

The final episode in the 2018 series of webinar took place recently, thus bringing to a close the **third series of SWA webinars**. The two previous series concerned, respectively, the [preparatory](#) and the [follow-up](#) processes of the SWA's [2017 High-Level Meetings](#).

The 2018 series consisted of 6 webinars. The four main webinars concentrated on SDG financing, including leveraging new resources making efficient use of existing ones; the updated [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#) (MAM) and its operationalization; the SWA [Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles](#) (CBCPs) and their use to strengthen the sector and report on progress; and the [SWA Tools Portal](#). Two special-issue webinars were also organized. The first of these supported the 16 SWA Partner countries that conducted Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the 2018 High-level Political Forum; the other supported countries which are doing the costing for the SDGs or planning to do so.

The topics were selected with feedback about the previous series of webinars, took into account specific events where countries required support, and dealt with resources developed and/or disseminated by the SWA. On the one hand, this ensured **continuity with SWA processes** and increased the relevance of the webinars. On the other, it made the **webinars a crucial way of strengthening country and SWA processes**.

The webinars were organized in **English, French and Spanish**. This series saw an **even greater participation from countries** than the past. The high point was the Ministerial webinar on sector financing, which saw over 80 connections from more than 30 countries, besides many development partners. Similarly, the Ministerial webinar on development effectiveness involving Ministers from Nicaragua and Liberia received 166 views. The Ministerial webinars were an innovation of the 2018 series. They brought ministers into the ongoing political dialogue in between the High-level Meetings (HLMs).

The 2018 series was characterized by a **wide array of interventions**. Sector Ministers from Nigeria and Eswatini discussed the use of existing financial resources with a panel of domain experts¹. The technical team from the UNICEF, who developed the [SDG Costing Tool](#), walked countries through the use of the Tool. The UN-DESA, organizers of the 2018 HLPF, led discussions on the Forum and the Voluntary National Reviews, and how volunteer countries could draw from the SWA Framework to prepare their Reviews. Finally, UN-GLAAS led discussions on the Collaborative Behaviour Country Profiles and their use. The SWA Secretariat, which facilitated the development and release of the revised Mutual Accountability Mechanism and the SWA Tools Portal, framed discussions around these topics.

Another characteristic was the series' **onus on stronger country engagement**, and peer learning between countries, in line with the SWA's increasing focus on action at country level. All other technical expertise was mobilized around country processes and experiences.

¹ Ms. Victoria Rigby Delmon, Senior Counsel at the Water Supply and Sanitation Global Practice of the World Bank; Ms. Kirti Devi, Municipal Finance Specialist at the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility; and Mr. José Tomás Frade, an independent consultant in water sector financing and a member of the advisory council of the Portuguese regulatory authority.

The series of webinars had a **strong continuity with, and greater integration into, the SWA's core mandate** – progressively stronger support to building political will and exchange between partners. Firstly, as stated above, this series was built to ensure continuity with previous ones. In turn, the webinars of the 2018 series will feed into future activities. For instance, the webinar on the MAM spurred 13 SWA Partner countries to volunteer as 'pioneers' whose operationalization of the MAM will be supported and documented by the SWA Secretariat. The Tools Portal will soon be complemented by a Package of Resources on Financing to be shared with Partners. The use of the CBCPs by countries will be showcased during the upcoming Africa Water Week.

This series **will segue into the next series**, which will be about the preparation and follow-up to the next SWA [Sector Ministers' Meeting in April 2019](#).

Participants of the webinars are kindly requested to fill in the [feedback form](#). As in the past, we will use participant feedback to design the next series.