



Latin America and Caribbean Ministerial Declaration

We, the Ministers responsible for Water and Sanitation of Latin America and the Caribbean, assembled in Washington D.C., USA, on 19 April 2024 on the occasion of the Sector Ministers' Dialogue, co-convened by Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and UNICEF, and hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank,

Recognizing that in Latin America and the Caribbean, 25% of the population lacks access to safe drinking water, while 66% does not have access to safe sanitation services,

Recognizing that access to water and sanitation as human rights, essential for addressing the triple threats of climate, conflict and contagion, and to address inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene for development, improved livelihoods and poverty eradication, improving economic stability and managing health, climate and debt risks.

Declare our political will to translate the commitments made in this Declaration into nationally and locally implementable policies, plans, and actions and to intensify our joint efforts and deliver on universal access to water and sanitation by 2030, as promised in the Sustainable Development Goals:

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

We commit to raising the political ambition and using our authority and influence to improve sector performance and ensure strong national financing strategies for universal access to water and sanitation;

We commit to ensuring the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, eliminating inequalities¹, as well as extreme poverty, including water poverty²; and to integrating gender into our laws and policies, as well as promoting active participation of rights holders in processes relating to water and sanitation, including local communities, community organizations providing water and sanitation services, youth, indigenous communities, people of African descent, as well as marginalized groups³;

We commit to promoting water governance through the strengthening of democratic institutions, including by ensuring aligned policies, regulatory frameworks, and incentives to create an environment that supports equality, justice, and resilience with integrated water and sanitation services, protection of water resources, and measures to ensure financial integrity⁴;

We commit to promoting more transparent, accountable and anti-corruption practices, while also supporting robust follow-up processes at country and regional level, including by linking outcomes of this meeting with Latinosan and other global processes;

CLIMATE

¹ In line with LATINOSAN 2022 commitments, available here <https://www.olasdata.org/about/event-detail/3>

² In line with the Agenda Regional de Acción por el Agua 2023 América Latina y el Caribe, available here https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/agenda_regional_de_accion_por_el_agua_alc_0.pdf

³ In line with the Agenda Regional de Acción por el Agua 2023 América Latina y el Caribe, available here https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/agenda_regional_de_accion_por_el_agua_alc_0.pdf

⁴ In line with the Agenda Regional de Acción por el Agua 2023 América Latina y el Caribe, available here https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/agenda_regional_de_accion_por_el_agua_alc_0.pdf



SECTOR MINISTERS' DIALOGUE

WASHINGTON DC | 19 APR 2024

Ambition.
Action.
Accountability.

We commit to working together across relevant government authorities, as well as with diverse stakeholders, taking into account ancestral knowledge of indigenous communities⁵, to implement sustainable solutions to deliver climate-resilient water and sanitation services to those who lack access, and those whose access is jeopardized by unabated climate change;

We commit to improving our efforts to access climate financing and investments to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and other mitigation and adaptation strategies;

FINANCE

We commit to exploring innovative financing mechanisms, and effective use of existing resources to achieve universal access to water and sanitation, with a special emphasis on rural areas, remote communities and marginalized urban areas⁶;

We commit to monitoring all public finance budgeted for and being spent on water, sanitation, and hygiene across all sectors, making use of tools such as WASH Accounts and the Latin American and Caribbean Water and Sanitation Observatory (OLAS);

We commit to advocating for the achievement of 1.3% of regional GDP invested in order to realize universal access⁷;

PARTNERSHIPS

We commit to identifying and adopting approaches that foster multisectoral collaboration, including multistakeholder platforms for accountability, incorporating health, environment, education, human rights and social justice;

We CALL UPON partners including multilateral organizations, national and regional public development banks, the private sector, research institutions, and civil society, to actively work together with us in order to realize this vision.

With only 6 years remaining until 2030, the time for accelerated action is NOW. We resolve to lead the world by example in ensuring that universal access to water and sanitation is achieved in Latin America and the Caribbean.

⁵ In line with the Agenda Regional de Acción por el Agua 2023 América Latina y el Caribe, available here https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/agenda_regional_de_accion_por_el_agua_alc_0.pdf

⁶ In line with the Agenda Regional de Acción por el Agua 2023 América Latina y el Caribe, available here https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/agenda_regional_de_accion_por_el_agua_alc_0.pdf

⁷ ECLAC: Report on the Latin American and Caribbean regional process to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6, available here https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/report_on_the_latin_american_and_caribbean_regional_process_to_accelerate_the_achievement_of_sdg_6.pdf