

An urgent call to transform sanitation for better health, environments, economies and societies





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# Foreword

Safe sanitation is one of the foundations of a healthy, comfortable and dignified life. Yet, the reality for billions of people is one of polluted environments, in which one or many of the links in the chain that makes up safe sanitation – toilets, waste treatment, disposal and safe re-use – is missing or out-of-reach.

Recognizing this, the global community is committed to achieving universal access to sanitation and hygiene by 2030, paying special attention to the needs of women, girls and those in vulnerable situations, and improving water quality and safe wastewater re-use.

But progress against the sanitation targets in Sustainable Development (SDG) 6 has been too slow. We need massive acceleration. And this challenge comes amid the trials of a global pandemic, an economic recession, and the on-going climate crisis.

As the world celebrates the tenth anniversary of the United Nations adoption of the human right to water and sanitation, and five years since sanitation was recognized as a distinct human right, we must ask: What will it take to close the inequality gap for sanitation in the next decade?

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