

2022 SMM Concept Note

SAVE THE DATE: Indonesia, 18 – 19 May 2022

The 2022 Sector Ministers' Meetings will be held in person and attendance is by invitation only. Plenary sessions will be transmitted virtual.

The upcoming [Sector Ministers' Meeting \(SMM\)](#) is scheduled to take place on 18-19 May 2022 and will be hosted by the Government of Indonesia. Building on previous [SWA High-Level Meetings \(HLMs\)](#), the SMM is a critical opportunity to foster linkages between the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector and other sectors, with a view towards elevating the prioritization of WASH across national policies.

The priority theme of Building Forward Better for Recovery and Resilience will be the focus for discussions.

The world is at a crossroads – disasters and severe weather events are striking across all regions of the world, making it impossible for anyone to turn a blind eye to the reality of climate change. At the same time, we continue to navigate the uncertainty that has been imposed upon us by the COVID pandemic, with lingering and evolving implications upon nearly every facet of daily life. Unfortunately, a common thread between these global crises is the fact that the most severe consequences are borne by those who are the most vulnerable and the least equipped to respond.

The intertwined climate, health and economic crises highlight the crucial role that water, sanitation and hygiene must play in building resilient communities and achieving sustainable development. Water and sanitation are a critical first line of defence in dealing with the current pandemic, and future health threats. The building of resilience is essential for investments to build sustainable WASH services. Without access to safe services, everyone becomes vulnerable; no one is immune.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene are also critical in the context of economic recovery, especially as we equip ourselves to become more climate resilient. Investing in climate resilient WASH benefits the overall economy. It contributes to building a healthier population ready to work in any sector, as well as create employment opportunities across sectors. In addition, investing in new or upgraded infrastructure that will be more resilient to climate change, and the skillsets needed to manage it, will require a new kind of workforce. As demonstrated in the [2020 SWA Finance Ministers' Meetings](#), flexible and sustainable financing arrangements are needed from different sources – national, regional, and global actors including from the private

sector – that can stimulate WASH solutions which will fuel environmental, social and economic resilience.

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

To make progress in these areas, both institutional and political collaboration is required at the onset – to ensure that the technical action needed is supported with the political backing to get it done.

The SMM will be a forum for ministers responsible for water, sanitation, and hygiene, together with ministers responsible for the environment, and other relevant ministers, to meet and to review WASH related policies and commitments to ensure that climate action, health, and economic recovery considerations are well integrated. Following the decisions and commitments that will be made at COP26 in Glasgow, UK, in November 2021, the meeting will be an important occasion to ensure alignment across sectoral policies, using the [SWA framework](#), and the [“Mutual Accountability Mechanism”](#) as a tool for stakeholders to come together and jointly review commitments and progress.

The meeting will be co-convened with SWA’s global partner UNICEF. Ministers and other stakeholders will attend the meeting by invitation, and it will be broadcast online to a global audience.

The High-Level Meetings’ lasting effect

The 2022 SMM is part of, and contributes to, an ongoing cycle of SWA High-Level Meetings and other activities jointly implemented by SWA partners. The SMM will be preceded by discussions in each of the countries and regions for partners to analyze progress, identify bottlenecks, successes and agree on actions they will take to catalyze progress and achieve their targets. Through these multi-stakeholder dialogues, partners will build a closer and ongoing relationship with ministers and professionals from across the interlinked sectors at national level. 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 made in the context of COP26, 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.

The preparatory process

SWA partners will be engaged in a dedicated preparatory process to strengthen and catalyze in-country dialogue and action and prepare water, sanitation, and hygiene sector ministers, as well as their counterparts responsible for the environment, for their participation at the SMM.

The primary output of this preparatory process will be Country Overview documents that are solutions-focused and adapted to each country's context; prepared by the key actors in each country; to be used in briefings for the ministers who will attend the Meeting. Sector ministers will also use the Country Overview in inter-ministerial discussions with their counterparts responsible for the environment, and other relevant sectors prior to, during and after the meeting. The Country Overview should be an output of the national multi-stakeholder dialogue and can contribute to broader sector reviews such as joint sector reviews. Throughout the preparatory process, the Secretariat will organize a series of webinars to facilitate mobilization and sharing of experiences among partners.

Follow the preparation of the SMM on the [dedicated live blog](#) or on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn via the #2022SMM hashtag.

Help spread the word by using our [2022 SMM Communications Toolkit](#).

For questions about the 2022 SMM, please contact the SWA Secretariat: www.smm-swa.org or info@sanitationandwaterforall.org