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80/289. Sustainable and safe water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health care facilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [78/130](#) of 18 December 2023 on sustainable, safe and universal water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health-care facilities, in which it encouraged all Member States to integrate water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in health care facilities and to mainstream these efforts, as appropriate, into national health planning, programming, financing, monitoring and evaluation, and to empower the health workforce to advocate for, appropriately use and maintain such services, in accordance with national standards and contexts,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,



Welcoming the convening of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Sevilla, Spain, and reaffirming its outcome document, the Sevilla Commitment, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [79/323](#) of 25 August 2025, which sets forth a renewed global framework for financing for development, building on the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, to close with urgency the estimated annual 4 trillion United States dollar financing gap,¹ and catalyse sustainable development investments at scale in developing countries and continue the reform of the international financial architecture through continued and strong commitment to multilateralism, international cooperation, and global solidarity,

Recalling the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, and looking forward to the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, to be co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, and the 2028 United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, to be hosted by Tajikistan,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³ and the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Recalling further its resolution [80/216](#) of 18 December 2025 on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recalling the 2023 political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, which reaffirms the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognizes the importance of water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management and electricity services in health care facilities for health promotion, disease prevention and the safety of both patients and health workers,

Welcoming the adoption of the WHO Pandemic Agreement⁴ on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and recognizing, inter alia, that infection prevention and control, including hygiene, and access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation services, particularly in health care facilities, are essential for preventing the emergence and spread of infectious diseases,

Recalling the Declaration of Astana of the Global Conference on Primary Health Care, which envisages strengthening primary healthcare as the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people’s physical and mental health, as well as social well-being, and that primary healthcare is a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for effective universal health coverage and health-related Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling also the 2024 political declaration of the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance⁵ which, inter alia, emphasizes the primary role of infection

¹ *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024* (United Nations publication, 2024), figure I.1.

² Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

³ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁴ World Health Assembly resolution 78.1.

⁵ Resolution [79/2](#), annex.

prevention and control measures, including through improved water, sanitation, hygiene and waste services in health care facilities, as well as setting the target of ensuring that 100 per cent of countries have basic water, sanitation, hygiene and waste services in all health care facilities,

Taking note of the World Health Assembly resolution 72.7 of 28 May 2019 on water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities,⁶ which serves as a key global policy framework to facilitate global assessments of the regional and national gaps, encourage Member States to strengthen standards for safe water, sanitation and hygiene and infection prevention and control, in all healthcare settings, increase investments and support collective action among partners,

Noting that according to the latest progress report of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund on water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health care facilities, published in 2025, more than 80 per cent of countries have established baselines or updated standards, but less than 20 per cent have developed, implemented and financed costed road maps, while remaining deeply concerned that the latest data indicate huge gaps in services: globally, 1.1 billion people are served by health care facilities that lack basic water services, 3.0 billion are served by facilities that lack basic sanitation, 1.7 billion are served by facilities that lack basic hygiene and 2.8 billion are served by facilities that lack basic healthcare waste management and, furthermore, nearly 1 billion people access health care facilities without reliable electricity or without electricity access at all, underscoring the grave implications of not having these basic services, especially the 8 million people who die annually from poor-quality care, resulting in 6 trillion United States dollars in losses,

Noting also that the current legal frameworks and funding mechanisms are fragmented and rely heavily on bilateral funding and debt, and that there is a need to invest in public health and mobilize international and domestic resources, including to assist developing countries,

Welcoming the appointment of the first Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Water, and taking note of the publication of the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation in 2024,

Recalling that water, sanitation, hygiene and waste standards, indicators and targets are included in the World Health Organization global patient safety action plan 2021–2030 and the global action plan and monitoring framework on infection prevention and control, 2024–2030,⁷

Reaffirming the call to promote zero-waste initiatives and support Member States in sustainable waste management,

Reaffirming also the importance of promoting the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters and other emergency situations, including climate-related, in order to provide life-saving and essential services,

Recalling the need to ensure equal access to high-quality services such as water and sanitation and other economic and social programmes, as well as the importance of Indigenous Peoples' health practices and their traditional medicine and knowledge, and in this regard, stressing the importance of working with Indigenous Peoples to

⁶ See World Health Organization, document WHA72/2019/REC/1.

⁷ See World Health Organization, document WHA77/2024/REC/1, decision 77(9) and annex 3.

improve water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in Indigenous health care facilities,

Recognizing that the provision of safe water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services is fundamental for achieving universal health coverage, strengthening primary healthcare, improving quality care, and saving lives by ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths, as well as reducing the costs of healthcare-associated infections and the spread of antimicrobial resistance,

Deeply concerned that the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services, including for menstrual health and hygiene management in health care facilities, negatively affects gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and their enjoyment of human rights, including the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognizing the specific hygiene needs of women and girls during menstruation, and that women have specific hygiene needs during pregnancy, childbearing and rearing and throughout the life course,

Noting the importance, in accordance with international humanitarian law, of respecting and protecting, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be unlawfully attacked, and ensuring that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required,

Ensuring the safe, timely and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and medical personnel responding to pandemics and other health emergencies, as well as their means of transport, supplies and equipment, and supporting, facilitating and enabling transportation and logistical supply lines, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently and safely perform their task of assisting affected populations, and in this regard also reaffirming the need to take the necessary measures to respect and protect such personnel, hospitals and other medical facilities consistent with international humanitarian law,

Recognizing the consequence of the adverse impact of climate change, natural disasters, extreme weather events as well as other environmental determinants of health, such as clean air, safe drinking water, sanitation, safe, sufficient and nutritious food and secure shelter, for health, and in this regard underscoring the need to foster health in climate change adaptation efforts, underlining that resilient and people-centred health systems are necessary to protect the health of all people, in particular those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations,

Taking note of the work of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund through the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, and their global leadership and coordination of efforts to improve water, sanitation, hygiene and electricity in health care facilities, and of the Global Framework for Action 2024–2030 on water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in health care facilities, which lays out clear targets and recommended actions, including use of evidence-based actions and tools to improve water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services, which are outlined in the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement framework,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to integrate water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in health care facilities and to mainstream these efforts, as appropriate, into national health planning, programming, financing, monitoring and evaluation, and to empower the health workforce to advocate for, appropriately use

and maintain such services, in accordance with national standards and contexts, including by:

(a) Conducting situational analysis and baseline assessments of the enabling environment and identifying key gaps to support evidence-based planning and investments in water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health care facilities;

(b) Facilitating cross-sectoral engagement through intersectoral working groups or task forces, joint sector reviews and coordinated planning and funding;

(c) Establishing, updating and implementing, according to national contexts, standards for safe, sustainable water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in health care facilities, as well as infection prevention and control, antimicrobial resistance reduction and occupational health and safety, including considerations for strengthening the capacities and resilience of health systems, and strengthening national accountability mechanisms to follow up on their efforts to reinforce standards and practice;

(d) Developing, financing and implementing costed national road maps, as appropriate, subject to national circumstances and available resources, aligned with broader health, water, sanitation, hygiene and waste, energy, climate and development plans, and integrating water, sanitation, hygiene and waste in the national action plans on health, including antimicrobial resistance, with the aim that every health care facility has and can maintain safe and sustainable water and sanitation supplies, hygiene services and practices, waste management and electricity services;

(e) Reviewing financial needs, budget lines and expenditures and unlocking and allocating domestic funding, as appropriate, while ensuring that external investments are aligned with and support national priorities and systems in order to sustainably fund capital and recurring operation and maintenance costs;

(f) Adopting and using a core set of water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity indicators harmonized with global and regional indicators, as guidance, taking into consideration the World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund core set of such indicators, without prejudice to national frameworks, integrating them into national monitoring and evaluation systems, and regularly collecting, analysing, reviewing and disseminating data findings at the national level to drive policies and investments;

(g) Supporting and empowering health workers, including those providing waste and cleaning services through pre- and in-service professional development, and engage community health workers in supporting such efforts and linking hygiene practices in health care facilities through an all-of-society approach;

2. *Invites* international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions and development agencies engaged in the provision of water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity support, as appropriate, to enhance the coordination of their strategies and engage with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund as the co-coordinators of global efforts on water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity in health care facilities alongside other core partners continuing to increase data coverage through the inclusion of global indicators in facility and programme surveys;

3. *Urges* Member States to strengthen international cooperation to support efforts to finance, build, strengthen and maintain capacity in developing countries, including through training of health, engineering and technical personnel, to improve and strengthen the sustainability, safety and resilience of water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health care facilities;

4. *Recognizes* that health financing requires global solidarity and collective effort, and urges Member States to strengthen international cooperation to support efforts to build and strengthen capacity in developing countries, including through enhanced official development assistance and financial and technical support and support to research, development and innovation programmes;

5. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system to promote the optimum use of resources and to support developing countries, at their request, in the acceleration of efforts to improve water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management and electricity in health care facilities;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as core partners such as the World Bank and other relevant organizations, to strengthen and support, as appropriate, within their mandates, the existing global initiatives co-led by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to provide assistance to Member States, upon their request, towards the achievement of universal, safe, sustainable water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health care facilities as a core measure to achieve universal health coverage, primary healthcare and the related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in consultation with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant international organizations, within available resources, a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution during the eighty-second session of the General Assembly, which will serve to inform States and the United Nations development system, and in this context invites all States to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General, including by providing data through the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund.

*98th plenary meeting
6 July 2026*