

Ministerial Dialogue Descriptions and Guiding Questions

*** This document provides detailed descriptions of each Ministerial Dialogue to take place during the 2022 Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM). Review each description then click on the link provided here to access a form which you will use to list the minister's ranked choices for the dialogue in which she/he would like to give a presentation.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ministerdialogue>.

The form must be completed by 18 April. You will be notified of the minister's placement in a dialogue by 2 May, if not sooner. Should you have any questions, kindly contact your SWA Regional Coordinator.

Kindly note the following:

- Each government represented at the SMM will have at least one opportunity for a minister to present during the Ministerial Dialogues. Should your country's delegation include more than one minister, please determine who will present on behalf of your country.
- Each presentation by a minister will be 5-8 minutes in length in order to accommodate discussion amongst ministers and other agencies
- Ministers may use a maximum of 2 PowerPoint slides for their presentation. Slides must be submitted to the Secretariat by 9 May so they can be displayed in the appropriate meeting room.
- All ministers will attend each of the four Ministerial Dialogue sessions as part of the SMM Agenda, however they will only present in one dialogue session.
- The Secretariat will prepare and share with partners a slide template for the ministers' presentations.

Ministerial Dialogue 1 – From triple crisis to triple win: the role of political leadership

The Ministerial Dialogue on Leadership will focus on the key messages shared during the plenary session and conduct a deeper analysis into what it takes to champion a sector, and what has determined success in different countries and contexts. This will be done by looking at examples and success stories of how ministers and other political leaders can play/have played a role in delivering results for water, sanitation, and hygiene by being sector champions who successfully elevated it to a national priority. The dialogues will focus on how these results directly contribute to other sectors such as health, climate, and the economy – especially in a context of recovery and building for resilience.

Guiding Questions

- How can ministers contribute to making water, sanitation, and hygiene a top national priority at the highest political level?
- What strategies can ministers adopt to be effective champions for water, sanitation and hygiene and jointly prioritize these issues across sectors and within national priorities?
- What are arguments/ approaches/ strategies that resonate with a Head of State/Head of Government?
- What are arguments that resonate with Minister of Finance (and with other sectors not present in the room)?
- How can ministers work together to jointly elevate water, sanitation, and hygiene to Head of State/Head of Government level?
- How does championing water, sanitation, and hygiene lead to the achievement the triple crises: health, climate and economy?

Ministerial Dialogue 2 – Sustainable recovery through reforms and collective action

In this Dialogue, ministers will discuss the reforms that were already in place or that were taken to respond to the pandemic. Ministers will discuss reforms – quick wins and longer-term programmes - that can achieve long-term resilience and sustainability of their water resources, their economy and their planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Sustainable water and sanitation systems that support successful economies and healthy populations in an uncertain and evolving environment require new approaches to leadership and governance that have not been attempted to date. The havoc that the COVID-19 pandemic unleashed upon every country is a confirmation that business as usual is not sufficient. This dialogue will explore the thornier dimensions of governance – regulation, fiscal policy, legal frameworks, pricing structures, social service delivery, health service delivery and even housing and informal settlements policy – to identify areas where collaboration and integration can enhance a country's ability to respond to the next global challenge.

Guiding Questions

- What reforms and actions that ministers can take to strengthen governance have worked best in enabling countries to better react to/ be more resilient to the COVID pandemic and other crises?
- Has the pandemic been a catalyst for creating viable reforms to improve governance which leads to long-lasting, positive changes? If so, how did that work? If not, what were the barriers?
- What can ministers do to institute specific governance mechanisms needed to strengthen cooperation between water and sanitation ministers and with other ministries and sectors?

- What reforms that ministers adopted to strengthen governance have worked best in giving financiers and investors more trust and confidence to provide finance for countries' water, sanitation, and health systems?

Ministerial Dialogue 3 – Financing recovery and resilience

This Dialogue is the platform for ministers to discuss and share knowledge in more depth about specific finance options and sources, under the four critical areas highlighted in the Finance Ministers' Handbook:

- maximising the value of existing funding
- mobilising additional funding
- increasing repayable domestic finance
- encouraging innovation and new finance models

There will be particular focus on which sources of finance have been mobilised during the pandemic and their effectiveness. There will also be discussion about wider range of sources than traditionally used in the water sector (e.g. climate funds and public development banks' recovery packages).

Underpinning the discussion is an aim to explore the role of domestic and international financial markets and new and innovative domestic market structures that could provide ministries with more options and sources.

Guiding Questions

- How can ministers work together across sectors to increase interest from financing institutions, including non-traditional financing institutions?
- What do ministers need in order to effectively partner with diverse financing institutions?
- What can ministers do to stimulate markets and business eco-systems that could accelerate efforts on dealing with the pandemic, water and sanitation goals, climate change impacts and stimulate economic growth?

Ministerial Dialogue 4 – Accountability for progress: building resilience and leaving no-one behind in times of crises

The overarching guiding question for the Ministerial Dialogue is forward looking and actionable: What practical actions can and will the ministers implement to improve accountability that helps them to accelerate progress in sustained water, sanitation and hygiene services and that support resilient communities and healthy economies, leaving no-one behind?

Guiding Questions

- What are the ministers' experiences with working collaboratively with other state and non-state actors to maintain and accelerate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services for all during the COVID-19 pandemic? How was accountability and collective action important to reach the underserved groups?
- What are the ministers' experiences with effective ways (mechanisms, tools, attitudes) that helped the government and other stakeholders to be accountable for their actions (or inactions) during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in ensuring that services are resilient to climate change?
- What are the ministers' experiences with using data for accountability, transparency, and progress monitoring? How is data used to ensure that vulnerable groups are not disconnected from the services in times of crisis? How can data help in accelerating progress towards higher levels of services for all? How can data help in ensuring water, sanitation and hygiene services that are resilient to the challenges of climate change and other future challenges?
- Donors' accountability: How can (mutual) accountability help to defuse power and contribute to more transparent relations between governments, donors, international organizations, civil society and other stakeholders, leading to more effective collaboration?