



## Guidance Note for the Latin America and the Caribbean Finance Ministers' Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	<b>19 April 2024</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>8:00 – 9:30 am EST (light breakfast as of 7:30 am)</b>
<b>Co-convenors:</b>	<b>Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and UNICEF</b>
<b>Host:</b>	<b>Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b>Headquarters of the Inter-American Development Bank, Washington DC</b>

### About the FMM

The [2024 Latin America and Caribbean Finance Ministers' Meeting \(FMM\)](#) will focus on how ministers of finance together with other government and development partners can transform access to water and sanitation in their countries. It will inform and inspire finance ministers and their sector counterparts to devise financing solutions and strategies to ensure increased access, drive investment and maximise the economic, social and development benefits. While the focus of the meeting will be ministers of finance, sector ministers and high-level representatives from other organisations are also being invited to participate. The meeting will share approaches and cases by other Latin American and Caribbean countries demonstrating how investing in water and sanitation increases economic growth, tax revenues, investor confidence, creates jobs, decreases social (including healthcare) costs and promotes political stability,

Finance Ministers' Meetings are not events, but processes that build from the various regional and global initiatives. The Meeting is situated on the continuum of recent international efforts to increase priority and financing to water and sanitation. As such, it complements the following: the Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development(UN); the last (2023) and upcoming (2026) UN Water Conferences; the Finance in Common Summit 2023 (Colombia); the Spring Meetings of the World Bank (USA); the Summit of the Future (UN); the G20 Summit 2024 (Brazil); Future COPs (Azerbaijan and Brazil); the 10th World Water Forum (Indonesia) along with regional consultations; the World Commission on the Water Economy (OECD); the Water Action Agenda (UN); the [Mutual Accountability Mechanism \(SWA\)](#); the [Heads of States' Initiatives](#) (SWA, Government of the Netherlands, UNICEF and IRC ); and the last( 2022) and the upcoming (2025) [Sector Ministers' Meetings \(SMM\)](#).

The expected outcomes from the meeting are:

#### *Development of key partnerships and commitments to strengthen investments*

- Finance ministers identify and develop partnerships with key institutions and agencies to achieve smart investments which improve access to safely managed sanitation and water services in their countries.
- Finance ministers, global and regional development partners, as well as any other partners from civil society, private sector or research and learning community table/announce their own commitments including for increasing resource allocation, exploring innovative financing mechanisms and effective use of existing resources.



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- In the months following the meeting, finance ministers seize opportunities to increase investments in access to water and sanitation as way to reduce social costs, increase tax revenues, and strengthen investor confidence.
- After the meeting, finance ministers engage with other partners, such as public and regional development banks and other potential investors to increase investments in water, sanitation, and hygiene.

### *Development and delivery of comprehensive national financing strategies*

- Ministers of finance and development partners take stock of existing plans and strategies for financing water and sanitation and identify solutions for achieving their nationally agreed goals.
- Ministers and development partners agree to strengthen alignment of policies, regulations, and incentives to create the environment which supports growth and resilience with integrated water and sanitation services.
- Participants utilize the preparatory and follow up process of the meeting in order to adopt, review or implement strong national financing strategies for water and sanitation, according to national context.

### *Strengthening of regional cooperation and high-level political will*

- The Meeting creates a strong political momentum in Latin America and promotes the prioritization of investments and public policies in the region in the months to come and in the lead up to LatinoSan 2025 in the Dominican Republic and the Iberoamerican Summit in November 2024 which will focus on innovation, inclusion and sustainability.
- Finance Ministers understand, support, and participate in initiatives such as the Heads of State Initiatives, using their authority and influence to improve sector performance and attract new investment.

## Preparatory process

**Principles** - The FMM preparatory process is designed to be – (i) streamlined and efficient, with activities located on a clear timeline; (ii) collaborative, giving financial actors, in particular finance ministers, but also national and international financial institutions, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene sector actors, the opportunity to work closely together and to identify joint solutions; ; (iii) beneficial and useful for the country beyond the physical FMM; (iv) analytically sound, with a Country Brief that captures all the major dimensions of sector financing and articulates the transformative actions; (v) a forward-looking process, wherein specific solutions are identified which can then be explored by country stakeholders; and (vi) integrated, ensuring that existing commitments on finance are honoured, but also that they are reviewed and updated, and that new commitments are agreed where necessary to create continuity with other important initiatives. (Resource: [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#)).

**Mechanism** – While the preparatory process is government-led, FMM co-conveners and sector partners come together at country level as part of an inter-agency coordination team to support the government. An anchor agency would provide the main coordination support.

The main tasks of the inter-agency coordination team members at country level would include: (i) mobilize the participation of ministers - in particular finance ministers - in the FMM; (ii) support the government to engage both the finance ministry and sector ministry(ies) in preparation for the FMM; (iii) organize multi-stakeholder dialogues in advance of the FMM; (iv) contribute to the development of materials to strengthen finance and sector ministries' interventions at the FMM; and (v) promote



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activities that support mutual accountability at the country level and the presentation of finance-related commitments, through the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism. The inter-agency coordination team is not meant to create a separate structure, but it primarily leverages existing sector coordination platforms.

The main tasks of the Anchor Agency would include: (i) support the preparation of a clear roadmap and work plan for the preparatory process; (ii) request and coordinate meetings with ministers, in particular finance ministers and partners; and (iii) support the preparations and logistics of meetings at the national level.

**Elements** – There are five main elements in the preparatory process:

- Ensuring the involvement of the minister of finance and promote inter-ministerial meetings between the minister of finance and sector ministers.
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues at the national level with representation from the finance sector and water and sanitation sector actors.
- Development of regional messages from different constituency groups.
- Development of the Country Brief
- Regional webinars

Country Brief –The Country Brief - for ministers participating in the FMM - aims to foster a better understanding among finance and WASH decision makers on the link between the current state of water and sanitation financing and the political prioritisation given to the sector. This document will enable both public finance and water and sanitation sector actors - especially in government - to better understand the needs and challenges in financing the sector, while identifying specific solutions to meet these needs.

The Country Brief is intended to be completed collaboratively with the participation of finance and water and sanitation sector actors, in a government-led process, and with multi-stakeholder input. The document includes an overview of the current state of funding that is made available to water, sanitation, and hygiene, and sets that off against the progress being made by the country on the indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 6. The brief also creates the opportunity to highlight or make new commitments related to sector financing, including those that can be showcased at the meeting, through the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism.

The Country Brief is expected to be part of the package of materials for Ministers to help prepare their participation and interventions. A template for the Country Brief is attached as Annex 1.

National Dialogues – There are three types of dialogues suggested to take place at country level:

- *High-level dialogues with finance and sector ministers* – These dialogues are organized to brief ministers on the FMM, elicit their participation, and prepare their interventions. These meetings can be separate - for finance ministers or for sector ministers - but ideally there should also be a joint meeting between finance and sector ministers, with the aim of coordinating interventions for the FMM.
- *Technical dialogue between finance and water and sanitation sector actors*: Sector stakeholders, under the leadership of government authorities, come together to:



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- o further elucidate the successes and challenges in financing water and sanitation;
- o collect and analyze the material relative to the state of the water and sanitation and its financing;
- o review existing finance-related commitments tabled under the [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#) or table new ones;
- o discuss the state of the preparations, identify specific obstacles in the preparatory process as well as support; and/or
- o answer questions related to the FMM, seek, and share illustrations about other countries.

These meetings can be conducted through existing multi-stakeholder coordination groups, such as "consultative frameworks" or "sectoral technical groups".

- *Constituency-specific dialogues*: Meetings are planned with non-governmental constituencies such as civil society, private sector, utilities and regulators, research and learning, and development partners. These provide a forum for articulating their contributions to the sector financing, as well as strengthen their roles in sector investment processes.

Webinars – Two webinars and one drop-in meeting have taken place and are planned in the run-up to the FMM as follows:

- *30 January 2024* -This webinar presents the FMM's overall concept, its situation in the continuum of WASH finance – related initiatives, a description of the suggested preparatory process. The draft agenda is discussed. Examples of the type of case studies the ministers will discuss at the meeting are also highlighted.
- *5 March 2024 (TBC)* -This webinar presents the latest information about the Meeting (agenda, confirmed participants, logistics arrangements), while also highlighting examples on how countries are preparing their participation.
- *2 April (TBC)* – Drop-in meeting (clinic). This clinic provides a space to address last-minute questions from confirmed participants.

## Resources

- The 2020 SWA Finance Ministers' [Handbook](#), a collection of successful examples on how to make investments in water and sanitation, and how to make these investments work.
- The [WASH SDG Costing Tool](#) can be used by countries that would like to calculate the investments needed to fulfil the SDG targets as well as the financing gap.
- The [Executive Summary](#) of the VI LATINOSAN Regional Report.

## Communications

- The Secretariat also developed tools and platforms to bring visibility to the meeting and partners' activities, all available of the [FMM website](#).
- [Live blog](#). The 2024 Live Blog will provide daily coverage of how partners are preparing for the FMM. Please send the Secretariat photos of your meetings and activities.

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www.swa-fmm.org





- *Partner Space*, for partners to publish FMM-related content. Each post will be promoted via SWA's social media channels (250k+ followers) and newsletter (6k+ subscribers). For more information, please contact the communications focal point (see below).
- *Communications toolkit*. A package of materials for partners to use to promote the FMM, including social media cards, banners, logos, etc.

### SWA Secretariat contacts

- Governments in LAC (except Brazil): Susana [Rojas Williams](#)
- Government of Brazil: Larissa [Arashiro](#)
- Civil Society Organizations: Anjani [Kapoor](#)
- External Support Agencies, Private Sector, Research, Utilities, Regulators: Emily [Deschaine](#) & Vanessa Gandarillas-[Rodriguez](#)
- Communications : Christine [Luby](#)

### Co-Convener Contacts

- UNICEF: Reis [Lopez Rello](#)

## Annexes

- 1- Template for Country Brief
- 2- Entry Points for Non-government constituencies



## Country flag

### [Name of Country] Brief 2024 LAC Finance Ministers' Meeting

Country Name	
<p>Share highlights of the progress the country is making towards the water, sanitation, and hygiene targets of the SDGS. National and <a href="#">JMP</a> data as well as <a href="#">OLAS</a> data will be helpful here.</p> <p>Progress can also/ in addition be benchmarked against national and regional targets. In this section, you can also include a brief statement on the rate of progress needed to achieve the water, sanitation, and hygiene targets as well as the expected situation by 2030 at the current rate of progress.</p>	
<p>Underscore the political ambition of the country for water, sanitation, and hygiene and what it will take – financially - to achieve it. For example, any Presidential initiative, directive, or decree that identifies water, sanitation and hygiene as a priority could be mentioned here<sup>1</sup>, ideally also taking into account the added challenges of climate change.</p> <p>If your country has previously made commitments related to finance (either under the <a href="#">Mutual Accountability Mechanism</a>, the 2022 <a href="#">Tiquipaya Declaration</a> (LatinoSan VI), the <a href="#">Water Action Agenda</a> or another platform), you can summarize the commitment and progress in this area and indicate what remains to be done to achieve this commitment if it is still relevant<sup>2</sup>. The commitments may be related to national, regional, or global processes.</p>	
<p>Provide summary of information related to the resourcing of the water and sanitation sector. This component can be completed with information submitted to <a href="#">GLAAS</a>.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Highlighting investments for water, sanitation, and hygiene as critical to achieving this political ambition as well as reaching the economic targets can help to strengthen the case for water, sanitation, and hygiene.

<sup>2</sup> The commitments may be related to national, regional, or global processes.



<p>Countries with <a href="#">WASH Accounts</a> can also use inputs from the recent reports.</p> <p>Aspects to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share of GDP currently spent on WASH.</li> <li>- Share of the public budget spent on WASH.</li> <li>- Sub-sectors than need more attention.</li> <li>- How the Budget and financing instruments are being used to target the most vulnerable and marginalized, including indigenous populations, people living in informal settlements, peri-urban areas and rural communities?</li> </ul>	
<p>List concrete and present opportunities for investments in the sector that can increase economic benefits and where partnerships with different stakeholders can accelerate progress.</p> <p>For example, opportunities in tourism, job creation, decreasing social costs (including in the area of healthcare), promoting industry, increasing tax revenue, creating investor confidence and others. This should demonstrate the contribution of the sector to economic growth, recovery, and development.</p>	
<p>Provide suggestions on ways that the government is already considering improving the investment outlook for water, sanitation, and hygiene. For instance, through the mobilization of private investments, creation of specific tax provisions, reform of the tariff structure for the sector, access to climate finance, development of the circular economy.</p>	
<p>Highlight specific commitments that the country plan to present in the context of the FMM to achieve the suggestions above. Please share these commitments/ideas with SWA if you would like them to be featured during</p>	

<p>the meeting and through the <a href="#">Mutual Accountability Mechanism</a>.</p> <p>SWA may request additional information or a short video from the minister highlighting your country's initiative to improve financing and investments for the sector.</p>	
<p>Can SWA publish this brief on the website? Publishing your country brief will enable other SWA partners to know your priorities and explore opportunities for collaboration. .</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>



## Annex 2 - LAC Finance Ministers' Meeting: Entry Points for Non-government

The upcoming 2024 LAC Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM) is a crucial event for mobilizing finance and sector ministers to develop effective financing strategies and solutions that can enhance access, drive investment, and maximize economic, social, and developmental benefits resulting from sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services for all. For SWA non-government partners, this presents a significant opportunity to strengthen partnerships across ministries and agencies; advocate for and encourage integrated, cross-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder action for financing to accelerate progress and eliminate inequalities at the national, and regional levels.

### How can all SWA partners engage at the national level?

- **Providing technical support:** Be part of the inter-agency coordination team, led by government, FMM co-conveners and sector partners, to support:  
a) preparation of the country brief to strengthen ministerial interventions at the FMM, b) organization of country dialogues prior to the meeting  
*Contact the SWA Secretariat to learn about which co-convenor is the team lead for your country. If your organization would like to be a part of the country dialogues by providing office space or refreshments or participating in cost-sharing, please get in touch with SWA Secretariat.*
- **Attending in-person and virtual preparatory meetings:** Your voice and expertise contribute to an important process encompassing not only the preparatory meetings and the FMM session, but also milestones throughout the year. All SWA partners are encouraged to join and become actively involved in ensuring water and sanitation are well-funded and prioritized across the region.

### Constituency specific entry-points

#### Civil Society Constituency

- **Get your Minister to Washington DC:** Use your connections in the Ministry of finance/economy to secure ministerial confirmations and ensure that your minister confirms and attends the event.
- **Call for commitments:** Support activities that promote accountability, such as presenting finance-related commitments through the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism. This step is critical to ensuring significant outcomes from the LAC FMM and the sustainability of efforts through various regional and global opportunities.
- **Increase public engagement:** Use LAC FMM as an opportunity to reach out to ministries and media outlets to amplify the messages and enrich public debate on investments for water, sanitation, and hygiene. For CSOs, 'Dear Minister' letters can be published to disseminate messaging on financing inequalities. A sample of the letter is included in the Civil Society Engagement package, along with Civil Society messaging for finance ministers and technical guides. Available from late-February 2024.



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### External Support Agencies

- **Make connections** between locally-based officials (embassy employees, country project managers, regional counterparts, thematic experts, etc) and country focal points to ensure they are included/informed during the preparatory processes.
- **Utilise SWA template messages** to do individualized outreach to VIP contacts (Ambassadors, Country Directors, government officials, etc) to encourage Finance and Sector Ministers to engage in the preparatory processes and to attend the FMM in person.
- **Consider in-kind support** through existing agreements and grants to support travel, logistics, preparatory meetings, etc.

### Private Sector

- **Make connections** between locally-based colleagues (employees, country project managers, regional counterparts, CSR/ESG focal points, etc) and country focal points to ensure they are included/informed during the preparatory processes.
- **Utilise SWA template messages** to do individualized outreach to VIP contacts (CEOs, Directors, technical leads, government officials, etc) to encourage Finance and Sector Ministers to engage in the preparatory processes and to attend the FMM in person.
- **Consider in-kind support** to support travel, logistics, preparatory meetings, etc
- **Contribute** relevant case studies and market research showing the economic benefits of prioritizing water and sanitation, RoI, etc.

### Utilities and Regulators

- **Make connections** between locally-based colleagues (employees, regulatory bodies, regional counterparts, etc) and country focal points to ensure they are included/informed during the preparatory processes.
- **Utilise SWA template messages** to do individualized outreach to VIP contacts (Directors, technical leads, government officials, etc) to encourage Finance and Sector Ministers to engage in the preparatory processes and to attend the FMM in person.
- **Contribute** relevant case studies and updates to regulation policies in country to further complement country brief documentation.
- **Reiterate** recommendations to policymakers from the regulation/utility perspective relevant to the country context (e.g. LIS Water/REG WASH reports).

### Research and Learning Institutions

- **Share** relevant research, reports, ongoing studies, key contacts for a specific countries/region with your SWA focal point and country partners. These resources can be invaluable inputs towards building country briefs and creating case studies before the FMM meeting.
- **Provide** technical advice on data inputs, methodologies, or key questions to address. Whenever possible, ensure local colleagues and partners are included/informed to ensure sustainable outcomes.
- **Offer** your expertise in data analysis, evaluation of programmes, publication of key findings, etc to government focal points and relevant partners pre and post-FMM meeting.