened in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 4-5 April 2019 to support the achievement of the water, sanitation and hygiene-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was held the days after LatinoSan.

How will the 2022 SMM be different?

The 2022 SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting is unique because:

1. This will be the first SWA High-level Meeting which is truly multi-sectoral and will bring together ministers of water, sanitation and hygiene, and their counterparts responsible for climate, environment, health and economy on an international platform to strengthen understanding and collaboration among these sectors.

2. It will focus on the critical contributions water, sanitation and hygiene will make to the green economic recovery – it will promote interventions that demonstrate economic value and present the cost of inaction.
3. It will be held a few months before COP 27 and will provide an early opportunity for ministers responsible for climate, environment, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene to take stock of progress in the integration of water, sanitation and hygiene issues in national climate approaches, and vice versa.

How is the 2022 SMM connected to other events in 2022 and 2023?

The SMM will also guide, and facilitate progress towards, the achievement of national and global commitments; including in the context leading to COP27, to be tabled under the Mutual Accountability Mechanism. The main conclusions, key messages, priority actions and commitments resulting from the Meeting will also serve as part of the preparatory process for the UN Water Decade Conference to be convened in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, as well as contribute to the ongoing SWA High-level Political Dialogue, including the 2023 Finance Ministers' Meeting.

How does the Sector Ministers' Meeting connect to the SWA Finance Ministers' Meeting?

Adequate financing for WASH is critical to ensure the sustainability of programs and initiatives. At the 2020 SWA Finance Ministers' Meetings (FMMs), Covid-19 and its negative impacts on funding streams, on access to services and on people's lives, was central to the discussions and outcomes of the meeting. The climate crisis and its adverse effects on access to services and the impact being felt particularly by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations was another important takeaway. Green financing, green bonds, social impact bonds and other innovative financing mechanisms came out as important tools that can secure additional funding that supports both the delivery of better services, as well as long-term climate goals. The 2022 SMM theme clearly builds upon these discussions and attempts to bridge the gaps identified during the 2020 FMM. We expect to move forward from this SMM with strong direction towards the 2023 FMM where we will surely address the issues that clearly present themselves at the Meeting this year and be guided by them.

How does the SMM link with the Mutual Accountability Mechanism?

The momentum generated around the organization of High-level Meetings such as the SMM tends to lead to dialogue, action and response both before and after the event, creating opportunities for mutual accountability, collaborative action, reform and change.

Given the global exposure provided by SWA and the SMM, making commitments under the Mutual Accountability Mechanism is a strategic way to highlight, at the highest level, your priorities and actions planned for the near future. Furthermore, the review of commitments is also a strategic way to showcase your progress, while embracing the opportunity to discuss the enabling factors and bottlenecks which impact their realization. Both actions promote cross-learning, collaborative action and accountability.

Central to the partnership, accountability is one of the key themes being addressed in the 2022 SMM, both at Plenary and Ministerial Dialogues. The experiences of governments and partners will be the major input.

Kindly ensure that new commitments are submitted, and existing commitments are submitted to the SWA Secretariat ahead of the SMM.

What role will Ministers have at the Sector Ministers' Meeting?

Ministers will play a crucial role at the Sector Ministers' Meeting. They will share experiences and best practices from their countries with other Sector Ministers from around the world.

Considering, this is the first SWA High-level Meeting which is truly multi-sectoral bringing together ministers of water, sanitation and hygiene, and their counterparts responsible for climate, environment, health and economy, these other Ministers will have an important role to play to strengthen understanding and collaboration among their respective sectors through regional and cross-sectoral exchanges.

What is the role of sectoral partners ?

Since the 2022 SMM will also bring together ministers responsible for the environment, economy and health, the government who is leading the process through the SWA government Focal Points must, from the beginning of the preparatory process, reach out to their counterparts in such ministries, with the support of partners (including civil society, UN agencies, financing institutions, research and learning agencies, utilities, regulators, and private sector) to make sure they contribute to and are involved in the preparation of the main Outputs of the preparatory process, as well as in the follow up to the SMM.

One of the main outputs of the preparatory process will be the Country Overview. SWA partners in each country will work together – including with organizations and actors active in the areas of the environment, climate, health and the economy - to prepare in-depth and solutions-focused analyses to be used as part of the briefing for the Ministers who will attend the Meeting. The Country Overview should emerge from national multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral dialogue and, where possible, should draw from, and contribute to, broader reviews of different sectors.

Other partners can also contribute to the meeting through their constituency specific activities including the preparation and dissemination of messages on the theme of the meeting; working with their government counterparts at country level to prepare country overviews, encourage ministers to participate in the SMM, provide technical support for analysis of gaps and bottlenecks in the sector as well as identifying and supporting solutions for a green sustainable recovery.

Is there a cost for registration?

No, there is no cost for registration.

What is included in the registration?

Registration includes all sessions, meeting documentation, lunch and coffee breaks during the days of the meeting.

I've been invited to the Sector Ministers Meeting. What do I do next?

Please be in touch with the SWA secretariat so we may guide you on the next steps, including the preparatory process and travel considerations at rsvp@sanitationandwaterforall.org.

How do I get from the airport to the Sector Ministers Meeting?

The selected venue for the 2022 Sector Ministers Meeting is the Swissôtel Jakarta PIK Avenue (<https://www.swissotel.com/hotels/jakarta/>), located 13km from the International Airport of Soekarno-Hatta. Transportation will be provided from the airport to the SMM venue.

I have a special request. Who can I contact?

Please contact the SWA Secretariat at rsvp@sanitationandwaterforall.org so that we may assist.

I am having issues with visas and travel requirements. Who can I contact?

Please contact the SWA Secretariat at rsvp@sanitationandwaterforall.org so that we may assist.

Where can I find the meeting agenda and all information about the meeting?

Please visit our website here or you can contact us at: rsvp@sanitationandwaterforall.org.

What are the main topics that will be covered in the sessions?

Here is a general overview of the topics that will be covered.

Three types of moments on the agenda:

Plenary sessions:

- Introduce the issue
- Set the scene for deeper discussions
- Inspiring top-level questions & interventions
- Opening Plenary, incl Inauguration by President of Indonesia
- Closing Plenary, links to future processes (COP 27, 2023 UN Conference, 2023 FMM)

Ministerial Dialogues:

- In depth discussions: ministers & other leaders (supported by senior facilitators & resource people)
- 7-8 parallel groups; 10-15 participants each
- Starts by highlighting specific issues that require ministerial attention

Showcasing Commitments:

- Showcasing Commitments bring country examples that demonstrate power of championing mutual accountability

Moments build on each other. SMM topics connected to the triple crisis of health, economic recovery, and climate are integrated across all moments.

The agenda is then structured around SWA's three Strategic Objectives with three Plenary Sessions, and four Ministerial Dialogues representing those objectives:

1. **From a Triple Crisis to a Triple Win: The Role of Political Leadership** : This session, and the subsequent Ministerial Dialogue, will focus on the central role of political leadership in prioritizing water, sanitation, and hygiene as a key driver for healthy and resilient populations and inclusive economic growth. Political leaders will highlight the importance of cross-sectoral alliances and the potential public gains of being a champion for more inclusive, sustainable, resilient water, sanitation and hygiene and explain why every politician should take on this role; with special attention to the incorporated cross-sectoral wins for health, climate, and the economy. The session will include examples of how ministers and other leaders have successfully been able to influence the highest political level, including Heads of State and Government, to incorporate water and sanitation, resulting in profound change that inspired a common national vision.
2. **Governance and Finance: Reforms for recovery and long-term resilience** : Governments globally face severe and immediate challenges to secure resources to cover the costs of the pandemic while trying to kick-start economic recovery and meet their development commitments. They must secure investments and make arrangements to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This Plenary session and the two associated Ministerial Dialogues (#2 & 3) will curate discussions on the twin tasks of identifying available financing options and the corollary of governance reforms required for resilience, sustainability, as well as expansion and efficient use of scarce resources. Water, sanitation, and health are the backbone for the growth of industries and the economy. Water, sanitation, & hygiene can be dynamic amplifiers for success when connected to sectors such as health, finance and the environment.
3. **Accountability Matters! Strengthening Partnerships, Accelerating Progress & Building Resilience** : Ministers and other partners will use this session to demonstrate how accountability can accelerate and improve progress, but also strengthen collaboration, reinforce participation and build resilience— not least in times of crises. The importance of using and sharing information and ensuring transparency to meet accountability related obligations and responsibilities will be highlighted in the context of building forward better where it is essential to build resilient and healthy societies able to respond to the needs of a recovering economy.

How do countries prepare to participate?

Every SWA High-level Meeting is preceded by a 6-month-long preparatory process. The process is composed of discussions at national and regional levels, during which partners jointly analyze progress, identify bottlenecks, successes, and agree on joint future actions. Through these multi-stakeholder dialogues, partners build a closer and ongoing relationship with ministers and professionals from across the interlinked sectors at national level. National and regional activities are complemented by a webinar series, that facilitates mobilization and the sharing of experiences among partners.

This also guides, and facilitates progress towards, the achievement of national and global commitments, including those made in the context of the COP, and those tabled under the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism.

The primary outputs of this preparatory process are the Country Overviews, prepared by the key actors in each country and used as a brief for the ministers attending the SMM. Sector ministers will use the Country Overview in inter-ministerial discussions with their relevant counterparts, prior to, during, and after the meeting. They also contribute to broader sector activities, such as joint sector reviews.

The SMM's main conclusions, key messages, and commitments resulting will also contribute to the preparatory process of the UN Conference on the Water Action Decade Conference to be convened in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, and the 2023 Finance Ministers' Meeting.

Please contact Muyatwa Sitali, Head of Country Engagement, for additional information at muyatwa.sitali@sanitationandwaterforall.org.

My Minister wants to present their country experience or be a speaker at the meeting. What is the procedure?

For additional information regarding the Preparatory Process in advance of the meeting, kindly contact Muyatwa Sitali, Head of Country Engagement, at muyatwa.sitali@sanitationandwaterforall.org and/or Larissa Terumi Arashiro at larissa.arashiro@sanitationandwaterforall.org.

Will there be an Exhibition at the SMM?

No there will not.

How can I share publications, brochures?

There will be a table assigned for participants to make their publications and materials available.

My question is not here - how can I submit a question?

Please contact the SWA Secretariat at: rsvp@sanitationandwaterforall.org.

