

# The French Water Partnership's water & SDGs news digest



*A quarterly update on the topic of water and Sustainable Development Goals  
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## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON WATER

The High-Level Panel on Water, which was set up by the United Nations and the World Bank, consists of 12 Heads of State who commit to matters regarding the management of resources and water and sanitation services for the period 2016-2018. "The Panel issued a [press release](#) for World Water Day outlining the relatively concrete commitments of 5 countries on the matter.

## INTERNATIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE

A diplomatic meeting was held in New York on March 22 to discuss setting up an intergovernmental policy committee. This proposition was backed by many countries: a European consensus (except for the United Kingdom), with strong support from France, Germany, Finland, Hungary and the Netherlands, as well as China and many African and Latin American countries. The initiative was spurred by the observation that there is currently no United Nations committee with a political mandate on water management and sanitation matters.

Some countries however strongly opposed the proposal: Russia, the United States, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Reasons included concerns about cross-border obligations, not wanting to undermine existing set-ups, and not wanting to embark on new processes. The discussion will be continued during further interactive talks at the end of May.

## INDICATORS TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF THE 2030 AGENDA BEING PREPARED

The Statistical Commission is the United Nations' body for statistical information. In particular, it is [in charge of monitoring and revising SDG indicators](#) and performing secretarial duties for the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG - SDG). At its last meeting in March 2017, the Statistical Commission approved a [resolution to adopt the indicator framework](#) put forward by the IAEG-SDG. Indicators will undergo minor revisions on an annual basis and major revisions in 2020 and 2025 to bring them further into line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Indicators are currently ranked at three levels based on their immediate and continued operational feasibility. For SDG 6, five indicators for the quality of bodies of water, aquatic ecosystems, untreated waste water, water use efficiency and transboundary basin areas are still classed as category III, i.e. indicators requiring further methodological improvements. Therefore, there is still progress to be made. Another piece of data: new indicators cropped up during international talks

and may also be added to the current list. Water is concerned by a 3.9 indicator on: *Illnesses attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe WASH services)*, and a 6.4 indicator: *Number of individuals who experience water stress or water shortages*.

### THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Every year, a technical, then ministerial, UN meeting is held as part of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to review SDG progress and closely examine six or seven SDGs. Those on the agenda this year are SDG 1 Poverty, SDG 2 Food Safety, SDG 3 Health, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 9 Infrastructure and SDG 14 Oceans. SDG 6 Water will be covered next year.

The French government is preparing its input for the next High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which is the UN's intergovernmental panel for supervising SDG progress.

### NEW JMP REPORT OUTLINING A NEW SCALE OF ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

The JMP has published its **new report** "safely managed drinking water", detailing improvements of the new SDG indicator for "access to drinking water", and presents a new five-rung service-level ladder: "no service", "unimproved", "limited", "basic" and "safely managed". The last rung indicates drinking water from an improved source (protected from outside contamination), located on the premises (in the house or on the plot of land), available as needed and free from any fecal matter or priority chemical products.

A similar report will be published in June or July on Safely-managed Sanitation Services.

### WHAT ABOUT FRANCE?

The French Commissioner General for Sustainable Development (CGDD) has appointed theme leaders in each ministry to work on thematic clusters in conjunction with the other ministries concerned. The theme leader for water matters is the Department of Water and Biodiversity (DEB-MEEM).

The General Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CGEDD) has been appointed to explore the matter and report on the current status in France in regard to the environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda. The FWP has been named as a special contact for water matters, and the person conducting the study will be contacting the FWP officer to discuss SDGs.

### ABOUT FWP

The French Water Partnership, presided by former French deputy Jean Launay, is a public and private platform gathering 140 internationally active members into 6 groups: the state and public bodies, NGOs, associations and foundations, local and parliamentary authorities, economic actors, training research institutes and qualified personalities. For a decade, it has been lobbying at international level to make water a policy priority and promoting French expertise in the field.

<http://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr>

### THEY ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE FWP

