

Civil Society Constituency: Key Messages for the 2025 Sector Ministers Meeting

1. **Integrate water, sanitation, and climate action with human rights at the centre**
Civil society asks ministers to place water and sanitation – especially sanitation – at the heart of national climate, adaptation, and development plans, embedding the human rights principles of availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability and quality, and prioritizing marginalized and climate vulnerable communities.
2. **Commit to transparent, accountable governance with formal civil society participation**
Civil society asks ministers to institutionalize protected roles for CSOs, grassroots groups, youth and local governments in policy, financing, and monitoring processes, apply anti-corruption safeguards, and adopt public accountability mechanisms (including SMART, time-bound commitments tracked through the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism).
3. **Mobilize and direct finance fairly toward climate-resilient water and sanitation services**
Civil society asks ministers to make water, sanitation and hygiene a national financing priority– strengthening public financial management, sequencing reforms to improve efficiency and bankability, and scaling blended and climate finance– while ensuring funds are equitably targeted to rural, peri-urban, fragile and other underserved communities.

Private Sector Constituency: Key Messages for the 2025 Sector Ministers Meeting

1. **Develop a National Plan that Integrates Water, Sanitation, and Climate Action – with Human Rights at the Centre**
Countries with a robust national water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and climate action plan – grounded in clear governance and realistic, achievable outcomes – provide confidence to investors and private sector actors. Such plans create the foundation for long-term partnerships and sustainable investment.
2. **Involve the Private Sector from the Start**
The private sector is diverse, bringing a wide range of expertise and innovation. Involving both domestic and international companies early in the design of WASH and climate adaptation plans helps ensure that services are planned and delivered more efficiently. The SWA Private Sector Constituency is made up of global and local experts that ministers can call on – we are ready to support.
3. **Public-Private Partnerships are essential**
The private sector is not the only solution – but there is no solution without the private sector. Unlocking new sources of financing requires strong public-private partnerships. The private sector offers WASH and adaptation solutions at every scale, from rural communities to mega-cities. To fully harness this potential, partnerships with governments and public institutions are essential.

Research and Learning Constituency: Key Messages for the 2025 Sector Ministers Meeting

1. **Leveraging Research and Learning to Drive Cross-Sector Integration**

Multi-stakeholder learning processes and platforms provide an essential structure for coordination and policy development. Ministers can harness research to take evidence-based approaches to designing innovative learning and collaboration mechanisms, including bringing in the latest thinking from diverse sectors and capacitating government actors to work beyond siloes and rethink water governance in light of climate, equity, and rights-based imperatives.

2. **Applying Research and Shared Learning for Resilient and Inclusive Services**

Research is critical for filling knowledge gaps on how climate change affects inclusive WASH services and what must be done in response. This evidence, in turn, informs strategy and enhances access to climate finance. Multi-stakeholder learning processes help identify climate risks comprehensively, including the differentiated risks faced by women and vulnerable groups, and foster holistic solutions that promote equity in climate-resilient WASH services.

3. **Using Research and Evidence-Based Learning to Strengthen Financing Strategies**

Financial research and shared learning enable governments to identify sector financing gaps, design integrated investment plans and adopt results-based models. These approaches improve service efficiency, attract new funding, and embed water and sanitation in national development priorities.

Utilities and Regulators Constituency: Key Messages for the 2025 Sector Ministers Meeting

1. **Promote Integrated and Rights-Based Services**

Utilities and regulators play a key role in ensuring climate-resilient water and sanitation services, where inter-institutional coordination and collaborative work are essential. Recognizing the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation — including availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability, quality, and prioritization of marginalized and climate-vulnerable communities — contributes to effectively operationalizing national commitments on climate, adaptation, and development.

2. **Strengthen Governance and Accountability**

Through transparent regulation, oversight, and accountability, utilities and regulators reinforce trust and efficiency in the sector. By institutionalizing mechanisms that allow national and local governments, as well as stakeholders, to participate in planning, monitoring, and decision-making, sector priorities will increasingly respond to the needs of all communities.

3. **Mobilize Sustainable and Equitable Financing**

Utilities, regulators, and public-private collaboration are essential to directing financial resources toward climate-resilient water and sanitation services. By improving operational efficiency, ensuring cost recovery, and adopting results-based approaches, utilities make services more attractive for investment, while regulators guide financial reforms and blended financing strategies to ensure that investments reach rural, peri-urban, and underserved communities fairly and effectively.