

### **The Number of Indicators in the Agreed GGA Framework**

**The rigorous work of the UNFCCC-appointed experts should be recognized through the adoption of the 100 proposed indicators that include 10 water and sanitation indicators. This will ensure that all target components are tracked, enabling holistic action.**

- A limited set of 20 to 50 indicators, not even systematically chosen for their contribution, will not deliver the holistic and integrated response the world urgently needs.
- Parties should recognize the advanced and informed work of the UNFCCC experts, acknowledging that their expertise has brought the process as far as possible within their mandate, and that the political process, given the limited timeframe, is unlikely to yield a more robust assessment.
- The water and sanitation indicators should be adopted in their entirety. The target reflects multiple aspects of climate-resilient water and sanitation, including water scarcity, water stress, climate-resilient water and sanitation services, and integrated management responses to climate hazards. Adopting only a few indicators would create severe gaps in tracking adaptation progress.
- The indicators agreed should be approached iteratively, directing action now while allowing for continuous refinement as new data, methods and monitoring systems are developed.

### **The Climate Rationale for the Water and Sanitation Indicators**

**The ten proposed water and sanitation indicators are instrumental for tracking progress in building climate resilience. Although some derive from existing SDG 6 metrics, their climate rationale emerges when they are interpreted through the lens of exposure and vulnerability to climate-related hazards**

- As recognized by the IPCC AR6, it is not possible to isolate the effects of climate change on water scarcity or quality from those of other human pressures. Therefore, the most effective way to assess climate resilience in the water management domain is to measure social and institutional aspects of it while mapping exposure to climate hazards.
- When disaggregated spatially and temporally to reflect climate risks (e.g. when applied to geographic areas identified through vulnerability analysis as highly exposed to droughts, floods, or sea-level rise), the proposed indicators, related to water stress levels (9a01), changes in water-use efficiency (9a02), and the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (9a08), become adaptation indicators. They allow countries to track whether water resources are being managed sustainably in areas where climate variability and extremes are increasing vulnerability.
- The indicators proposed will evolve as new data from vulnerability assessments (e.g. Target 10a) and methodologies become available. Parties should therefore recognize the value of the current set as a foundation for immediate action, while trusting that refinement over time will enhance climate attribution.

### **Transboundary Dimensions to Indicators of the GGA Framework**

**As recognized in Article 18 of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, climate change impacts are often transboundary in nature and may involve complex, cascading risks. The indicators to be agreed under the GGA should therefore reflect and reinforce this dimension.**

- Indicator **9a04**, on the proportion of basin areas and cryosphere systems with climate adaptation plans, should be retained.
- Disaggregation at the transboundary level, for these and related indicators is vital to capture regional climate impacts, including changes in water availability, water quality degradation, and increased flood risks that transcend national boundaries.
- Existing monitoring efforts under the Water Convention and SDG Indicator 6.5.2 already provide valuable data and methodologies for tracking progress on transboundary cooperation. Building on this existing architecture can ensure coherence, avoid duplication, and accelerate progress under the GGA.

### **The Integration Across Thematic, Dimensional, and MOI Indicators**

**To ensure that the UAE Framework meets the objectives set out for the GGA, Parties need to facilitate strong integration across thematic and policy indicators, supported by means of implementation perspectives spanning the entire framework.**

- Water and sanitation indicators are central to advancing thematic and policy targets, with 54% of the other 90 indicators referencing them and all connecting directly to other thematic areas.
- Indicators on water stress (**9a01**), water-use efficiency (**9a02**), water quality (**9a08**), water management in national plans (**9a10**), and climate-resilient water and sanitation services (**9a05, 9a06**) provide measurable evidence of investments, inclusion, capacity-building, and technology transfer, directly informing means of implementation indicators.
- Policy-cycle indicators should be systematically disaggregated across all thematic targets and sectors to ensure inclusive and effective operationalization and implementation.
- The indicator set should balance outcome-level measures of resilience, such as water stress (**9a01**), water-use efficiency (**9a02**), water quality (**9a08**), and population using climate-resilient services (**9a05, 9a06**), with process-oriented indicators, like integrated water management (**9a10**), enabling tracking of progress on enabling factors and means of implementation across different time horizons.

## **The Role of Custodian Agencies and Thematic Stakeholders**

**The critical role of custodian agencies and thematic stakeholders should be recognized as essential to ensuring credibility and long-term sustainability following the adoption of the indicators.**

- The custodian agencies under the Integrated SDG6 Monitoring Initiative play an essential role in providing methodologies, data standards, and technical support to member states as they monitor progress for water and sanitation indicators.
- International agencies are well placed to support the refinement and operationalization of the GGA indicators, including the development of normative definitions, data collection, compilation and analysis methods, as well as expanding existing datasets to fit the GGA targets.
- Thematic stakeholders from different levels and backgrounds facilitate action informed by expertise from the ground and different realities, and are essential for ensuring effective and inclusive action that is sustainable over time.

## **On the work needed for operationalization of the indicators**

**Adopting indicators at COP30 is only the starting line: tracking adaptation progress will depend on the work that follows to make them operational, measurable, and meaningful at national and global levels.**

- Operationalizing the water and sanitation indicators under the UAE Framework will require coordinated action across national statistical offices, water and sanitation ministries, and climate institutions.
- Methodologies must be refined, data systems strengthened, and pilot testing conducted to ensure indicators are comparable, credible, and actionable across diverse contexts.
- Custodian agencies and international partners, building on the SDG6 monitoring architecture, will play a pivotal role in providing technical guidance, definitions, and tools to support countries.
- Linking national implementation to global progress tracking under the Global Stocktake will be key to ensuring accountability and sustained learning.

### **On the need for shared guidance and implementation pathways**

**The UAE Framework gives water and sanitation a strong political mandate. The next step is to unpack key concepts, develop shared understanding of climate-resilient approaches, provide practical guidance and pathways to turn global targets into tangible adaptation results on the ground.**

- Practitioners and adaptation champions need a shared understanding of core concepts such as climate-induced water scarcity and climate-resilient services to operationalize the water and sanitation and ecosystems targets.
- Technical coordination with specialized agencies and experts should drive this process, developing practical guidance and “menus of adaptation options” rather than negotiated definitions.
- Access to finance, technology, and capacity building must accompany this work to enable countries to design and deliver context-specific adaptation actions.
- Guidance is also needed to ensure that implementation is iterative and learning-oriented, allowing continuous improvement as risks and knowledge evolve.

### **On the need for engaging all stakeholders for implementing adaptation actions**

**Turning the UAE Framework into real adaptation action requires the knowledge, leadership, and participation of all actors across sectors, scales, and communities.**

- Effective implementation depends on inclusive collaboration between governments, technical agencies, water and sanitation utilities, research institutions, academia, the private sector, non-state actors, and local practitioners.
- The perspectives of women, youth, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and local communities must be embedded in decision-making to ensure adaptation benefits everyone.
- Multistakeholder partnerships bring innovation, local knowledge, and accountability are key ingredients for lasting climate resilience.

### **On aligning the UAE Framework for maximum impact**

**The UAE Framework achieves far more when implemented in harmony with existing UNFCCC and water-sector mechanisms, not in isolation.**

- Implementation should build on established bodies like the Adaptation Committee, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and the Nairobi Work Programme to avoid duplication and amplify results.
- As illustrated by the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action, building on joint platforms enables coordination, continuity and coherence across COP-to-COP cycles and helps translate thematic targets (water and sanitation; ecosystems) into action
- Collaboration between climate-adaptation bodies and specialized water and sanitation partners ensures that technical substance (methodologies, data standards, country support) underpins global monitoring and local implementation.
- Aligning finance institutions and technical agencies with this collaborative architecture makes the global-to-local pathway for resilient water and sanitation systems more efficient, credible and sustainable.

### **Water and sanitation as a drivers of transformative adaptation**

**Water and sanitation investments drive both incremental and transformative adaptation. They strengthen resilience in the short term while enabling the systemic changes that underpin long-term sustainability, equity, and development across all adaptation thematic areas.**

- Transformative and incremental adaptation are not mutually exclusive. Incremental improvements often lay the groundwork for systemic shifts, and both are essential to address different capacities, risks, and contexts.
- Water is inherently transformational: resilient water and sanitation systems catalyze progress in health, education, gender equality, and economic opportunity.
- The water community is well-placed to turn the concept of transformative adaptation into practice through nature-based solutions, governance reform, locally led innovation, and climate-resilient infrastructure planning.
- Flexibility is essential: transformative change can be immediate or evolve over time depending on local capacity, context, and support available.
- Adequate finance, technology, and capacity building are critical to enable countries to move from incremental improvements to systemic, transformative adaptation.